

CORRIEHALL STOPOVER FINAL CHECKLIST:

Corrie Hall is situated on the Old Military Road just outside Dumfries which forms part of Cycle Route 7 and had previously used as a stopover for the drovers years gone by so the idea to develop a more modern style of “stopover” was developed in order to accommodate the many cyclists who pass by not only using cycle route 7 but also mountain bikers who utilize the 7 Staines. This idea was developed along with Business Gateway and Visit Scotland and after a meeting with Caroline from Visit Scotland the idea of providing accommodation in the form of Shepherd’s Huts was developed as it was felt it was in keeping with the farmland surrounding Corrie Hall.

Maxine and Roman Leszczyszyn are the owners of Corrie Hall and the aim of the project is to provide reasonably priced accommodation for the many cyclists and walkers who are visiting Dumfries and Galloway in order to promote tourism in the area along with providing jobs for Maxine and Roman and others in the future as the business expands. Not only does Corrie Hall Stopover provide accommodation for the visitors it also provides secure storage for their bicycles along with clothes washing facilities for those that are on the road and travelling light and a funding package was assembled by utilizing Maxine and Roman’s savings and LEADER providing funding of £27,180 which gave a total of £54,360.00.

The project took place between the 8th January 2018 and 31st August 2019 when it was finally completed. It was started first of all by approaching SEPA to gain permission for drainage for the project and once that was obtained the pipework, septic tank, fresh water and electric was installed for the Shepherd’s Huts. The first 3 huts were ordered and the sites for the huts were levelled in preparation for delivery of the huts in the early part of the summer of 2018. The huts were delivered and plumbed in and the electric was connected and then the gas and electric certificates obtained in order to accept guests. The fourth hut was then ordered from a local firm that was bigger than the other three therefore enabling us to accommodate 4 guests in bunk beds which made it ideal for cyclists travelling in groups that were touring Route 7 and just wanted a quick overnight stop. In the meantime the secure cycle storage area was created which also has facilities to repair and wash bicycles and also the clothes and bedding washing facilities were installed by way of a portacabin that incorporates washing machines and tumble dryer. The fourth hut was then delivered and sited and then finally the fifth hut was ordered and is now in situ.

As Corrie Hall is associated with National Cycle Route 7, which is an existing tourist attractions and is also a registered small farm it forms part of the Rural diversification plan for Dumfries and Galloway so therefore fits with Local Development Strategy for the area.

The project was delivered by Maxine and Roman Leszczyszyn who worked along together making the decisions required for the project and Eskdale Solutions designed the website for Corriehall Stopover in order to promote the project. It is also on Facebook and sites such as Airb&b and various glamping sites which promote businesses like Corriehall Stopover.

The final budget of £54,360 ran over slightly due to unforeseen problems with the drainage and SEPA’S requirements however Maxine and Roman provided the extra funding required so therefore any lessons learnt would have been to make sure there was a contingency fund available incase of any problems that may arise.

The project will continue to grow under the control of Maxine and Roman and is already generating an income. So far we have had excellent reviews and so far have had guests staying from:

Italy
Germany
Russia
Spain
Poland
Isle of Man
Croatia
Australia
America
France
Finland
India
Holland
England
Ireland
Scotland

Most importantly a lot of these guests have never visited Dumfries and Galloway before so that in itself has further benefited the local area and businesses. We have had excellent reviews which can be seen on the sites we advertise on along with our Facebook page and we hope in the not so distant future to be able to cater for campers with tents by providing a small toilet and shower block and so therefore the project will continue to grow.