

TITLE:	Area Tourism Partnership Meeting	
DATE:	31 st January 2007	
VENUE/TIME:	SNH – Carmont House @ 10.30am	
PRESENT:	J Mitchell, D Holland, R Soutar, L Vickers, L Chambers, T Gillespie, M Hannay, M Scott, T Fitzpatrick, R Grant (part-time)	
IN ATTENDANCE:	S Hellowell, T Smeaton	
APOLOGIES:	G Hood, J Denerley, I McLatchie, A McColl, J Shearer, L Walker	
CIRCULATION:	Those present, Apologies + J Purdie, R Smith	
		ACTIONS
1. <u>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</u>		
Joan Mitchell (vice chair) took the chair in the absence of Gordon Hood who was on holiday and welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
Apologies had been received from Gordon Hood, Allison McColl, John Shearer, Lynn Walker and Ian McLatchie. Unfortunately it had not been possible to arrange for an interpreter and therefore John Denerley was not able to attend.		
2. <u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</u>		
The Minutes were approved subject to the following amendment:		
3.1 <u>Area Tourism Partnership Plan</u>		
Second point: Replace with 'The difficulty the trade has in relating to the strategic nature of the plan.'		
3. <u>MATTERS ARISING</u>		
3.1 <u>Letter to and responses from SEDG and DGC</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of the responses from both SEDG and DGC had been circulated. TG commented that he was surprised that there had not been more assistance from SEDG in the preparation of the Area Tourism Partnership Strategy. 		
3.2 <u>Letter to VS</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter had been drafted by JM but GH felt some of the wording inappropriate. The letter would be re-drafted and forwarded to VisitScotland for response. 	JM/GH	
3.3 TG asked if there were any other ATP's working effectively in Scotland.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandi Hellowell responded that other ATP's were doing some good things but still in the early stages and needed to evolve. The proposed ATP Chairs meeting that was due to be held on the 20th of April has been postponed until September/October 2007. 		

CONTINUATION SHEET	ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visitor Services Due to cuts in funding – VS are currently looking at ways to reduce spending. Kirkcudbright TIC will be opening on schedule on 12 February but operating under reduced opening hours. Consideration may have to be given to reducing opening hours for other TICs during the season. Gretna TIC will be relocated within the Gretna Outlet Village in beside Matheson's Restaurant. Improved signage and increased footfall will hopefully improved revenue in this TIC. VS are currently drawing up plans for refurbishment of Southwaite TIC to make it a 'Gateway to Scotland'. This project is still in its early stages but it is hoped to include the TIC in a VS retail pilot. VS are also looking into possible visitor information partnerships within D&G ● ERDF Project VS still awaiting confirmation of the bid submitted under Measure 1.1. <p><u>DGC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roger Grant expressed his support for continued funding for Tourism. ● Regional Transport Partnership He also stated that it is important to have a voice on this Partnership and expressed his interested to represent the ATP at any future meetings which relieves Ian McLatchie from this position. ● Other items raised by Roger regarding Windfarms and Community Planning would be future Agenda items. <p><u>SEDG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Innovation Events Schedule Stranraer Event 21 February 2007 Lockerbie Event 27 February 2007 7Staness Event 7 March 2007 – Kirroughtree / Newton Stewart 20 March 2007 – Mabie / Dumfries ● Homecoming 2009 SEDG working with partners. More info in due course! ● Tour of Britain Dumfries and Galloway has the start of the final leg of the 2007 race on 15th September. Start venue has not been confirmed. ● 100K Welcomes Fran Dobbin has resigned as 100K Welcome trainer. Interim trainers in place. ● Pride & Passion Pride & Passion – Discovery Tour (Familiarisation tour) scheduled for Dumfries and Galloway – 15 March. ● Research activity Migrant workers – career aspirations, skills etc. ● SEDG – Key Industries Team Currently recruiting 5 posts - 3 in Key Industries team and 2 within SEDG Competitive Place Team. 	

CONTINUATION SHEET	ACTIONS
<p><u>FCS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the following activities from the last minutes are still ongoing with nothing new to add: Galloway Forest Park, Ae Centre Development, Dalbeattie Forest Development, Dalbeattie Forest Development and Biosphere Reserve. Kirroughtree Visitor Centre Cycle Hire Franchise A company has now been identified for this franchise and proposals are now being developed. However there is a problem with planning and centre may not be open before March. <p><u>SNH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cairnsmore NNR Redevelopment work on the visitor centre, offices and approach road is now well underway, and is expected to be completed in time to reopen at the end of April. The interpretation contractor has been appointed, and is now working to design and produce the displays and other materials. The community-based consultation on the Reserve Story and Plan is about to start - giving the local community an opportunity to influence how we will manage the reserve, and the facilities that it will provide, in the future. Caerlaverock NNR 2007 marks the 50th Anniversary of the declaration of the reserve, and we are planning a programme of events to mark this milestone. Biosphere Reserve A complex funding package has been assembled, enabling us to consult on the Rural Development opportunities that the proposed status will bring. Further work is anticipated after July, eventually leading to a submission to UNESCO in Summer 2008. Scottish Outdoor Access Festival This national programme of events highlighting the Right of Responsible Access will run from 28th April - 7th May 2007. A variety of events are planned for D&G, which are being promoted on the national website: www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/festival SUW Development Project A series of workshops are being planned for businesses along the route, highlighting opportunities for them to make better use of the route. The project will be attending the Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show at Birmingham NEC (18 – 20 March) to promote the route and the region - this is probably the biggest show of its kind in the UK, and attracts over 45,000 visitors. 	
<p>7. <u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p>7.1 <u>Windfarms</u></p> <p>LC raised the issue of windfarms across D&G and their impact on tourism. It was agreed that this would be included on the agenda of a future meeting for further discussion.</p>	<p>DH</p>
<p>8. <u>DATE OF NEXT ATP MEETING</u></p> <p>A workshop to consider strategy priorities will be held on the 20th March at Solway House (SEDG). Further details will follow soon.</p> <p>TS would contact ATP members to agree dates for meetings during 2007.</p>	<p>TS</p>
<p>J Mitchell, Vice Chair</p>	