

## **Garlieston Village Hall Committee – Interim Report**

The Committee was formed with a mandate from the community to maintain and develop the [Temperance] Hall as a community resource. We signed a two-year management agreement with Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) in April 2018, and were incorporated as a two-tier Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation (SCIO) in May 2018.

We are distinct from the Community Council. We have a separate constitution and, having charitable status, we are regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

The financial and administrative responsibilities for the hall are split between our committee and DGC. The division of responsibility was clearly identified by DGC in documents issued at public meetings in 2017.

We have financial obligations to meet and, during our short existence, fundraising has been our main priority. We are pleased to report that we have a healthy bank balance and can comfortably see out the duration of our contract with DGC. Our main sources of funding are the twice weekly bingo and prize bingo, donations and grants, and income from the Mulberry Harbour Exhibition.

Although low, utilisation of the hall is at a higher level than in previous years and is growing. A racquet sports club is planned for early in 2019 and next year may see the return of the Flower & Produce Show. Events such as the Military Weekend and the Music Weekend are notable additions to the calendar.

Outside of fundraising and managing bookings, our main activity is the maintenance of the hall. This is unexciting but essential work.

We now have funding from DGC to replace the windows and doors in the hall. It took more than six months to arrive at a specification that was acceptable to DGC. We have dry-lined and insulated the store on the east side of the hall. In the coming months we will refurbish the gents toilets and make electrical upgrades at the hall. As tenants of DGC, specifications must be agreed with the Council before work can proceed.

Looking further ahead, there is still a decision to be made on the future of the hall. We have a two-year lease from DGC. At the end of the two years we can either renew the lease for a further two years (subject to agreement), take out a longer term lease, or embark on full asset transfer of the hall to the community. That is to say, the hall would pass into community ownership with no support from DGC – a big step to take.

Taking a longer lease or acquiring the hall is obviously a greater responsibility but also opens doors when it comes to fundraising. Donors are unwilling to give to a charity that has only a short lease on a property. We discovered this to our cost when applying to the Kilgallioch Fund (Foundation Scotland) earlier this year.

Needless to say, before the end of our current lease, we will consult the community on next steps. Taking more responsibility for the hall would demand more from the management committee and would require more involvement from the community. Anyone who wishes to join our SCIO as member can apply to do so.

In the meantime, we continue to learn what is required to run a community facility. If you wish to know anything about our activities or wish to get involved as a member or a trustee, please make yourself known to a member of our committee. We are not hard to find. And keep an eye on the hall noticeboard and the Garlieston website for reports and updates.