

Upper Eskdale Development Group
Open Community Meeting
The Hub : 25-04-16

Present:

John Furlonger, Kathy Walker, Stella Walker, Helen Eyre, Marilyn Harris, Mandy Rae, Jock Miller, Fiona Brooke, May Reid, Angie Ball, Sue Company, James & Sandra Cooke, Nick Jennings, Jennie Mills, Victoria Long, Sharon Tolson, Marjorie Wilson, Richard Murphy, John Garwell , Becky Peloso, Jock Miller.

Jock went through the different projects at the Hub to raise people's attention to the current situation:

Shop: this has just started, thanks to Becky Peloso & May Reid and lots of volunteers. People could order papers (from Margaret's in Lockerbie) and they could be brought up by the bus and delivered to the Hub. But we would need to investigate this.

Consultant: The Lottery are funding a consultant to be with us for up to 6 months, to advise us on how to make the Hub financially viable. The interviews for this were last Friday 22nd April. David Milburn was chosen.

New Staff: Richard Murphy is our new cleaner. Pam Carruthers will start in the Café on May 1st. We are delighted to have them both. Stella Walker is also occasionally working in the kitchen.

Prehistoric Trail: The tracks are in bad condition and the directions to the sites are not all clear. Penny George has kindly volunteered to make a funding application to Lottery Heritage Fund to do up the signage at the sites and have information at the Hub. If the funding is available, it would cover the employment of a part time development worker for 2 years.

WindFarm: no planning permission yet. It could develop quite a good income.

Affordable Housing plans at Twiglees. Question: what is the vision. Outline planning is obtained. Affordable may be rental housing: mid-range. Could be co-ownership where the owner has a stake in the house. 2 houses & a workshop. The workshop could be development. All developments will be put into the Minutes and be available to discuss at our Open Meetings. The site is not even bought yet. UEDG may receive £14k to carry out a feasibility of site and see its potential.

Playground: the plan for the equipment that is to go in part of the area beyond the Café, was passed round. It is currently at the Planning stage.

Shed: we now have planning permission for the erection of a garden shed/store. This will go behind the existing shed that houses the heating system and fuel store.

Between the PVs: we are planning on putting ground cover in between the PV panels, to prevent the weeds shading the PVs, since this will prevent them working to full capacity.

Gardening: a hedge along the back of Gloria's garden (of her choosing) has just been put in.

A 'Lunch Club': it was suggested that we have a reasonably priced regular lunch (with a limited menu).

Selling tobacco in the Shop. People expressed their feelings for and against. Becky told of her consultation which resulted in most people being in favour.

Communication: Sharon asked the best way to get in touch with people as many don't use email or social media? Outside pinboard. Flyers through doors, make more use of the local press. Backup email a few days

before. Have to do more with paper and ink. It was suggested we leaflet Langholm & Lockerbie & people who don't do email. Richard offered to do Lockerbie, Sharon could do Langholm. A monthly pin up in a frame. Ask people how they want to be contacted: texting app for a pc, email, paper, ?Mailchimp. Marketing and Advertising: Sharon to contact D&G Life magazine, Visit Scotland, join Trip Advisor. Signs for the shop, regular mailing list.

Arts & Crafts: Any project would need to be subsidised: Kathy asked if there were any funds left from the previous Eskdalemuir Community Arts Group run by Nancy. Kathy, Fiona King up at Balliehill, Marilyn Harris, Nick & Catriona Jennings are interested. Trevor Leat could possibly teach. Kathy is interested in co-ordinating this.

Artists could hire a space: people could have their own space within that where they are working. Other things could spin off that, such as print workshops.

Suggestions for activities

- Having events to coincide with buses: (ie. Aileen Hannah) Pensioners dinner.
- Have an artist in residence.
- Have a pool table: Eskdalemuir could join the league in Langholm. Contests could be held up here.
- Have a Darts board.
- What would kids want: 'a place to get together with friends to study'. Past events did not attract enough kids.
- Cinema: some films too arty farty. Films might be able to be shown for free if they are not advertised. Angie mentioned the Hut in Brampton.

Comments

Why some people don't come: lots of people think the Hub is an offshoot of Samye Ling. Don't want to go to Yoga or a weaving workshop. However, football on the Telly would draw some and more kids.

Some people like the hatch closed in the evening or for Sunday lunch.

A question was brought up about closing in the winter. ? Pensioners need it more then. A lot of pubs only happen through the winter due to the farmers.

Taken from notes by Victoria Long and Sharon Tolson

Next meeting towards the end of July (to be announced).