

# **TRUST NEWS**

OCTOBER 2004

## ***The newsletter of DUNBLANE DEVELOPMENT TRUST***

The last edition of **TRUST NEWS** was distributed to all Trust Members in April 2004. We hope that the recipients found it informative and useful, but it continues to be a disappointment that we have still not had any feedback from anyone about the editions sent out so far. The contact details are at the end of this newsletter and we would be very grateful if you could let us know if you are happy with what we are doing or if you want any changes made to further editions. Like the Trust itself, this is your newsletter, so please help us meet your needs.

To keep costs down, we have continued to keep the content short and simple and restricted ourselves to text only. The previous editions have been distributed by e-mail as well as hand delivery, but this time we have decided to deliver a hard copy by hand through the letterbox of each Member and it is printed on coloured paper in the hope that it will get more attention.

### **AGM 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

Before opening the AGM, Mike Seal welcomed Members for attending and introduced Colin O'Brien, Provost of Stirling Council. Colin O'Brien emphasised how pleased he was to see Dunblane becoming a more attractive and cleaner place as a direct result of the activities of the Trust. He was also impressed with the website development and with the emergence of wider public engagement in the community. He congratulated the Trust on its achievements during the year and assured all present that the Trust would have the continuing support of Stirling Council. It is community initiatives like this that will deliver the desired higher standards which are not achievable from Local Authority funds alone.

The AGM was then formally opened and after taking apologies, Mike Seal delivered his Chairman's report during which he thanked those who had participated in all the hard work required to bring the Trust into existence and those that had volunteered as Directors to develop the Company to this stage. He described the fundamental principles which influence all activities. They are: working in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, growing the Membership, securing funding, maintaining financial prudence and delivering the Community Plan for Dunblane. Regarding funds, Mike said how pleased the Trust was with the widespread funding support it had received so far, including substantial sums from Stirling Council. He then announced an example of recent community support for the Trust – a cheque for £868 received from the golf club which had been raised from a recent community golf day and emphasised how important it is for all Members to try and secure additional funds from whatever sources that they can identify. Similarly, with recruitment of new Members, it is essential that everyone plays their part in persuading others to join. Mike offered special thanks to Andy McLaren, who has been very successful in this respect.

Fiona Conboy presented the Treasurer's Report. Copies of the Annual Accounts were distributed and explained to all Members present. We have two bank accounts with the Royal Bank of Scotland, Dunblane: one for Administration and the other for Project Funding. At the year end we had good balances in both: £4500 in the Administration Account and £6271 in the Project Account. However, most of this is already committed for insurance premiums, website development and for environmental improvements, so it is essential that we keep up the pressure on securing funds.

An increase in Membership fee to £3 was approved and Fiona explained that memberships would now be rolling annual rather than fixed to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. The increase to £3 will apply from October 2004.

Byran Grieve, Environment Director, presented his report, accompanied by a series of photographs that illustrated how much had been achieved at Ochlochry Park and Pond, along the B8033, throughout the riverside area, around the town centre and at other locations across Dunblane. It was hoped that all of this had not only pleased our residents and visitors, but had also impressed the Beautiful Scotland in Bloom judges during their recent visits. Of course, we now know that the judges were indeed impressed and they said so, very clearly, when we were awarded the Best New Entrant Award in this year's competition. The trophy and certificates are displayed in Marshall MacCallum's window in the High Street.

Details of Future Projects were provided, which include landscaping the Cala Roundabout, improving the Smithy Loan flower beds, developing Newton Park and woodland, improving the Laighills and further improvements to the riverside area. Bryan thanked all the members of the Environment group for their considerable efforts during the year, particularly recently, when the group had been working up to three times per week in the run up to the judging for Scotland in Bloom. Members expressed their thanks for the improvements made and offered suggestions for further improvements, all of which will be followed-up.

