

Baldernock Community Development Trust

Summary of meetings held in August and October

The pandemic continues to limit any activities that the Trust might wish organize, but directors continue to meet via zoom in order to keep up to date with any issues in the community which might need attention. Whilst thus constrained, the directors looked at the Trust with a view to modernizing the logo and re-launching the organization with an up to date mission statement. A community information leaflet from the Trust, produced with the aid of grant funding from the Community Grants Scheme, will be circulated to all households when the new logo will is revealed. The broadband improvement project is slowly moving towards completion, and hopefully, our digitally deprived households will soon see an improvement. The community calendar is now available to purchase, but is selling out fast, despite doubling the number printed this year. Concentrating on images of farming in the parish, it is a celebration of our beautiful parish.

Tree planting was paused over the summer, but the project has now resumed in partnership with Balmore Golf Club, and anyone with unwanted tree seedlings appearing in their garden are requested to pot them up, rather than binning them, and they can then be forwarded to the Woodland Trust, which is asking for donations of tree seedlings. Any trust director will be happy to collect, and forward on your behalf. It would be worthwhile to look at the very extensive tree planting in the parish proposed by Caledonian Estates. Although the issue is being dealt with on behalf of the community by the Community Council, the planned planting is very extensive and residents may wish to add their personal observations.

The long running aspiration to upgrade Baldernock Childcare with new premises continues to be considered and numerous options have been discussed. Working in partnership with the school and childcare staff, we still hope that progress can be made with this project.

Two community litter picks have been held this year, one, targeting the banks of the River Kelvin, was surprisingly enjoyable, due to the location. Clearing the main road had less appeal, but was nonetheless effective. It is hoped that once the pandemic is a distant memory, we can resume the customary social event afterwards.

Any progress on the active travel project has stalled somewhat, but the pavement between Acredyke and the Branziet was cleared of undergrowth by EDC in the summer, and passage along this section of the path between Torrance and the Allander Toll is now much easier.

The survey of young people who might be interested in re-starting the youth club attracted only five responses, which was disappointing. With so little support, it was felt that it would not be possible to justify employing a youth worker but that occasional events aimed at engaging our young people would be possible. Suggestions welcome!

Trying to do our bit for the environment, and encouraging a swap and share event has proved tricky, and our scattered community makes such an event difficult to put into practice. Car boot sales and Jumble sales were considered, but rejected as impractical for Baldernock. We are still trying to think of an appropriate way for residents to recycle within the community.