

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting Information

Meeting Type:	BID Board		
Facilitator:	Tom Casey	Location:	Riverside, Dunblane
Date:	04/09/2017	Time:	5:30 PM
In Attendance:	Graham Fleming (GF), Wilma Lyon (WL), Tracey Erskine (TE) Also present: Scott Abercrombie (SA)		
Apologies:	Tom Casey (TC), Markus Beher (MB), Richard Noakes (RN), Wilma Lyon (WL)		

Agenda Items

		Presenter(s)	Time
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	GF	
2	Approve of Minutes	GF	
3	Board Update from chair (see notes)		15
8	AOB		5
9	Date of next meeting: 14 November 2017		
10	Close	TC	

Decisions

- 1 Approval of the minutes not possible due to only one board member in attendance who was present at the last meeting. Action noted below.
- 2 Date of next meeting agreed (as above)

New Action Items

		Responsible	Due Date
1	SA to contact MB for approval of board minutes from previous meeting	TC	06/09/2017
2	Christmas planning to be progressed with promo group	SA	14/11/2017
3	School meeting to be arranged to progress Skills 4 Life EFLW	TC	01/10/2017

Other Notes & Information

Promoting

1. Discover Dunblane Road Race
 - a. A very successful partnership has been developed between Dunblane Runners

and Discover Dunblane leading to the annual 12k and 2k race being renamed Discover Dunblane. Over 500 runners took part with the start and finish taking place in the Town Centre. A number of businesses who were open on that day benefitted from the event.

- b. We anticipate the partnership continuing in 2018.
 - c. Proceeds from the race were donated to the Dunblane Centre where a cheque for £4k was recently presented.
2. Christmas Extravaganza
 - a. Takes place on 30/11. Start time 5.00 and with Fireworks at 8.30.
 - b. Programme being developed with the sub group actively seeking sponsorship for the event.
 - c. Anyone who is interested in helping the sub group out on this key annual community event should simply contact Scott.
 3. New event for the calendar
 - a. New Proprietors from the Village Inn have suggested an end of summer event (back to school). This was agreed in principle by the Promo sub group.
 - b. ANGIE AND JAMES SMITH of the Village Inn, will be invited to the next meeting to discuss further.
 4. Website / Social Media
 - a. The promo group recognise that the Website could be more active in terms of new content and this will be a focus over the next few months.
 - b. Social Media continues to attract more business posts (albeit growth is relatively small amongst new users). Recent successful posts include PROMOTING THE DUNBLANE ALE FESTIVAL AT 'THE DUNBLANE', FLOWERS FROM SECRET GARDEN AND SHARING THE FANTASTIC WORK OF THE DUNBLANE IN BLOOM TEAM
 5. Communication re Network Rail project
 - a. Network rail will produce a further leaflet ahead of the planned closure of the dual carriageway on the 9th October for a 2week period. This will be distributed to all residents.
 - b. We are producing our own communication for businesses and for posting online.
 - c. The Promo group felt that this was an opportunity for businesses to undertake promotions / offers during the period of closure in order to retain and attract footfall. All businesses are encouraged to share on social media what they intend to do in order that this can reach as many potential customers as possible.
 6. Dunblane High School – Parent teacher Association (PTA)
 - a. We have been approached by the PTA to consider how best we can support the school in the raising of funds for new computer equipment. Ideas suggested include the school developing an app for Discover Dunblane, writing blogs for the website, maintaining social media. Further discussions will take place with interested parties over the next few weeks.

Enhancing

1. Railway Bridge

- a. DCP have successfully negotiated a reduction in the total road closure of the dual carriageway from the original Network Rail plan of 4 months down to 2 weeks.
- b. DCP has also succeeded in ensuring that no traffic lights would be in place during the 9 month period of work.
- c. The construction area will shortly have hoardings all round with pictures of Dunblane. This will be a significant improvement on the site disasters of the replacement bridge over the river and the 1st streetscape project. This should minimise the negative impact caused by the works.
- d. Free parking in the lower part of Tesco car park has been negotiated to minimise disruption to businesses and local residents due to the loss of parking spaces on dual carriageway during the period of works.