Mike Seal presented the Local Economy report. There are three main areas of activity; Town Centre, Tourism and Enterprise. The Town Centre sub group is responsible for helping the Environment Group to improve the appearance of the town centre and for providing support to the Tourism Group. They are also considering how to market and publicise the town centre more effectively and how to further improve its appearance, possibly through a "High Street Upgrade Phase 2." The Tourism Group activities include Dunblane in Tartan, which this year was combined with an Open Day and Flower Festival organised by the Council of Churches on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Santa Lucia procession on December 10<sup>th</sup> and a major Craft Fair on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005. Support will again be given to the committee organising The Fling in Spring 2005. For 2006, consideration is

being given to developing a Festive Programme, which will include the Santa Lucia procession, and a Music Festival, probably around The Fling.

Enterprise activities have included running a questionnaire of Dunblane businesses to identify how best to support our businesses, forging close links with S.T.E.P who can assist with business development and training and building information for a business database on our website. We are now also making efforts to find and attract businesses to the Barbush Business Park.

The last Action Centre report, also presented by Mike Seal, covered the activities of the Planning & Strategy and Community Facilities Groups, which are now to be combined into a new Action Group entitled Community Development. The main activities of the Planning & Strategy Group over the last year was to pressurise for achieving a better balance between residents and the local infrastructure, to improve paths, trails and cycle routes including safe routes to schools, to improve parking facilities and to work with the Community Council on Planning matters. The main activities of the Community Facilities Group over the last year has been to offer assistance to existing managements of our community meeting spaces and to assist where requested with the new community facilities such as the planned Skate Park and the new Dunblane Centre. Work has also progressed with existing providers of facilities to collect and collate details for a Directory of Facilities. Recently, the Trust has been asked to look at the possibility of taking on the management of the Braeport Centre. After extensive consideration and investigation, The Board has now decided that it is willing to do this and is finalising details with Stirling Council and the current Braeport Centre Committee.

During the first year of operation, a number of potential alterations to our documentation were identified and these were presented to the meeting for adoption. Changes are to be made to the Community Plan to modify some of the Action Group priorities and to create the new Community Development Group. A few changes are to be made to our Memorandum and Articles of Association to tidy-up some of the wording and alter our membership renewal Articles to state that annual subscriptions expire on the anniversary date of joining rather than at the end of our financial year.

The meeting then turned its attention to the election of new Directors. Ian Dalgleish wished to stand down as Director of Planning & Strategy but wished to stand as a Director without Portfolio. John Seddon wished to stand as a Director without Portfolio. Craig French was nominated as the Community Council Nominee and all other existing Directors stood for re-election in their existing posts. Despite a lot of effort to find new people to stand for election, there were no other nominations. The vote in favour of electing those that were prepared to stand was unanimous.

In closing, Mike Seal registered his thanks for the ongoing support but made a strong appeal for new people to come forward to take on management and other roles. As well as bringing new blood into the Board, there are many other tasks that are vital to the Trust. Examples of people currently offering valuable support to Board members are George Haddock who is providing photographic services and Margaret Stewart who has recently taken on the role of Membership Administrator. We need more Members to come forward with offers like this.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We now have around 350 Members and we must keep up our efforts to build a really strong membership. We appeal to all Members to persuade others to join so that we can sail past our next target of 500 before the end of the year. The more members we have, the easier it will be to achieve the improvements we all want to see. Membership Application forms are available at Burgh Chambers, the Library, the newsagents or from the Company's registered office. For those connected to the web, the Application Form is also available via our website [WWW.DunblaneWeb.co.uk](http://WWW.DunblaneWeb.co.uk)

Please talk with your friends and neighbours, tell them about the Trust and the good work it is undertaking and ask them to join.

## **AND FINALLY.**

The more we look, the more improvements we see that could be tackled but we must continue to discipline ourselves in taking on only those items that can be covered by the people and financial resources available. We need our Members to help where they can with project work, administration support, donations, fund-raising activities, increasing membership or in any other way. If there is anything that you feel you can do, however small, please let us know.

Keep up to date with developments by participating in our action groups where you can, by ringing or writing to us or by logging onto [www.DunblaneWeb.co.uk](http://www.DunblaneWeb.co.uk)

We hope that you enjoy continuing to be a part of this exciting venture that is already making such an impact on our community. How would anyone feel if our excellent Environment Group stopped doing what they are committed to? Unthinkable isn't it! We have a real opportunity to regain a high level of civic pride; something that many of us may have thought was gone forever. Well, it isn't.