

BCDT AGM Monday 30th November 2020 **Held on Zoom due to ongoing pandemic restrictions.**

Present: Alison, Mark, Lesley, Kate, Dom, Jean, Ros, Jane

Members also in attendance: Brian Wiseman, Celia Burns, Jim and Wilma Ferguson, Peter Langhorne, Elaine Reid, Eleanor Duncanson.

Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting, and commented that despite the difficulties presented by the pandemic restrictions on the activities of BCDT during the year, informal meetings had continued to be held using Zoom facilities, and the committee had endeavoured to identify ways in which BCDT could serve the community. Alison gave a presentation featuring BCDT activities during the year.

Campaign to improve broadband provision in the community.

A significant number of premises in Baldernock are still unable to access superfast broadband, and still more suffer from an unreliable service. These issues became much more acute with the introduction of Covid-related restrictions which have meant many frustrated residents trying to work and learn at home, and to shop, access information and keep in touch with friends and relatives, using poor broadband provision.

To resolve these issues a **Community Fibre Partnership** with Openreach has been initiated to make full fibre broadband available in every part of Baldernock, with the support of Baldernock Community Council and Baldernock Community Development Trust. Lesley Wiseman is currently coordinating this initiative on behalf of the community, and expects very soon to receive detailed costing for this ambitious programme of work, which, it is expected, will be fully funded using UK and Scottish Government vouchers for rural areas and for those unable to access superfast broadband, respectively. As soon as we confirm to Openreach that their proposal is acceptable to the community, they will set up a dedicated webpage at which residents can pledge their vouchers (which Openreach will apply for on behalf of the community).

As soon as sufficient vouchers have been pledged, detailed planning for the work can begin and it is hoped that all of the works should be completed within 1 year from that date. Please look out for communications about this from community representatives and from Openreach. As soon as the dedicated webpage is available, please pledge your voucher as quickly as possible. ***Even if you are happy with your own broadband provision, pledging your voucher (at no cost to you) will greatly help other Baldernock residents who are not so fortunate.*** If you have any questions about Baldernock's Community Fibre Partnership, please contact Lesley on lesley.wiseman@hotmail.co

The Trust is now a **Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Hub**, with equipment for litter picks available for residents to clean up their area at any time. Keep Scotland Beautiful are gathering data on types of litter and fly tipping: please send details of this kind and any photos to Jane at jp.logan@yahoo.co.uk.

The 2020 **Baldernock Calendar** produced to celebrate the beauty of Baldernock and to raise funds for the Trust has sold out! Jane is now looking for photographs featuring the farming aspects of Baldernock for the 2022 calendar, which will be on sale next September, so please send your photographs to jp.logan@yahoo.co.uk.

BCDT is making an application to the **Woodland Trust** for free native trees and hedging. If you have somewhere you would like to plant these, please get in touch with Alison as soon as possible, at alison@hazell.org.uk.

BCDT has in recent years been responsible for **Baldernock Youth Club**, which thrived for 8 years under the leadership of Isabel Ewing. It has not been able to meet since the start of 'lockdown' and with Isabel's retirement from her role, any resumption will require a new leader, and perhaps a paid one. The Trust are very keen to continue the support of the Youth Club which we view as an essential provision for our young people and will therefore consider applying for funding to pay for a youth leader to allow the Youth Club to resume when Covid restrictions allow. If you know of anyone who would be interested in such a role please get in touch.

Earlier this month BCDT hosted a **storytelling event** for the whole community, organised and delivered by local resident Kate Langhorne as part of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival 2020. Kate told a supernatural and ancient tale, in Gaelic and English, encouraged others to tell their own tales of Baldernock history and folklore and was enjoyed by those who attended the event. It was recorded to be enjoyed later by those unable to attend.

BCDT set up a **swap and share** facility on its website. If you have been clearing out your garden sheds or cupboards, or are looking for any items - from a jigsaw to a sideboard - you might like to use the swap and share facility on the Baldernock Community Development Trust's Facebook page.

