

Summary of BCDT meeting held via Zoom
Monday 12th October 2020

It continues to be impossible to hold face to face meetings or engage in any community activities due to restrictions imposed to control Coronavirus, therefore meetings will continue to be held online for the foreseeable future.

Although any activity undertaken by the trust is very limited at present, there has been some progress. A calendar featuring the beautiful Baldernock countryside sold out very quickly and raised valuable funds for the Trust. Keep Scotland Beautiful made funding available to set up community hubs to co-ordinate local litter picking initiatives and Baldernock has become one of the hubs. We now have equipment available to loan to people who wish to clean up their area, and will attempt to collate information about the type of litter being collected.

The Trust, as part of support for eco-initiatives, will contribute to the national tree planting effort by making tree saplings obtained from the Woodland Trust available to residents who can identify areas which would benefit from more trees. The types of trees available are suitable for hedgerow type plantings.

Better broadband coverage is now within sight for Baldernock. The Community Council has held a number of meetings for the community and the Trust has worked with providers to ensure that fast fibre broadband will soon be available for more households in the parish.

A group of local residents has put forward proposals to improve Active Travel through the parish. Better cycling and walking facilities would make linking neighbouring communities easier and would help to reduce our reliance on cars. BCDT has agreed to support these initiatives which would involve obtaining funding from Sustrans for a feasibility study to look at the possibility of new cycle paths and upgrading existing footpaths.

As the community consultation on the proposals for new community facilities had recommended looking at providing better accommodation for Baldernock Childcare, the Trust continues to consult with the Childcare staff on a way forward.

An online Gaelic/English storytelling session will be held as part of the Scottish International Storytelling festival. A local potter has suggested setting up a community craft co-operative. The tartan project has now reached the point where products made from the tartan can be produced hopefully in time for Christmas.