SCOTO Scottish Community Tourism

Geilsland Estate

About the Project

The Geilsland Estate, near Beith, offers a unique combination of space for hire for events, festivals, shows and special occasions. It also provides businesses with hot desks, meeting rooms and office spaces. Additionally, it has space for large group holiday accommodation.

Geilsland Estate is run by the Beith Community Development Trust. The trust aims to improve the health and mental fitness of the community through the regeneration of social, environmental, financial, and physical assets.

There was a community buyout of the Geilsland Estate in 2015, giving the community of Beith the chance to create a new vision for the future. Geilsland Estate has been repositioned as a "Gateway to North Ayrshire", a community asset that encourages residents and visitors to stop and spend time and money in Geilsland, Beith and the wider Garnock Valley.

The Beith Trust have spent time and money in refurbishing the houses, and sports hall in the former school and turning the surrounding areas into a family-friendly zone.

There is a coffee shop which is very popular with locals and visitors. Two of the houses are listed on Airbnb and the hall is hired out for events and weddings. "Just had a lovely family reunion at Geilsland estate. We rented two houses which comfortably slept all 16 of us. The houses were well-appointed and very clean. Behind the houses there is a conservatory area which was a great size and allowed us all to sit around one table for our meals." Nancy

Geilsland County Estate hosts a variety of exciting events, festivals, and learning opportunities, from beer festivals and comedy nights to children's playdays, music events, and exercise classes. The Scottish Arts & Craft fair is held monthly, with over 52 stalls and 1,000 visitors regularly attending.

tourism "Community in the Garnock Valley is not just about showcasing our natural beauty and historical landmarks; it's about fostering a sense of belonging, empowering local voices, and building sustainable futures together.

Its an invitation for visitors to not just see, but to truly experience the heart and soul of our community, leaving a positive impact that resonates far beyond their stay"

Michelle Doherty, Enterprise Manager



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Location: North Ayrshire Type: Stay | Eat | Do | Enjoy | Find When Set Up: 2015

How Funded: Purchased with funding from the Scottish Land Fund, the organisation also received a grant/loan from SIS, Jessica Fund. From 2015, the organisation worked with up to 30 capital and revenue funders. It has also self-invested with income generation from its business models.

Beneficiaries: Local community giving a place to enjoy and visit and pride in where they live as well as the reason for visitors to visit and enjoy too.

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