



*Discover*  
**DUNBLANE**  
Historic | Beautiful | Engaging

**Annual Report**  
**2017-2018**

**Discover Dunblane**  
**Business Improvement District**  
**(Discover Dunblane Ltd)**

## Contents

Chair's Welcome	3-4
Current Board	4
Promoting Update	5-6
Enhancing Update	7-8
Supporting Update	9-10
Financial Update	11

## Report Update

The following pages provide a summary update on our key actions and what we have delivered in year three of our five-year business plan and what activity is currently planned for 2018-2019.

## Welcome & Introduction



I'd like to reach out and welcome you to our third annual update for 2017-2018. We are now running towards the final stretch of the 5-year term, where I'd like to highlight areas of success and the head winds we face. As a business community I'd like to thank you for your contribution towards the BID in views and support to help achieve the objectives set out in the 2015 business plan.

Personally, I would like to say thank you to all who have received me in my short time so far with the BID. I look forward to working alongside you all more in due course.

Throughout the year we have seen a number of successes within Dunblane through partnerships and events as well as local improvements which contribute to the Enhancing, Supporting and Promoting plan. Some highlights are:

- Stirling Marathon having a greater inclusion of Dunblane, now stretching to the High Street.
- Christmas Extravaganza attended by over 1200 people.
- Discover Dunblane 12k Road race and 2km Youth race .
- Parking strategy, including the agreement of Electric Charging points to be implemented.
- Skills 4 Life programme securing funding and a support manager appointed.
- Dementia Friendly initiative launched throughout Dunblane raising awareness and support.
- Continued partnership with the DDT.
- Continued review and support of premises improvements.

Along with other successes, our commitment to raising the profile and interest in Dunblane to locals and visitors alike, we hope you have noticed and improvement in trading and town environment. Future projects in the pipeline should further enhance this along with the completion of the rail electrification.

Resource continues to be a particular restraint. This has led to some aspects not being fully met, in particular, liaising and promotion. We hope to have this addressed soon with recruitment in motion.

To recognise outstanding contribution, I would like to thank Scott Abercrombie and Kirsten MacDonald for their efforts over the summer. Their resilience, commitment and drive to the BID has supported numerous successes as well as ensuring the BID was positioned to overcome the challenges presented.

If you are interested in joining the board please do not hesitate to contact any existing BID board members for further information or email: [chair@discoverdunblane.co.uk](mailto:chair@discoverdunblane.co.uk)

Current Board members are:

Greg Austin, Tesco Dunblane	Graham Fleming, David Bennett & Son
Tom Casey, Charisma	Richard Noakes, Dunblane High School
Chris Duncan, Intelligent Displays	Keir Stevenson, Stirling Council
Scott Walker, Choices Deli	Cllr Graham Houston, Elected Member
Barbara Allan, DDT	

Despite this being a challenging time, we endeavour to continue our efforts in supporting local businesses and the local community whilst listening to feedback. I welcome your views and especially, your support, to achieve a more prosperous Dunblane.

Kind regards and thank you all for your continued support.

**Greg Austin**

Chair

# Promoting

## What we have delivered and what is underway

### Discover Dunblane Road Race

- 2018 event another success under the Discover Dunblane name
- More than 600 runners took part
- Start and finish taking place in the town centre
- Businesses who were open on that day benefitted from the event in terms of increased footfall and spend
- BID supported the race to the extent of a £500 contribution
- BID attendance at committee meetings
- BID provided support on the day
- We anticipate the partnership with the local runners continuing in 2019.

### Christmas Extravaganza 2017

- Event was a huge success and attracted an estimated 1200 attendees
  - Community village was included for the first time and offered the DDT, Dementia Friendly Dunblane, Rotary Club, Holmehill Buyout Group, Dunblane First Responders, Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, and other community representatives an opportunity to attend in an awareness and local engagement capacity
  - Business who were open on the night benefited from the increased footfall and the opportunity to engage with the wider Dunblane community
  - Town centre local residents continued to support the event and the fireworks display. An awareness campaign 30 days in advance of the display was welcomed
  - New temporary event signage was introduced to raise awareness
  - Sponsorship contributions by local businesses exceeded previous years
- ✓ *Target for year-end: To deliver a successful Christmas Extravaganza and to further embed the event as a whole-community, family event offering town centre traders the opportunity to showcase their business.*
- ✓ *Target for year-end: To continue be aware of the school in-service days and the impact it has on footfall when the dates don't align*

### Online activity

- Social profiles continue to attract new followers organically
  - There is acknowledgment that more the online promotion of businesses on Facebook
  - Manual requesting by businesses for sharing is very low and isn't working
  - Additional resources are required to enable a more pro-active approach
- ✓ *Target for year-end: To recruit support for the management of the BID online platforms.*

