

# Scottish Borders Tourism Partnership

MINUTE of MEETING of the  
SCOTTISH BORDERS  
TOURISM PARTNERSHIP held  
at Castle Venlaw Hotel on  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at  
2 pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Fiona Drane, VisitScotland Borders  
Catherine Tuff, Food and Drink Representative  
Sue Beck, Self Catering Representative  
Bryan McGrath, Scottish Borders Council  
Catherine Maxwell-Stuart, Attractions Representative  
Kevin Keenan, Dryburgh Abbey Hotel  
Jim Renwick, Retail Representative  
John Sloggie, Hotel Representative  
Cllr Kenny McCartney, Chairman  
Cllr John Elliot  
John Henderson, Activities Representative

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sandi Hellowell, Strategy & Partnership Executive, VisitScotland Borders  
Helene Sinclair, Business Relationship Marketing Manager, VisitScotland Borders  
Sheila Campbell, Customer Services Manager, VisitScotland Borders  
Kirsten Davidson, Tourism Unit, Scottish Executive  
Steve Duncan, Product Manager - Adventure, Walking and Cycling, UK & Ireland  
Marketing, VisitScotland  
Anne Rutherford, Office Manager, VisitScotland Borders

## **APOLOGIES:**

Jeanette Thomson, Chamber of Commerce  
Colin Chisholm  
Alan Elliott.

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Kirsten Davidson, Tourism Unit, Scottish Executive and Steve Duncan, Product Manager – Adventure, Walking and Cycling, VisitScotland.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May were approved.

### ***Update on Licensing/Bed Tax***

Sandi Hellowell gave an update on a statement from VisitScotland regarding Licensing Law and Bed Tax. She stated that there was an opportunity to feedback on this. It was agreed that anyone who wanted to respond should contact Sandi by email and she would collate the responses and forward to VisitScotland.

### ***Fiona Drane***

Cllr McCartney stated that he would like to offer best wishes to Fiona Drane who is leaving at the end of November. John Sloggie said he had concerns regarding

how Fiona's replacement would be appointed and Ken McCartney agreed to write to VisitScotland stating concerns of Tourism Partnership and sending a copy to all partners.

## **2. Tourism Action Plan**

The Tourism Action Plan was discussed. There are still some omissions but these will be slotted in. Sandi asked for comments and there were various points raised. Sandi will circulate an update to the Partnership and will also update at each meeting and bi-annually.

## **3. Information and Sales Review**

Sheila Campbell, Customer Services Manager gave a presentation on the implementation of the Information and Sales Review in the Scottish Borders. This was followed by a discussion.

John Sloggie circulated a report which he had sent to local businesses regarding the relocation of Peebles TIC. He stated that all businesses who responded were opposed to the move. Bryan McGrath agreed to take the report to Callum Hay. Sue Beck requested the Chairman to feedback to the Partnership on any further developments.

## **4. Promotion of Scotland as an 'Active' Destination**

Steve Duncan, Product Manager - Adventure, Walking and Cycling, UK & Ireland Marketing, VisitScotland gave a presentation on the promotion of Scotland as an 'active' destination followed by a discussion.

## **5. International 7s, Melrose**

Alan Elliot was unable to attend the meeting but Cllr McCartney stated that discussions were still ongoing and there was no further progress to report.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at a venue in the Central Borders.

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm.