



DCDT Enterprise Company

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 21st June 2021 (Zoom Call)

Directors Present: David Allan, Richard Boddington (Secretary), Ewan MacKay (Treasurer), David Mackie, Paul Saunders (Chair)

Members Present: John Aitken, Robert Bowman (Skoosh), John Carruthers, Robert Coleman, Julia Cross, John Cross, Mhairi Duncan, Rebecca Fleming, Katy Gibb, Rae Gibb, Anne Gilchrist, Tom Gilchrist, Ronald Graham, Carol Hemfrey, Walter Hemfrey, Beryl Horner, Andrew Richardson (DCC), Colette Rybarczyk, Joan Sidey, William Thomson, Frances Warnes.

Others Present: Jim Riach (Active Travel Officer for LLCT)

Item	Discussion	Actioner
	<p>DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED PRIOR TO MEETING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Minutes of previous AGM on 22 September 2020 • DCDT Accounts for the tax year to March 2021 • Links to the new Discover Drymen website and the Drymen Active Travel Action Plan. <p>1. APOLOGIES FROM DIRECTORS Struan Robb unable to attend.</p> <p>2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST AGM Approval of the minutes of 22 September 2020 AGM proposed by Ewan Mackay & seconded by Mhairi Duncan.</p> <p>3. CHAIR'S REPORT Paul Saunders ran through the activities of the DCDT since the last AGM. The main achievements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting two new Directors, Struan Robb and David Mackie • Significantly growing the membership (currently 136 members). • Focusing activities and improving communication with members. • Drymen Advent Windows (thanks to all who took part and to Ewan Duff for providing the Christmas tree). • Drymen Spring Clean (thanks to Skoosh for providing coffees and ice creams to those who took part, thanks to Fraser Robb for disposing of the litter and clearing the bypass and thanks to Drymen in Bloom for their ongoing hard work around the village). • Significant fund raising through grant applications (thanks to Ewan Mackay, who led this work in his role as Treasurer) • Mono-blocking the parking on the south side of the village square – underway at time of this meeting. 	

- Creating a Discover Drymen website for the village. This is now available at www.drymen.org and provides a wealth of information about the village for the community and for visitors (thanks to Mhairi Duncan for collecting much of the information and to Paul Saunders for creating the website).
- Production of an Active Travel Action Plan for Drymen (thanks to Jim Riach of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Countryside Trust for all his work on this).
- Providing an umbrella organisation to support the Digital Inclusion Project and refurbishment of the Play Park.

In addition to the above, the following work is in progress:

- Pipe bands have been organised for Thursday evenings in the summer (thanks to Katy Gibb for organising).
- The production of several new information boards and a heritage trail with audio for the village square are in progress (thanks to Rob Coleman (RSPB) Carol Hemfrey, Louise MacInnes and Katy Gibb for their work on these).
- Ongoing attendance of the East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group (ELLVMG) to represent the community alongside DCC.
- A tree is to be planted (with plaque) outside Drymen Medical Centre to thank the NHS and Drymen Community for their work during the Covid-19 pandemic. (This was funded by a kind legacy to DCDT in memory of Kenneth Cameron).
- Ongoing discussion with Stirling Council about various opportunities to improve infrastructure and traffic management, including safe routes to school.

Lastly from the Chair – thanks to all the members of the DCDT, we are always keen to receive ideas and feedback and are always looking for more people to get involved!

Response from Members were positive with John Aitken, David Allan and Rebecca Fleming all commenting positively on the work being done on the square and the decision to use Stirling Enterprise for the work.

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TREASURER’S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Ewan Mackay referred to the circulated accounts for tax year 2020/2021 (available on Drymen website [here](#)).

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Richard Boddington and seconded by Rae Gibb.

Approval of the ongoing appointment of the auditors (Baxter Accounting & Tax Services) was proposed by Ewan Mackay and seconded by Richard Boddington.

Ewan Mackay gave a brief overview of the period since the end of the tax year, which has seen significantly greater activity:

- Membership increased to 136 members, with accompanying membership fees.
- Gift Aid of over £1,000 claimed.
- Grant funding of over £24,000 approved (primarily for square improvements, website development, information boards and bike parking)
- £1,000 of support from Friends of Loch Lomond
- £1,000 of support from DCC

with thanks to Drymen Community Council and Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, as well as the funds of DCDT for early support that helped to unlock further match funding to allow delivery of priorities.

