

Dunblane Development Trust

Environment Group Meeting

Braeport Centre. 30 January 2012 7.30pm

Present: Janice Stewart, Lorna Inglis, Bridget Clark, Monica Cessford, Alan Cessford, Alec Dunlop, Sheila Frize, Denis Frize, Sue Richardson, Alex Dunlop, Chris Walsh.

Community Orchard

Rhona Peat from Dunblane Gardening Club attended the meeting. She told the meeting about the possibility of the Gardening Club establishing a Community Orchard and asked about possible Environment Group involvement in such a project. The following is a summary of the discussion:

- One possible site being considered is the area of ground at the end of Whitecross Avenue, opposite Queen Victoria School. Rhona will try and find out who owns this piece of land.
- Other possible sites suggested were: Holmehill, Ochloch Park and the Laighills. It was felt that a site in the Laighills might not be suitable because of the possibility of vandalism. Ochloch Park seems better in that it is overlooked. Homehill is also possible, just behind the Braeport Centre. The planning application for development at Holmehill has been dropped at present but may well be re-presented in the future.
- There are apple trees in the garden of Churches House planted by the Gardening Club. If Churches House is being sold, it might be possible to remove these trees and plant elsewhere.
- Rhona mentioned a talk being given in the Cathedral Hall on Wednesday about sources of funding for similar projects.
- Forth Environment Link and carrying out on line mapping of orchards and they may be a source of funding.
- Janice and Lorna will ask David Crichton from the Council about the possibility of using Ochloch Park.

On The Verge

Leigh Biagi from 'On the Verge' has contacted Sheila asking for possible sites for planting wildflowers. Suitable sites suggested were: Near the roundabout at Queen Victoria School, just after the 30mph sign coming into Dunblane from the Keir Roundabout and the open grassed area near Tesco. Janice will speak to David Crichton about these areas at their meeting on Monday.

Memorial Park

- The next stage is to work on the four corners. We have money from Community Pride for two corners and from the Windfarm for the other two (nearly £3000). Thanks go to both for their support.
- It was agreed to use the last of the tool money to buy bird nesting boxes. Alan will check with Jean Cowie this is all right.
- Two poplars have been blown down. The Council have removed the trees but have left some sections. It is hoped to use these in the Millrow Play Area once the Health and Safety aspect is checked out.

- A survey of the paths is needed and Kevin Fairclough could be asked to do this on a Wednesday morning.

Glen Road

The original landslip has been cleared but there is a new slip which is worse as it is unstable. Part of the work might be the responsibility of the Roads Department but it is too unstable and needs fencing. It is possible the landowner (Mr Duncan Fletcher of Badgersgate) might have to carry out the stabilising.

Millrow Play Park

- The Tuesday Group hope to finish the edging tomorrow and will then get on with the painting.
- The picnic bench has been ordered.

Signage

- Denis has met representative the Hydro who might be interested in sponsorship of information boards.
- Dougal has been in touch with the Council about the finger posts but no news so far.
- Alan will contact Bridge of Allan for information regarding their new tow entrance signs.

Laighhill Park

Bridget and Alan had a meeting with the Climate Challenge Fund. Ian Maclachan has done a report which shows to carry out the improvements would cost around £500,000. To be eligible for Climate Challenge funding we would need to provide a primary transport route and prove it will save carbon emissions so this is unlikely. However, the work done will be very useful. It is possible Network Rail may have to improve the footbridge when they carry out electrification of the line. It was agreed to improve the paths progressively, possibly starting with a 'boardwalk' in the swampy area. The play park also needs painting.

Bridget has a copy of the report.

Chris mentioned that the Skateboard Group might have some money available.

Any Other Business

Spring Day of Action

It was agreed this should be Saturday 14 April. It was agreed we should get two loads of compost from the Council and the focus should be to plant more Hostas and work on the paths in the Memorial Garden.

The bulb company are going to supply us with snowdrops instead of the lily of the valley which had been ordered and these will be going in at the north end.

Tesco Fundraiser

This will be the weekend of 9/10 March. Volunteers are needed to stand outside Tesco with collecting cans.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27 February 2012 at 7.30pm in the Braeport Centre.