Friday 27th March was the night the Trust planned to hold its first community fundraising social event of 2020, a Race night, which had proven to be so successful in 2019. Unfortunately, the 'lockdown' meant that the event had to be cancelled. The inability of the Trust to hold fundraising events over the past year has had a significant impact on its finances, and members are invited to make a small donation to help pay for essential costs such as insurance which must be paid regardless. It is possible to gift aid donations.

Alison then outlined the proposed strategy for BCDT for the following year, building on work already done.

We will explore the possibility of developing a purpose built new nursery building for Baldernock Childcare and explore the possibility of working with the Church to enhance the existing hall in Balmore.

Discussions started in the middle of 2017 to determine if the removal of the portacabin could be an opportunity to provide a facility that could be used by the school for gym, drama, lunches, etc. and also be available for wider community use. BCDT compiled a case to fund a feasibility study into the proposal, an application was made for EU Leader Funding in July 2017 which was approved in October 2017. We issued a request for information to potential consultants in November 2017, assessed bids in January 2018 and appointed Community Enterprise to carry out the study in February 2018, with the work being carried out in March/April 2018. The report was finally issued in June 2018 and prompted some further work to develop a suitable strategy based on the results of the study. The strategy was finalised in October 2018 and published on the Baldernock website in November.

Looking forward to 2021 we will confirm that there is support for a new nursery building from Baldernock Childcare, and will progress the permissions and funding to build it. We will continue to liaise with the Church to see how we can help to improve the Church Hall in Balmore for community use.

We will continue in our quest to support, develop, promote and protect our community, will work with the whole community to develop and enhance the facilities available to us and in pursuance of these aims will carry out fundraising activities.

Income		Expenditure	
● Members donations	£10	● Insurance	£394
● Fundraising	£32	● DTAS membership	£60
● YC income	£286		
● Interest	£2	TOTAL	£454
TOTAL	£330		

Other Information

- Funds in Bank account at end of financial year: **£357.**
- Deficit of **£124** during 2019/2020.
- The Race Night fundraising event had to be cancelled due to Covid.
- **£100** grant from CC for the Youth Club still remains in accounts – ring fenced to help the Youth Club restart or donated to the school.
- Fundraising for 2020/21 has started with very successful calendar sales.

Membership Report

BCDT membership is currently 207

146 ordinary members (resident in Baldernock)

11 junior members (resident in Baldernock)

50 associate members (non-resident) Regular updates to members by email (essential communications by letter for members without email).

Communication with wider community in Community Council e-newsletter and on Baldernock website: <https://www.baldernock.org.uk/bcdt>

Please advise of any changes such as address, email address, status (junior/adult), etc.

Membership forms on Baldernock website.

Election of directors

Apart from Evan Clark, who has decided to retire, and was thanked for his work, all current directors have offered to continue in post, and were elected unopposed. Members of the community who would like to join the committee were invited to do so.

AOCB

Celia asked that any work with regard to improvements at the Church Hall be carried out in consultation with the Community Council, in order to avoid duplication of effort.

Ros gave an update on the Active Travel Campaign being carried out in conjunction with BCDT. Led by Sandra Wilson and a group of interested residents, the campaign hopes to improve facilities for walking and cycling in the parish for leisure and commuting, and ultimately to complete the active travel loop which already exists in most of East Dunbartonshire, but which currently has a gap through Baldernock.

Evan joined the meeting.

The whereabouts of the community log splitter, bought for the benefit of the community by the Langhorne, was identified at John Hansen's.

The tartan project is nearing completion with fabric currently being produced by Ingles Buchan for throws and shawls in the first instance. Progress is slow, but it is still hoped to have items made in time for Christmas.

Mention was made of the possibility of making a link with the town of Roswell in Georgia, USA, which has a Bulloch memorial hall, the Bulloch family being originally from Baldernock. Archibald Bulloch was the first governor of Georgia.

James Beattie joined the meeting. Having recently moved to Balmore, he was warmly welcomed to the community, and thanked for joining the meeting.

No further business. The meeting was closed.