## Duck Hunt 2018

- Another successful year for the Duck Hunt (aligning with the Dunblane Fling)
- Record number of businesses took part, 43 in total
- Creativity was on show with some fabulous outfits and names displayed
- Over 60 local youngsters took part
- BID again broadcast the Fling Duck Race live on Facebook



- ✓ *Target for year-end: To liaise with Dunblane Fling committee and discuss the plans for 2019 to see if there are opportunities to link the event with businesses*

## "Your place, Your Priorities" event

- BID submitted an application for £10k to progress our Summer Festival idea
- Attended and presented at Stirling Council event alongside "urban" villages
- Very tough competition, and plenty of very needy causes, on the day
- A total of five application were received from Dunblane groups, none were successful
- BID has been on touch with S. Council to look at the arrangements for grouping and to discuss whether or not Dunblane would be better suited in the "rural" grouping



- ✓ *Target for year-end: To continue dialogue Stirling Council to ensure a more fair event in 2019 where Dunblane is grouped alongside more closely comparable areas*

## Easter Picture Quiz

- A very fun and popular quiz for local residents and for local youth groups
- Offered opportunity to showcase the breadth of the businesses within the BID area
- Should be continued in 2019 with more businesses added



## Stirling Council Tourism App

- Stirling Council app has launched but contains very little content relating to Dunblane
- BID and DDT met with S. Council to discuss and to request content is added in next update

- ✓ *Target for year-end: To push Stirling Council to ensure more content relating to Dunblane is added to the app. This is in partnership with the DDT.*

# Enhancing

## What we have delivered and what is underway

### Premises – vacant and changes

- Former SSE shop – Kitchen, bathroom and bedroom specialist expected to commence re-fit shortly, with a target opening prior to year-end
- Former TSB branch – property purchased from TSB and now up for let.
- Former Archie’s shop – Property purchased by existing local business and refit now complete with original external features retained. Occupancy date not yet available.
- Former RBS branch – closing date for sale was 29<sup>th</sup> September, awaiting feedback from RBS on outcome of sale. Up to 6 interested parties.
- RG Eyecare business ceased trading on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Property to be marketed by DM Hall, who we will engage.

✓ *Target for year-end: To continue to work with owners of vacant premises to ensure occupancy of all premises by the year end.*

### Premises Improvement Scheme

- Seven applications have been approved during this reporting period with a further 2 enquiries made from existing businesses

✓ *Target for year-end: Approve at least two more Premises Improvement Scheme applications.*

### Town Centre Regeneration

- Derelict building in the middle of the High Street - The owners lawyer has now completed £8k roof repairs. Contractor to paint the whole building is ready to go on site as soon as we have planning permission and listed building consent. This will be funded through the DCP £2000 grant awarded by Tesco, plus £500 from BID.
- Cantonese Restaurant – Possible sale in the offing, prior to year-end. However, no evidence provided so little confidence at this time, in the sale taking place.
- Entrance Doors on High Street (in need of refurbishment / replacement). Progress slower than anticipated. Landlords to be approached once again.
- Petrol station – Latest position is that the oil company is happy to provide a filling station on the dual carriageway, but an agreement with the landowner has not yet been reached.

### Parking Strategy

- Stirling Council Parking strategy; Public consultation now underway. Community Council and ourselves sit on the Steering group. To set expectations, it is highly unlikely that Stirling Council will have funds available for capital expenditure in relation to improvements to parking. However, we do expect to see improvements in the following areas:
  - Millrow Car Park – prohibited use by commuters being introduced and a zoned area for residents.

- Electric Charging points – Application submitted to the electricity network provider re Springfield terrace and Millrow. Transport Scotland have now agreed to fund 8 EV points in the Springfield Terrace (Tesco) car park. Millrow, will require 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding from OLEV, which Stirling Council have agreed to pursue on our behalf.
  - 2-hour free parking at Victoria hall
  - Coach Parking spaces on the Dual Carriageway.
  - Additional commuter parking beyond the roundabout at Marks & Spencer area (north bound)
- Scot Rail / Abellio – We (DD and DCC) have engaged directly rail companies who have expressed an interest in providing investment for a solution to parking for train users. However, any solution is dependent on land becoming available. Discussions continue.
- ✓ *Target for year-end: To complete survey on parking in support of Stirling Council parking review, to agree priorities with Stirling Council and obtain commitment on dates for implementation of agreed actions from Stirling Council.*

# Supporting

## What we have delivered and what is underway

### Education and Employment - Skills 4 life programme

- Approximately 30 young people from Dunblane High School are now actively participating in this project, which is fully funded by the Big Lottery award.
    - The programme consists of 3 projects;
      - Work Experience; 25 local businesses have already committed to support the work experience week which is scheduled for later in November. The young people will lead on communication with businesses and co-ordinate the work experience week.
      - Dunblane Tourism Challenge; This is being supported by Visit Scotland and Stirling Council. The young people are currently fact finding and will determine early in December, what the key deliverables will be. Target delivery is June 2019.
      - Health and Wellbeing; Focus is on Mental Health in young people.
  - An SVQ level 6 qualification is being developed which focuses on character development of the young people during the project.
  - The involvement of the Dunblane business community with the High School receives an ever-increasing level of visibility with young people at the high school and with their parents also.
- ✓ *Target for year-end: Skills for life project to be established and run by 6<sup>th</sup> pupils at Dunblane High School. At least one of the 3 projects to be completed by year end.*