	<p>All of the activity above puts DCDT in a strong position to achieve its priority aims for the year, although more funding will be required to re-surface the road around the square.</p> <p>5. APPROVAL OF NO INCREASE IN THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES Membership fees to remain at £6 per individual and £10 for couples. Proposed by Robert Coleman and seconded by Mhairi Duncan.</p> <p>6. ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS David Allan is stepping down and we thank him for all his work in his time as a director, particularly in relation to the maintenance of the square. Katy Gibb and Rae Gibb are standing to become Directors of DCDT and this was approved by Rebecca Fleming and seconded by John Aitken.</p> <p>7. UPDATE FROM DRYMEN HERITAGE Carol Hemfrey attended the first part of the meeting but dropped out with technical problems. Richard Boddington read out her brief summary of Drymen Heritage activities on her behalf:</p> <p><i>“Drymen Heritage has had a very quiet year since the last AGM. Covid 19 restrictions have made it extremely difficult to access, even copies of, primary research material with the closure of the National Records of Scotland offices in Edinburgh to the public - and that of our local Library.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the amalgamation of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park's Community Partnership with its Countryside Trust, all Memberships of the former, of which DH was one, ceased to exist from 1st April 2021. Therefore, there will not be any further heritage-led initiatives to take part in. However, links already forged with other Park communities through the Partnership are proving fruitful, as having been around for nearly 12 years, Drymen Heritage is now able to offer an advisory role to others, as well as for Drymen's own plans for The Square etc.</i></p> <p><i>I will conclude by reminding everyone, as I do every year, that Membership of the Community Trust is automatic membership of Drymen Heritage, with no extra subs required - just a passing interest in the village's past, and a willingness to get involved if help is sought for projects etc.”</i></p> <p>8. ACTIVE TRAVEL PRESENTATION Richard Boddington introduced Jim Riach, the Active Travel Officer for Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Countryside Trust. Jim has created an Active Travel Action Plan for Drymen, based on 116 survey responses from the local community. Active Travel includes walking, cycling and wheeling.</p> <p>The Active Travel Action Plan is available on the Discover Drymen website here.</p> <p>The presentation looked at the benefits of active travel (health, environmental and social) and various ways to overcome barriers to active travel in and around the village. These include improved access to working bikes, better knowledge of local routes, improved path infrastructure, use of e-bikes and better connectivity between key locations.</p> <p>Richard Boddington then summarised some of the existing and proposed Active Travel initiatives in the community:</p>	
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	<p>Existing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk in the Park every Thursday from the village square • The Drymen paths leaflet continues to be available from local shops (walks) • Some shops have registered as Refill Stations – an app that shows businesses that provide free water bottle top ups. <p>Ongoing work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCDT is the process of purchasing cycle parking for the village square. • The new Discover Drymen website contains more information on local walks and bike routes. • DCDT/Hub G63 are working with Jim to host an e-bike loan scheme for the community – hoping to launch in July. <p>Aspirations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An e-bike charging point in the village square. • Complete the cycle path from Drymen to Balmaha. • Led cycle rides around the area. • Looking at improving Drymen for pedestrians and cyclists. • Making Drymen a cycle friendly community with support from Cycling Scotland. • To make Drymen an Active Travel destination for visitors. <p>John Aitken commented that the direct route to Croftamie is currently not fit for cyclists or pedestrians and would be a useful development. Rebecca Fleming added that this would also then make a good circular route, which is currently not practical. Rebecca also suggested that a safe cycling route to Balfron would also be valuable.</p> <p>9. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</p> <p>William Thomson provided details of two initiatives he was progressing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The crossing from Winnock Court to the Winnock is on a bend. He has requested signage on speed restrictions to be installed, and understands that Stirling Council are planning to implement. 2. The path from Winnock Court down to Home Farm is very waterlogged in places due to poor drainage. The National Park have inspected and suggested that they can fix the drainage to improve the condition of the path, and will also install signage about litter and dog waste. <p>Both initiatives are welcomed by DCDT and Paul Saunders offered the assistance of the DCDT if it can be of use.</p> <p>Andrew Richardson provided information on the road works that have been taking place on the A811, close to the junction between the A811 and A809 (the right turn to Balloch just after Drymen bridge). The work is to remedy long term subsidence of the road into the Endrick. There is currently no information available on the duration of the works.</p> <p>Meeting closed just after 9pm with thanks to all for attending.</p>	
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