2. Premises – vacant and changes

- a. Hydro – we are in discussions with the new owners to facilitate this outlet being made available to the benefit of the community. This to be done on a commercial basis. Initial discussions have been held with ‘Made in Stirling’ who are currently planning to survey the premises.
- b. Archies – We were approached by the new owners to support a change of use application (which we did) and this outlet will now house financial services and accountancy businesses. At the time of writing we do not have an expected opening date.
- c. TSB – in discussions with selling agent
- d. JTMS (Old Erskine shop) – this has now been taken over by a local resident who is setting up a digital marketing business.
- e. Others: Hunters now being leased by a Phone repair outlet. We have made contact with new business owners, Dunblane Community Council and Stirling Council to ensure that all historic features of the premises are retained. Honey & Violet now a Podiatry outlet;

3. Premises Improvement Scheme

- a. Derelict Buildings (Chinese and old Tickety Boo/ Fuzzies): In conjunction with DCP we are liaising with the owners to improve the exterior (Chinese now been repainted with ongoing discussions about further improvements and also to ascertain future plans for re-instatement as active retail outlets.
- b. Matched funding: xx businesses have benefitted from the Premises Improvement scheme in the last 6 months.
- c. Replacement doors: 1st upgrade to be completed in September. Survey done with 6 other doors identified as priority. Cathedral Estates Letting business will lead on 4 doors and the BID on 2 doors.
- d. Both charity shops (levy payers) – Mary’s Meals and Sue Ryder will be approached to have the exterior of their premises painted free of charge.

4. Parking Strategy

- a. Medium term: Funding is being sought to the extent of £30k for a STAG analysis to be undertaken. This is a government standard pre-requisite to enable

government funding to be obtained for any future development / improvements. It is an independent survey of travel and accessibility in and around Dunblane. We are in discussion with Stirling Council and Network Rail in regard to funding support. The BID will also contribute to the cost of undertaking this analysis.

- b. Short term - 2 hour free parking still being pursued on the dual carriageway and on Station Rd. Written support has been received from Stirling Council (elected members and administration), we are now waiting for a firm implementation date. This initiative has suffered delays due to the late implementation of parking deregulation and then local council elections. Frustrating and time consuming to say the least.
- c. There remain concerns by those businesses on Station Rd area over the layout of the changes made, following the 1st Streetscape project, which has led to a significant reduction in car parking spaces. This issue will be raised with other members of the DCP i.e. Dunblane Development Trust, Dunblane Community Partnership and Stirling Council) to determine what options are available. We will seek a business representative from the Station Road area to participate in these discussions.

5. Town Centre Regeneration

- a. Funding Applications: A number of funding applications have been submitted to enhance the heritage assets of Dunblane. Whilst we have been unsuccessful to date with applications, any funding received should deliver increased footfall from residents and visitors. We have a further application due to be submitted shortly and with 2018 being the year of Young People, this application will be supported by Dunblane High School pupils.
- b. 2nd Streetscape Programme: The consultants have taken away feedback received from, ourselves, open nights and others, with any new proposals likely to show no reduction in parking and the possibility of the introduction of a few '10 min' drop off spaces.

Supporting

1. Education for Life and Work Programme (EfLW):

- a. 2 successful work experience weeks have been held as part of the pilot EfLW programme that we are developing in partnership with Dunblane High School and Stirling Council (Levy payers). These events have been supported by more than 30 BID businesses and have made a significant difference to the views and outlook for some of our young people. Feedback from the school has confirmed that it has positively changed the lives of a number of young people who were in need of additional support. Whilst there were many business involved a special thanks goes to Steven Croal, Bennetts, Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Dunblane Hydro Hotel and Old Churches House. This success has been recognised by Scottish Government, to the extent that the Minister for Employability and Training is coming to Dunblane to speak with the young people, School and a few of those businesses involved.
- b. Stirling Council has requested that the EfLW programme connects on a pilot basis

to the Founders4Schools programme, which is designed to improve connections and interaction between, schools, businesses, young people and parents. We have negotiated a budget of £7k from Stirling Council for this additional activity.

- c. This year's programme will be agreed in September and will include a work experience week in November and importantly will be encouraging young people, particularly in 4th- 6th year to undertake part time work, which should be of benefit to a number of local businesses.

2. Dementia Group

- a. Café in Braeport now launched

Promotional material and marketing supported by BID - £500