

Summary of BCDT meeting Tuesday 23rd March 2021

The continuing restrictions on activities caused by the coronavirus pandemic have meant that BCDT is still only able to undertake limited community actions.

The committee has continued to meet on Zoom on a monthly basis, and have a number of projects in hand on which progress can be made on an individual basis.

These include:-

A Baldernock Calendar, photographs are being collected, submitted by residents, for possible inclusion in the calendar, which will be ready to purchase in September. Please submit photographs, preferably reflecting the farming nature of Baldernock, to Jane at jp.logan@yahoo.co.uk

Tree planting:- Since the middle of February, Jean has been trying to generate interest in planting trees around the parish; by suggesting a number of ways that people can get involved before the start of the growing season.

These include:

1. Buying trees from a reputable source and planting them in your garden or on your land.
2. Harvesting self-seeded saplings from local woodlands and transplanting them to an open space, where they can grow and thrive (or else gently dig them up and keep them in pots until the autumn).
3. Taking cuttings from local overgrown patches of willow and hawthorn, keeping them in water until they begin to sprout and then planting out along boundaries or gaps in hedgerows.

All of the above suggestions have been undertaken by individuals and last month some locally harvested beech saplings were transplanted to the edge of the track up to the trig point. Liaison with the Golf Club staff and volunteers to survey the tree stock on the golf course has been undertaken, identifying tree seedlings that could be transplanted to replace the large number of young ash trees that unfortunately had to be felled this winter. The Greenkeepers have suggested setting up a tree nursery in the area behind Temple Cottage, in order to bring on seedlings and cuttings for planting out in the future. This could turn into a long-term project and has the potential for developing community involvement in future tree-planting in Baldernock. In addition, some willow cuttings were recently planted in a boggy area of the practice course.

News and photos of all of these activities have been shared on social media as well as information on trees in general and other community tree activities.

Over the coming months social media will continue to feature photos and info about trees and to encourage local people to get involved in some autumn tree-planting and the School and the Community Council will be encouraged to apply for their free Woodland Trust tree pack and organise their own tree-planting events in November.

Liaison now exists between the Community Development Trust, the Community Council and the Amenity Society in order that we share ideas and do not replicate effort

Broadband:- The final CFP offer from Openreach is expected this week and if this is acceptable, and approved by the UK government, residents will be asked to pledge their vouchers.

Active travel:- At the request of BCDT, an EDC official recently reviewed the condition of the footpath/pavement between the Torrance roundabout and Robinsfield,(the area beyond this to the Allander Toll roundabout has already been improved.) He noted the poor condition of the surface and the reduction in available walking/cycling space caused by encroaching undergrowth. Residents are politely requested to ensure their hedges are kept cut back from the paths. He will endeavor to start work on improvements by the end of April, with attention being placed on drainage issues and possibly replacing the surfaces which have been particularly degraded. The work, though sorely needed, does not preclude a high quality cycle path being an aspiration for the future. The increased use of our rural roads has highlighted the need for a code of conduct to be in place for all road users, for the safety of everyone. The new cycle signs erected by EDC are now in place.

Climate conversations:- BCDT are participating in these events, hosted by EDC, which are also available for all to join.

New nursery building and Church Hall:- no progress has been made in these projects due to covid restrictions.