

## **WHAT'S NEW IN BALDERNOCK in July 2020– Baldernock Community Council**

***We are aware that as we come out of lockdown there remain members of our community who may continue, or as a result, need support. Please also continue to distribute this newsletter and gather emails. (Please see note at end of Newsletter for contacts if help needed, and Editor's comments on the holding of emails)***

***The foodbanks – contributions still urgently needed and can be put in the box at Colbeg for the Springburn food bank.***

***[Eastdunbartonshire.foodbank.org.uk](http://Eastdunbartonshire.foodbank.org.uk) also needs our support. Donations can be made on-line.***

**[www.baldernock.org.uk](http://www.baldernock.org.uk)** -The new community website provides content on all aspects of Baldernock and local information. Please let Fiona Howie know of any problems encountered with the new website. Updating the content is ongoing and suggestions for items to be included would be welcome; if you have something to submit, please email: [baldernock@mail.com](mailto:baldernock@mail.com) If you would like to be involved in updating the website, please get in touch.

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**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July – 7.30 pm via Zoom – Baldernock Community Council.** This meeting among other topics will be used to re-convene the **Baldernock Amenity Society**. Please see below for details of their involvement with the Douglaston Project. It was hoped David Nisbet from R100 concerning the **broadband issue** would attend but this has been postponed to a later date. (See more details on this issue below) **If you wish to attend this meeting please email [baldernockcc@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockcc@gmail.com)**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> and all Sundays – Baldernock Parish Church –** the minister Fergus Buchanan has a phased return to work and it will be possible to contact him by telephone or other means. Services can be heard through the following link <http://www.stpaulsmilngavie.org.uk> **Prayers** – some local families and individuals are gathering together on-line to pray for

our community and beyond. If you would like to join this group or contact them please email [baldernockprayers@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockprayers@gmail.com)

**Ladies that walk** – will resume when rules allow!

**Additional information** – covering the Dougalston Development, Broadband, Baldernock Tartan, local contact numbers, Baldernock Childcare, Baldernock Development Trust.

**The Douglaston Development** - Proposal to re-zone the Dougalston Green Belt to enable development including housing

As indicated in recent messages from the Community Council and the Community Development Trust, the Baldernock Amenity Society will be reconstituted to coordinate the campaign with Milngavie groups to oppose British Land's proposal that East Dunbartonshire Council should re-zone the Dougalston Green Belt. BL has proposed this re-zoning so as to permit future development, including housing. The Amenity Society has been a vehicle for protecting Baldernock's interests since at least 1970 and it will be reconstituted at the July meeting of the Community Council, where we will give an update on the campaign.

**Please** - Visit the website [www.bldougalston.co.uk](http://www.bldougalston.co.uk) and make your views known on the feedback form at the bottom of that page. You can simply register your opposition (or support) without giving reasons. The fields on the form are not compulsory but it is important that individuals who respond identify themselves. If anyone has submitted feedback, or plans to do so, please also drop an email to [lovedougalston@outlook.com](mailto:lovedougalston@outlook.com) informing LoveDougalston of your feedback on the proposal. LoveDougalston is independently collating responses to the proposal. This is important so that we have a measure of the opposition to, or support for, the re-zoning proposal, independent of what British Land, the landowner, might report.

Complete the LoveDougalston survey at [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAN\\_\\_jAq3AtURjBXQ1BUVJLMVdXMjU1N0pUMVY1SIJNMC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAN__jAq3AtURjBXQ1BUVJLMVdXMjU1N0pUMVY1SIJNMC4u)

Also, please feel free to express your opinion of the proposal to re-zone Dougalston to the following:

EDC Councillors (write a letter, drop them an email; list of Councillors and their contacts at <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/council-democracy/committees-and-councillors/councillors-2017>), and

EDC Planning Department [planning@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:planning@eastdunbarton.gov.uk).

Remember that at a later stage, during the next consultation period, letters of objection will be more crucial. At this stage the British Land proposal is to re-zone the land; it is not yet a planning application. Your views should refer to the loss of the Green Belt and it is best if you give specific reasons for not wanting the re-zoning. For example, British Land claimed in their webinar that the re-zoning will mean that the Green Belt can be used in a “more effective way” and that it “is not being well used by the local population”. Both of these statements are simply untrue. The various groups involved in the campaign, including our Amenity Society, will also make submissions to these bodies.

Finally, you can contribute to @lovedougalston on Facebook and #lovedougalston on Twitter, and enter their photo competition.

Crawford Currie and Paul Bishop [baldernockgreen@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockgreen@gmail.com)

**Broadband in Baldernock** - While many in Baldernock are now able to benefit from superfast or even ultrafast broadband, others are still struggling on slow or very slow speeds. Our elected representatives are aware of this issue and some, including Councillor Gary Pews, MSP Rona Mackay and MP Amy Callaghan, have been very actively engaged in trying to resolve it.

The Scottish Government’s R100 programme is unable to attend the next Community Council meeting but has offered to make a written submission instead. A request has been made that this submission focus very closely on Baldernock’s specific issues as follows:-

Baldernock premises that have access to only very slow broadband (as slow as 2Mbps or less) because they are distant from their fibre-enabled cabinets;

Baldernock premises that have 'decent' but not superfast speeds, despite their relative proximity to their fibre-enabled cabinets (such as those at Robinsfield, Bardowie);

Baldernock premises that should be able to access superfast broadband because they are close to their fibre-enabled cabinet, but they can't, including some in Balmore village.

