



DCDT Enterprise Company
Directors Meeting, 27th March 2023 (Village Hall)

Directors Present: Richard Boddington (RB), Katy Gibb (KG), Rae Gibb (RG), Ewan MacKay (EM), David Mackie (DM), Paul Saunders (PS), Hilary Soanes (HS)

Non-Directors Present: Simon Reid (SPR), Maureen Wooster (MW)

Item	Discussion	Actioner
	<p>DOCUMENTS PROVIDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Minutes of last meeting (28/02/2023) for review • Treasurer’s report for March 2023 • SWECO Drymen to Balfron bike route – preliminary report <p>1. WELCOME Welcome to all.</p> <p>2. APOLOGIES Struan Robb (SR) and Robert Coleman (RC) unable to attend.</p> <p>3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING Minutes from last meeting (28/02/2023) proposed by EM & seconded by HS.</p> <p>4. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES</p> <p>a. Place Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentially complete but out for required review with neighbouring communities and NPA. Consultation period will finish in early April. • Noted that the Community Council boundaries applied by NPA for maps were incorrect – NPA to update. • Feedback so far has been almost entirely positive, although Kilmaronock CC noted that their position would likely be to object to any path linking RSPB with Drymen. <p>b. Toilets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona Jackson is currently the main contact at NPA. • The issue seems to have lost some traction within NPA and so PS is raising it with them again. • All agreed that DCDT organising temporary toilets is not an appropriate solution. • Refurbishment of the car park, and therefore installation of toilet block foundations, is currently linked to the MacMic development, which is yet to start. <p><i>Action: DM to give John White the go-ahead to prepare drawings.</i></p>	<p>DM</p>

<p><i>Action: Review design and pass to Stirling Council so they know the likely footprint.</i></p> <p><i>Action: PS to ask NPA about timings for the MacMic development, as several important projects (e.g. toilets, road crossings) are dependent on this.</i></p> <p>c. Library No progress since last meeting</p> <p>d. Road Safety – Traffic Calming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good news! 20 mph limit installed by Stirling Council on 16 March. This allows a second traffic survey on w/c 12 June followed by installation of traffic calming measures on w/c 19 June. • TP&E have informed EM that their costs are likely to be approx. £4k less than original budget due to lower than expected survey costs. • Discussion about the likely effect of road safety trial on (illegal) parking along the east side of square. Could request more visits by traffic wardens. Could also control parking round the other side of square – introduce payment, 15 minutes free or similar, to free up spaces for short visit to the shops. For future discussion. • Thanks to EM for keeping on top of this tricky project! <p>e. Active Travel – Cycle Path Feasibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWECO has issued a preliminary report, currently missing the landowner section, due to a delay in receiving that information from SC. RB has reviewed the report and reverted to SWECO with comments. • The preliminary report has been shared with DCDT team. • SWECO now has the landowner information and so we can progress to the landowner consultation. • The funders (CLLD) have already paid the grant money to DCDT. SWECO has provided an invoice and it was agreed that we should pay SWECO £5,000 for the work done to date. Remainder to be paid on completion of the study. 	<p>All</p> <p>PS</p>
<p><i>Action: HS to pay SWECO £5,000</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB and DM to review the landowner information once provided by SWECO and agree how to approach the landowners.</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB and anyone else keen to have call with SWECO to discuss landowner approaches.</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB to update relevant people in Balfron of progress. Consult on the Balfron end of the path.</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB/PS to contact Tom Wallace and ask about the process for the Drymen to Balmaha path.</i></p>	<p>HS</p> <p>RB/DM</p> <p>RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>RB/PS</p>
<p>f. Active Travel – Ebike Short Loan Scheme</p> <p>This project is being progressed by a sub-group and bullets below are just a brief summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many thanks to Maureen Wooster for doing an excellent job of information gathering. • Agreed that the scheme will initially launch as a 3-month pilot to ensure that the various elements work. • HS has insurance quotes. Made the point that it would be sensible for DCDT to use an insurance broker as our activities become more diverse. • RB is developing membership T&Cs, process documents etc. • Need to finalise the booking system – preferably using the same one used by the Village Hall, hosted on the website. • Aiming to launch the service in late April. 	

