

Dunblane Development Trust

Press Release

10 May 2010

Improving Community Facilities in Dunblane

The inaugural meeting of a special working group set up to improve community facilities in Dunblane is due to take place next Wednesday (19th May). The Communities Working Group is being set up by the new board of Dunblane Development Trust (DDT).

'We have been committed for some time to opening up the work of the Trust to its members and interested people in the wider Dunblane community' said DDT Secretary Dougal Thornton. 'By setting up working groups dealing with Community Facilities, the Environment and Development, we are looking to involve more people in addressing issues that affect the town, some of which were identified in last year's Dunblane Community Plan. The Communities Working Group will be the first to meet. The others will follow in the coming months'.

'The Communities Working Group will be a sub committee of the DDT board and will have delegated decision-making powers. The group will decide its own agenda but is likely to look into issues identified as priorities in the community plan. But we do not want the working groups to be just talking shops - we want them to get things done' added Dougal.

Priorities identified in the community plan are:-

1. Public Swimming Facilities : This has long been on the agenda in Dunblane where the community felt let down when the High School was redeveloped without a swimming pool. In the short to medium term the Community Plan proposes the development of low cost transport options to existing pools in Stirling, Callander or Perth.

2. Braeport Centre : The popular Braeport Centre has an uncertain future. DDT has a 12 month lease on the building and is negotiating with Stirling Council to take the building into community ownership. The Trust first has to convince the Council that there is a continuing need for the Centre and that funds can be raised to improve and extend the building.

3. Teenagers and young adults : The Community Plan identified the need for more facilities for teenagers and young adults and saw the Dunblane Centre playing a role in this with unstructured drop in sessions and outreach activities, and the establishment of a Young People's Forum.

4. Outdoor Play Facilities : The Plan suggested an audit of play spaces identifying where improvements are required and where there are gaps in provision.

5. Health Centre : The Health Centre is too small to meet the needs of the expanding Dunblane community. There are proposals for improvement to the premises and services. How can these be turned in to a reality?

6. Improving Networking between Local Groups : It is suggested that a forum for local groups could be established to exchange and share ideas and develop joint projects.

The inaugural meeting of the Communities Working Group will be held on Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 7.45 in the Braeport Centre. The meeting is open to everyone in Dunblane whether or not they are DDT members. Those who run or use local community facilities are particularly encouraged to attend.

Ends

Additional information

The Dunblane Community Plan can be accessed at

http://www.dunblaneweb.co.uk/community_council/community_plan_09/dunblane_cap_final_ebook_2009.pdf