### Town Centre Community Support

- Dunblane Medical Centre (NHS is a BID levy payer); has been supported to the extent of £400 for the purchase of artwork following the premises improvement recently completed. Artwork was a recommendation in a recent environment audit by Dementia Friendly.
- Discover Dunblane Road Race; our sponsorship of this event (£500) contributes to the cost of the race medals and increases the amount of funding made available to the Dunblane Centre. This year saw the largest turn out of runners – over 500 adults and 100 under 16s. The growing reputation of the event is attracting visitors requiring over-night accommodation, residents and other visitors to the High-Street area on the Sunday. A huge thank you to the Riverside, Village Inn, The Dunblane, Beechtree and Choices for making available toilet facilities to the runners.
- Dunblane Development Trust; We have supported the Trusts' sub groups in terms of funding for Christmas lights, plants and hanging baskets. The town centre area is now receiving many positive comments from visitors and locals alike and this is all down to the hard work of the trusts volunteers. Given the intended improvements to the fabric of the High St mentioned earlier, we have had initial

discussions with the Trust about entering Dunblane into a 'beautiful town' award for 2019.

- Dunblane Dementia Friendly group; We have supported this group to the extent of £500 and helped create their branding and posters. A number of businesses in Dunblane are now officially tagged as Dementia Friendly and we expect this number to grow going forward.
- ✓ *Target for year-end: To continue to work with local groups that contribute towards helping us achieve our vision of making our community a more vibrant, healthier and inclusive place to live, work and visit. In particular, we will work closely with Dunblane Development Trust with a view to enhancing further the town centre area.*

# Financial Update

For the period 30 October 2017 to 1 October 2018

INCOME			
		AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
		25,500	BID Levy Drawdowns
		9,000	EfLW Support
		3,650	Extravaganza Sponsorship 17
		168.34	Extravaganza charitable donations received 17
		679.25	Transfer in from a/c 360 (old traders A/c )
	<b>INCOME TOTAL (I)</b>	<b>38,997.59</b>	
EXPENDITURE			
<i>Promoting</i>			
		225.54	Dementia Friendly Dunblane - Promo Support
		59.99	Bunting
		8,938.1	Christmas Extravaganza
		73.39	Duck Hunt - Purchase of ducks
		500	Discover Dunblane Road Race
		1,564.79	Website and social
	<b>Promoting Total</b>	<b>11,361.61</b>	
<i>Enhancing</i>			
		2,774.89	Premises Improvement Scheme grants
	<b>Enhancing Total</b>	<b>2,774.89</b>	
<i>Supporting</i>			
		218.97	CCTC Ltd Xmas Lights
		5,276	EfLW - Project Support
	<b>Supporting Total</b>	<b>5,494.97</b>	
<i>Administration</i>			
		118.8	Scotland Towns Ltd annual membership
		55.6	Attendance at Scotlands Towns AGM event
		9,360	Project Management and admin support
	<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>9,534.4</b>	
<i>Charitable Giving</i>			
		200	Cheque - Dunblane Air Cadets Squadron
	<b>Giving Total</b>	<b>200</b>	
	<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL (E)</b>	<b>29,365.87</b>	
	<b>NET POSITION (I-E)</b>	<b>9,631.72</b>	
SUMMARY			
<b>Account Balances</b>			
<i>Bank Account (Acc. No. 76661168)</i>			
Opening	948.79	Restricted funds (charitable donations)	
	669.75	Un-restricted funds	
Plus Income	168.34	Restricted funds (charitable donations)	
	38,829.25	Un-restricted funds	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,616.13</b>		
Less Expenditure	-200	Restricted funds (charitable donations)	
	-29,165.87	Un-restricted funds	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-29,365.87</b>		
<b>Not yet received income</b>			
Less BID Levy Drawdown No. 10	-10,000		
<b>BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE</b>	<b>1,250.26</b>	at 01/10/2018	NB: Balance includes £748.79 of restricted funds
<i>Local authority account</i>			
<b>STIRLING COUNCIL BALANCE</b>	<b>20,242.66</b>	at 01/10/2018	(Includes BID Levy Drawdown No. 10)



If you have any questions or comments on anything which you have read in the annual report, or wish to discuss any aspect of the BID, please do not hesitate to contact the team. Email: [info@discoverdunblane.co.uk](mailto:info@discoverdunblane.co.uk)

[www.discoverdunblane.co.uk](http://www.discoverdunblane.co.uk)

Produced October 2018  
Copyright © Discover Dunblane Ltd