



the
stove
network

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

25th April 2017

Architects Spend Day in Dumfries to Reimagine Town Centre

On Saturday 22nd April, twenty architects from all over Scotland spent the day in the town centre talking to local people and discussing ideas with representatives of the Midsteeples Quarter Team, as they researched the way the town centre currently works and the challenges and opportunities the future holds.

The event was hosted in preparation for architects entering the Midsteeples Quarter National Architecture Competition. The competition, organised by The Stove Network and the Glasgow Institute of Architects on behalf of the local community partnership, is open to all architects, designers and urban planners. There are cash prizes for the top three entries and a selection of the entries will be exhibited at The Stove in Dumfries and in Glasgow during the summer. The deadline for the competition is 15th May.

Project producer, David Smith, commented, “We are looking to constantly refresh the vision for the Midsteeples Quarter. Drawing on the collective imagination of architectural talent in Scotland will help us to imagine what is possible and we can take these visions back to the community for their input.”

The Midsteeples Quarter 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, The University of the West of Scotland, Third Sector D&G, Loreburne Community Council, NHS Dumfries & Galloway, D&G Council and Crichton Institute.

Discussing the support of the local council, Matt Baker from The Stove Network commented, “It’s been really important for us to have the backing of our Dumfries & Galloway Council in this enterprise. We fully support the recent announcement of the Town Centre Living Fund, allocated in the Council budget for 2017/2018, which could help support the realisation of this important project for Dumfries town centre and other town centres across the region.”

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

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Notes

The Midsteeples 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. Midsteeples 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 Midsteeples 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 Midsteeples 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 Midsteeples 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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The Stove Network, 100 High Street, hosted an event for national and local architects to reimagine Dumfries Town Centre as part of the Midsteeples Quarter Architectural Competition.