	<p><i>Actions: DM to provide details of a local insurance broker (lives in Charles Crescent?) to HS.</i></p> <p><i>Actions: HS to talk to insurance broker. See whether we can also get the solar panels, ebike charger and bike tool station covered by insurance.</i></p>	<p>DM</p> <p>HS</p>
	<p>g. Village Square</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potholes – EM has filled another pothole at the south end of the square. Noted that Fraser Robb has pothole repair materials. Also noted that George in Stuart Drive works for Lightways and may be able to help with potholes. • Inspection - Next six-monthly inspection due in April. This is for Zurich Insurance policy. • Electricity Supply – Ebike and bus shelter light supply keeps tripping. EM has asked Donald McLeod to look at it. Now that we have a new bank account, we can look at setting up electricity export with Octopus. • Bus shelter – Would benefit from new bench materials and painting the bench supports. • Benches – Agreed that there was space for at least one more bench on the village square, roughly outside the Ptarmigan bar. EM and PS have spoken to Joan Sidey about the prospect of a bench and are going to get quotes for a bench and the creation of a concrete pad to put it on. <p><i>Action: RB to undertake inspection. Will specify time/date if anyone else wants to join.</i></p> <p><i>Action: EM to provide Zurich insurance details to HS.</i></p> <p><i>Action: DM to contact George to ask about possibility of fixing potholes around the square.</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB/HS to sort out the Octopus customer address, bank account details and export agreement.</i></p> <p><i>Action: EM/PS to get quotes for purchase and installation of a bench on the square.</i></p>	<p>RB</p> <p>EM</p> <p>DM</p> <p>HS/RB</p> <p>EM/PS</p>
	<p>h. Litter Pick</p> <p>Proposed for 10 am on Saturday 22 April.</p> <p><i>Action: RB to ask Fraser Robb for litter pickers and bags.</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB to let DPS know about it.</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB to publicise on Facebook.</i></p>	<p>RB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>RB</p>
5.	<p>PIPING ON THE SQUARE</p> <p>Proposed for Thursday nights in the months of July and August as usual. Stevie Martin may be able to help.</p> <p><i>Action: KG to contact pipe bands – Doune, Helensburgh, (Strathendrick?) – to arrange for them to play. Also, to contact Stevie Martin.</i></p>	<p>KG</p>
6.	<p>TREASURER’S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP (HS)</p> <p>Book Balance: £52,133.76 Restricted: £38,432.56 / Unrestricted: £13,701.20</p> <p>Actual Bank Balance as at 22nd March was £63,277.12, with the difference being unrepresented items.</p> <p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place Plan funding received in full. (£1200) • Forth Valley Grant for Balfron feasibility study received in full in order to meet the year-end deadline despite the study not yet being completed. (£9960) 	

- £260 in Membership renewals – included a few extra donations along with their renewals
- £50 donation from Hamill Homecare for posting their recruitment advert

Restricted Funds:

- **Road Safety Trial** – £990 (Spreadsheets show a further £6666 scheduled expenditure later in the year?)
- **E Bike Project** - £227.53 – We will need a top up to launch the project i.e. Gold Standard Locks, concrete base, Insurance – To discuss.
- **Magic Wee Grant** - £137.70 – (though technically overdrawn due to an uncharged invoice for an annual deposit charge). Currently funding the electricity on the square. Ewan has applied for another top up £500 to keep this rolling.
- **Paths Fund** - £29,226.13 (still dormant)
- **Balfron Paths Feasibility** - £9600 (Invoiced awaiting completion before paying out)
- **Paths Leaflets** - £890.37
- **Drymen Web Site** - £2857.96
- **Info Boards** - £459.27
- **Lead Cycle Rides** - £277
- **Defibrillator Fund** - £200
- **Play Park** - £3076.90 Carol Still has earmarked this for new play park equipment. There was nearly a £380 overspend but Stirling Council have offered to pay this. Good result. Not sure of the installation date but a Spinner Bowl, a Roundabout and a Dice Spinner are due to be installed in the foreseeable. That fund will then be spent.
- **Place Plan Contribution** - £90 surplus

Membership:

I have conducted an audit of the Membership files using the manual application forms, the spreadsheet on dropbox, and cross checking to bank receipts for the last full 12-month period. Observations include:

- Some standing order renewals but on the 2021 subscription fee
- Some have lapsed altogether.
- It is unclear if some people have moved away and/or died. We really need to introduce a regular Membership mailing to ensure data is up to date. Data protection laws?

As a result, emails were sent out in early March with the purpose of prompting renewal and/or asking people to alter the standing order to the correct amount. This has resulted in a few people topping up, some renewals and even some who paid an extra contribution. 😊

The system is still not ideal. A direct debit system would keep better track rather than we needing to re-appeal as they lapse. (They would still, of course, have the right to cancel).

As at 23rd March there are 94 fully paid-up members. Manual data is on file for when the next members lapse e.g., 8 are due to renew in April, fingers crossed the email worked, otherwise membership will haemorrhage without me chasing every month.

Banking:

All signatures are now complete as of 23 March, so we should be able to open the new account.

7.	<p>Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheques signed for Hall Fees, TP&E Interim Invoice and £5,000 of the SWECO Invoice. • Membership system discussed. General feeling is that there are currently not enough members to warrant this. Re-visit after the ebike trial? • We are coming to the Year-end. HS to contact Baxters to process annual accounts before the AGM, which is typically in June. <p><i>Action: HS to complete bank upgrade</i></p> <p><i>Action: HS to provide financial information to Baxters so that they can compile the annual accounts.</i></p> <p>PLANNED COMMUNICATION</p> <p><i>Action: PS to write and email out a newsletter to members.</i></p> <p><i>Action: RB to publicise the imminent Community Council election process.</i></p>	<p>HS</p> <p>HS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>RB</p>
8.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workload was discussed. Communications with the NPA led to a discussion about the idea of a paid staff member to support the community organisations in the area – Drymen, Croftamie, ELL and Gartocharn. Everyone agreed that this would be of benefit. • DCC elections discussed. Aspiration to have a DCC team that represents all sections of the community. DCDT to help publicise the election process. 	
9.	<p>DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>Next DCDT meeting is proposed for Monday 24 April 2023.</p>	

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