The Community Council is planning an extraordinary meeting which we hope Duncan Nisbet of the R100 programme will address. We will also invite our elected representatives and representatives from BT/Openreach. In the meantime, we have been gathering information from the community about broadband issues, and would like to continue, accelerate and expand that in advance of the extraordinary meeting. **What is your broadband availability?**

Ofcom has a useful broadband tracker at

<https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/broadband-coverage>. It would be very helpful if you could use this to check what it says for your specific postcode and let us know whether the speeds you can access are those indicated on the tracker. Some residents may not need or want superfast speeds, but this is about availability - whether residents can obtain at least superfast speeds if they want them, and whether they are receiving the speeds they are paying for. There are a number of online speed tests you can use to check your speed, for example that at <https://speed.measurementlab.net/#/>.

### **Are you happy with telecoms provision in Baldernock?**

Attendance of BT/Openreach at the extraordinary meeting will provide an opportunity to raise any other issues you may have with telecoms in Baldernock, such variable quality or intermittent loss of phone or internet, failure to resolve recurring faults, or any other issues. Please let us know if you have experienced such problems so that we can collate them in time for the meeting. Information about the extraordinary meeting will follow as soon as a suitable date is identified.

**Baldernock District Tartan** - Our own Baldernock tartan, designed by Niall Logan, has now been fully registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans and can be viewed at

<https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanDetails?ref=12806>.

The tartan group will hopefully be regrouping soon to discuss manufacture and

uses for the tartan. If you are interested in joining the group or have suggestions for appropriate use of the tartan, please contact Niall Logan [loganniall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loganniall@yahoo.co.uk) or Fiona Howie [fahowie@btinternet.com](mailto:fahowie@btinternet.com).

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## **Baldernock Community Council - Contact**

[baldernockcc@googlemail.com](mailto:baldernockcc@googlemail.com) Please continue to keep us informed of your concerns.

**Baldernock Community Development Trust** - To ensure appropriate and coordinated activities during the Coronavirus lockdown, Trust Directors have been meeting frequently and informally, with representatives from the Community Council, via zoom. A community quiz on the same platform was organised by the Trust on 16th May and appeared to be very much enjoyed by participants. While its usual activities have been curtailed, the Trust has been proactive in pursuing better broadband across Baldernock (see broadband item elsewhere in newsletter), so essential for working and learning from home. If you have been clearing out your garden sheds or cupboards during lockdown, 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. While it is unable to organise fund-raising community events the Trust would welcome small donations to its funds to cover essential costs such as insurance: for more information please contact the Trust at [baldernockcdt@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockcdt@gmail.com). You can read about the Trust and its work on the brand new Baldernock website at [www.baldernock.org.uk](http://www.baldernock.org.uk).

**Baldernock Childcare** - we have furloughed three of the salaried staff and have fingers crossed we will be able to meet again as soon as is possible, although it is hard to know when (and how) restrictions will be lifted. Clearly this has been a difficult time for everyone, and we are hoping that numbers of children attending in the next school year will be enough to balance the books. It is hard on the staff as we had just had a successful inspection earlier in the year with very positive feedback and had hoped to appoint a new staff member this term. Also, to note that our much-valued administrator Paula Brown, will be leaving her post this month and is planning to return to the US, although clearly travel is tricky! Kate Currie will be picking up most of the admin role moving forwards and we are very grateful for that.

## ***Stories from around the Parish.***

Please remember that we are still interested in collecting stories from around the Parish. ***If you would like to take part in this project, or know more, please email [baldernockcc@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockcc@gmail.com)***

## ***Points of Contact***

**Phone** – Celia Burns 01360 620220, Jane Logan 01360 620563, Mags Harwood 01360 622369, Jean Langhorne 01360 620300 , Catriona Gemmell 07543734971 Linda Whitehall 01360 621803

**Email** – [baldernockcc@googlemail.com](mailto:baldernockcc@googlemail.com) [baldernockcdt@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockcdt@gmail.com)

**Facebook** – Baldernock Community Development Trust – including the **Trusts Swop and Share Facility**

**Twitter** - @Baldernock

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***Note from Editor*** - Baldernock Community Council collects, uses and stores personal data such as names, addresses and emails, in order to pursue the community objectives set out in our constitution and to keep you informed of community news and activities. All personal data will be kept securely and we will inform you in advance of any data which will be shared with others.

*Minutes of a Community Council meeting are considered a public record and will be made publicly available and archived. Other documentation presented at meetings may also be treated in this way.*

*Under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation you have various rights with respect to your personal data, including the right to access a copy of what we hold on you; have it changed or removed. Contact [baldernockcc@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockcc@gmail.com) if you wish to do this or if you require more information.*

***If you have anything to include in future editions please contact the editor at this email address ([baldernockcc@gmail.com](mailto:baldernockcc@gmail.com)) or call Celia on 01360 620220. Please get in touch if you move or your email address changes, or if you would like us to remove your email address from our database. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, please put them in touch with us. If they don't use email, please consider printing a copy of the newsletter for them or let us know and we will deliver one. Thank you.***