**We would like to know more about the current situation, why is it being sold?**

The Loreburn Hall is a Common good asset which was property or land that used to belong to the former Burgh Council which means ownership or stewardship of it needs to be approved by Councillors. This process is in place to protect assets that belong to the town of Dumfries.

As we are interested in a community asset transfer this is also protected in Scottish law through the Community Empowerment Act which allows community bodies to make request to local authorities if they feel they could make better use of the asset.

There is another group who is interested in asset transfer which means Dumfries & Galloway Council have to make a decision which is fair and transparent.

As the Loreburn Hall was sitting empty, we made a request to the Council to let us use the building to stage the festival, and when that didn’t happen Dumfries & Galloway Council let us continue to use the space until March 2023. So far, we have delivered 245 events which have reached an audience of just over 19,000 and created 45 temporary jobs. We have effectively pivoted all the magic of Big Burns Supper into a year round venue.

It is very unlikely that the Council will really want to sell it, but this is part of a policy which the Council created in the past.

**Why have you decided to organise Community Consultation?**

Our Community Consultation is our way of engaging local people in our vision for the Loreburn Hall. We had planned on doing this in early 2023, but when the option to sell came up this has made this a bit more urgent.

We are interested in hearing about groups or organisations that want to work with us. Big Burns Supper won’t be able to do it all, so we are looking for projects that may want to share the space with us.

**What is going to happen at the events? (both in person and online)**

At our Engagement Events members of the public can come in and see the space, and talk to our volunteers and staff about our vision for the Hall but this is our opportunity to listen to our community and what ideas they may have.

**Do you want to continue using this space for Big Burns Supper? What other things can it be used for?**

Our vision is that the Loreburn Hall becomes a place where lots of different community events take place, and that we are able to bring first class arts and entertainment to Dumfries & Galloway. We are interested in using the Loreburn Hall as a way to help us redefine our town centre but also as a place where our community can reconnect as a social space.

Our night economy in Dumfries is suffering and we face major competition from places like Carlisle who have just refurbished the £25 million Sands Centre. Rather than us arguing about who gets the Hall, we need Dumfries & Galloway Council to let us continue staging major events so that people throughout the Borderlands area start to recognise that Dumfries is open for business. Being ambitious will help stimulate lots of economic benefit as well as creating new jobs.

**Do you know why the council decided to put it on the open market?**

We don’t believe the Council really want to do that. The Councillors that took part in the discussion seemed very interested in it being brought into community use. Why wouldn’t they want a local charity like ours to do that? DG One has proven just how costly a major facility is to run, and over the last year we have tested out a few different ideas.

**How many people filled the survey so far? What suggestions do they have?**

Over 400 people have completed the survey so far, which is incredible. They have got lots of amazing ideas like bringing back the Dog Shows, running Food Festivals or making the Loreburn Hall a regional ticketing centre to connect all the events and festivals in the South of Scotland. Mostly though, our community want us to nurture the place it holds a lot of good memories.