



the
stove
network

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For immediate release

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MSP Launches Architectural Ideas Competition for Dumfries Town Centre

On Friday 24th March, Kevin Stewart, MSP and Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning will launch a national competition for designers to explore the architectural vision for a new community-led future for Dumfries Town Centre.

The Midsteeple Quarter is an innovative plan to breathe new life into Dumfries town centre by re-populating a section of the High Street as a mixed live/work quarter, following a community buy-out of empty shops.

The competition, organised by The Stove Network on behalf of the community partnership and the Glasgow Institute of Architects, is open to all architects, designers and urban planners. Entrants will be invited to submit their architectural ideas for the Midsteeple Quarter from Friday 24th March. The winning entries of visual representations of architectural concepts for the future of Dumfries High Street will have a chance to win cash prizes for first, second and third place. They will also have their work exhibited at The Stove in Dumfries and in Glasgow during the summer.

A photo opportunity will be available for all press on Friday 24th March from 10.45am at The Stove Network, 100 High Street. The photo will include MSP Kevin Stewart, as well as members of the Midsteeple Quarter project community partnership, which includes representatives from the University of the West of Scotland, the President of the Glasgow Institute of Architects, Matt Baker from the Stove Network and Melissa Gunn from UWS.

For more information, please contact David Smith at david@intobeing.net or for more information on entering the competition, visit the Glasgow Institute of Architects website <http://gia.org.uk>.

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Notes:**The Midsteeple Quarter Project**

Long-term and careful public consultation, led by Dumfries' Community Development Trust; The Stove Network, has brought a consensus that re-populating the town centre is an urgent necessity. Midsteeple Quarter is a response to this need, identifying a block of mostly Georgian buildings in the heart of the town centre as the site for this bold initiative that will see local people developing their own High Street as a contemporary living, working, socialising, learning and enterprising hub. Working with a diverse partnership of agencies, groups and individuals in Dumfries to build a vision for Midsteeple Quarter as a key project for the regeneration of Dumfries town centre.

Community Partnership

The project is led by a diverse and grassroots community collaboration working in partnership with cross-party MSPs and MPs, Higher Education Institutions, the Local Authority and National Agencies which include The Stove Network, The University of the West of Scotland, Third Sector D&G, Loreburne Community Council, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, D&G Council, and Crichton Institute. Over 400 individuals have also signed up to a Dumfries Pledge, supporting the Midsteeple Quarter Project and bringing new life back into Dumfries town centre.

The Glasgow Institute of Architects (GIA)

The Glasgow Institute of Architects is the largest of the six Chapters of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. The Institute is run by a Council of members who sit on various Committees covering Architecture People and Places, Communications, Education, Practice/CPD and Conservation-Sustainability. The MidSteeple Quarter Ideas Competition sits within the Architecture, People and Place Committee which has the objective to promote architecture and urban design matters that can provide tangible benefit to the wider public.

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