

Dunblane Development Trust

Environment Group Meeting

Thursday 3rd June 2010

Note of Meeting

Fifteen people attended the meeting including representatives of Dunblane in Bloom, the Mid-week Group, Holmehill Group, Dunblane Wildlife Group and Sustainable Dunblane.

Participants agreed that there are five priority areas that require attention:

- 1 Threats to Dunblane's green spaces caused by building and development
- 2 The general maintenance and improvement of Dunblane's green spaces, particularly the Laighills and Ochloch Park.
- 3 The Dunblane Memorial Gardens - their improvement and enhancement
- 4 Children's play areas and play equipment - their repair, maintenance and improvement
- 5 Improving the look of the High Street including the installation of information/interpretation boards around town aimed at attracting and informing visitors to the town.

Point 1 This is a concern for the whole of the DDT and is also a major part of discussions around the Local Development Plan, it was agreed that this should be dealt with through wider DDT activity rather than through the Environment Group.

Point 2 Stirling Council is currently working on a green spaces strategy that should include Dunblane's green spaces. The group agreed that we should keep an eye on how this is progressing before working further on this issue. **Action** - Alan Booth has agreed to track Stirling Council's progress on this and alert the group to any developments.

Point 3 It was agreed that the Memorial Park has the potential to become an attractive feature and well-used facility in the centre of town. However its current lack of facilities and the general state of the park are barriers to this happening. It was agreed that improving the condition and facilities of the Memorial Park should form a focus of group activity. Specific areas of the Memorial Park that were identified as requiring attention were the paths and play facilities for children.

The group was made aware that Tony Fords of the British Legion is working to get the War Memorial itself renovated. However there are no plans to take on the task of organising the wider renovation of the surrounding area.

It was agreed that ideas for the improvement of the Memorial Park would be the focus for the next meeting of the Environment Group. **Action** - Ken and Bill agreed to survey the condition of the paths in the Memorial Park and bring this information to the next meeting. **Action All** - Where possible, all members of the group to take a look at the Memorial Park (if they are not already familiar with it) and have a think about how it could be improved. Any pictures or examples from other community green spaces that we would want to emulate in Dunblane would also be helpful for the next meeting. **Action** - The gathering of ideas for improvements to the Memorial Park to be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Environment Group.

Point 4 It was agreed that a survey of the current play parks/play equipment needs to be carried out to assess level and state of current provision. The following play facilities were identified: Mill Row, Laighills, Braemar Ave, Netwon Park, Whitecross, Ramoyle, Bar Bush, George St, Newton Primary School, Dunblane Primary School. **Action** - Monica Cessford, Lorna Inglis and Janice Stewart have agreed to survey the Dunblane's play areas, taking photographs and making notes of their condition. It was also agreed that examples of good play areas that Dunblane would seek to emulate should be gathered, as should catalogues of equipment available. **Action** - Monica Cessford agreed to gather catalogues of play equipment and information on what has been done/is being done in Crieff **Action** - Lorna Inglis agreed to gather information on the play area at Doune. **Action** - Janice Stewart agreed to gather

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information on play areas in Stirling **Action ALL** - All group members agreed to look out for examples of good facilities or ideas that we would like to emulate in Dunblane.

Point 5 The group was made aware that a plan for improvements to the town centre and for interpretation boards was created about 10 years ago but never implemented due to lack of funds. It was agreed that this plan should be revisited and an attempt made to implement it.

Action - It is believed that Ian Stein has a copy of this plan and Ken agreed to contact him to try and obtain a copy. It is also believed that Dougal Thornton has a copy of this plan and Morag Watson agreed to contact Dougal to try and obtain a copy. **Action** - Reviewing of the town centre improvement plan to be put on the agenda for a future Environment Group meeting.

Date of next meeting : Thursday 17TH June at 7.30pm in the Braeport Centre.

All working group meetings are open to anyone interested in Environmental issues in Dunblane. There is no need to be a member of DDT.

For more information contact Morag Watson on moragwatson @ f2s.com or Janice Stewart on douglas546 @ btinternet.com