

GOREBRIDGE RAILWAY COMMUNITY CAFE & GALLERY

APPLICANT

Midlothian Council
www.midlothian.gov.uk

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£814,076.00

£199,981

£614,095

Tyne Esk LEADER

Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Provide employment, training and volunteering opportunities.
- Develop the train station and Railway Café and Gallery into a transport interchange for rail, cycling, walking, bus and cars by creating new facilities and attractions at Gorebridge Train Station.
- Enhance and better connect the town for existing and new residents.

PROJECT DETAIL

The Railway Café and Gallery will be created through the renovation of the long vacant Category C listed Gorebridge Station. The Gorebridge Station building is situated immediately adjacent to the station platform. The renovated facility will provide a community and visitor resource in the form of a café and food shop, arts & craft shop, gallery and visitor information centre. It will also provide office/workshop spaces for entrepreneurial businesses and social enterprises.

The restored facilities will offer opportunities to establish training courses in hospitality, leisure, cycle repair and traditional building skills and the café and will create local employment. The development promotes a new food and drink offer with very strong local emphasis, focusing on providing locally sourced food, drink and craft items where possible.

Sustainable travel and a green Gorebridge community will be at the heart of this project; with the restoration work to the building ensuring it is energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. Being positioned on the Borders Railway, the project also seeks to draw more people into Midlothian to experience and enjoy its rich and varied natural and built heritage, with much readily accessible from Gorebridge Station.



Photos ©Tyne Esk LEADER

RESULTS

“The project has helped to bring the community together to consider how the station can be used for the benefit of local people as well as visitors to the area. An on line consultation exercise was carried out that demonstrated positive support for the scheme with useful suggestions and ideas for the management and operation of the building.

A design team has been set up and a project manager appointed working towards a planning and listed building application being submitted at the end of May.”

LESSONS LEARNED

“The Gorebridge Community Development Trust have learnt more about the history and heritage of the railway through this project, and through involvement with the design team they are learning about the options available for the management and operation of the building.”