

Dollar Community Development Trust

Newsletter October 2019

Charity No: SC047335
Company No:563463



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Development Worker, Rebecca McFarlane, joins our team
- First annual Charity Beer Festival huge success
- Silver Sunday event very well attended
- Summer Children's Club brilliant fun
- Beautiful new marquee available for private hire

More events and activities for all ages coming soon

DEVELOPMENT WORKER

We are delighted that Rebecca McFarlane has joined our team as our Development Worker. Rebecca was previously a Director of the Trust and made significant contributions to our work in that role. She has excellent relevant experience for the role and in the past few months has driven forward many of our new activities, including weekly summer events for children and Silver Sunday. She is the main contact for Hive bookings and has succeeded in introducing new customers to the Hive which is very important to allow the Trust to break even on Hive operations. Rebecca is based at the Hive for a few hours most weeks in the middle of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please feel free to discuss your interests with her or email her at rebecca.dcdt@gmail.com.

FOOTBALL PITCH & CHANGING FACILITIES

Although the new football pitch has been developed, unfortunately it is not yet fit for purpose. There is a problem with the drainage system installed due to a mixture of clay particles within the sub soil used to raise the land. After consultation with Clacks Council Officers we are pleased to announce that Green Tech, a local sports turf specialist, has been employed by the council to improve the drainage, done by cutting 50mm wide x 300mm deep slots the full length of the pitch using specialised machinery. Initial examination suggests this work has been successful. Thanks to the persistence of our own Kenny Mitchell we can look forward to a usable football pitch, at long last.



We are currently re-visiting the purchase of purpose-built portable buildings to provide changing facilities which could be sited outside the eastern side of The Hive.

DOLLAR'S FIRST BEER FESTIVAL 2019

Our first beer festival was held in The Hive over the 4th and 5th October and was a resounding success due to the enormous efforts of our volunteer team. Friday night was our exclusive 'Beer Connoisseurs' night and was limited to 50 tickets. Ken Brooker, the founder of Harviestoun Brewery, originally in Dollar and now in Alva, talked about how beer is made and the history of the brewery before guests sampled our 13 differing real ales from three local brewers: Harviestoun, Tryst and Hybrid. On Saturday we held two 'sessions', a quieter lunchtime event with around 40 guests savouring our beers and gourmet hot dogs and, then the main event from 7.30pm with superb live music from local band 'The Stray Dogz' and around a 100 attendance.



The atmosphere was fantastic and feedback received so far has been very positive. In addition to a great community event £1,300 was raised to support local initiatives. We are already discussing a 2020 event which we expect to be bigger and even better than the first.

PUBLIC TOILETS

After several residents asked what could be done to provide public toilets, the Trust is looking at the feasibility of taking over the ownership and operation of the public toilets located on Burnside. This facility has been out of service for some years. We now need to make a decision whether the community would support this action and what the consensus is on entry charge. It was previously 20p. At this price the facility would run at a considerable annual loss and other funding would need to be found annually.



We are considering two possibilities:

- An entry charge of 50p would make it closer to break-even. ideally using an electronic payment method, perhaps in addition to coin operation.
- Community funded. We estimate the annual cost is currently about £2,000.

Please let us know your views by completing the on-line survey: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6R5VWQN

MARQUEE



The Trust has now purchased a fabulous new marquee through an interest-free loan from a local benefactor. It is 24m x 12m and can be erected in smaller segments for smaller events. Previously the Community Council hired marquees at considerable cost, but instead decided to see if one could be purchased and located with the Trust. The Community Council is, therefore, helping us to repay the loan instead of paying fees for commercial hire. We are keen the marquee is used by the community and are happy to discuss possibilities with anyone interested.

Obviously, it will be much cheaper to hire when it is already erected for the Winter Festival or Summer Gala. So, anyone thinking of an event about that time, please get in touch as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Trust has a 10-15 year environmental strategy with initial small improvements to the Hive and surrounding area. The vision is to expand this into a Scotland-leading approach to carbon reduction, the generation of renewable energy, as well as the significant planting of new trees and plants. The UK Committee on Climate Change has recommended planting 1.5 billion trees across the UK, and Dollar should do its bit. The intent is to involve environmentally-minded members of the community, especially teenagers. Our strategy covers new projects, as well as an aim to influence any new local houses towards maximised renewable energy and minimised energy consumption, leading to a carbon neutral base target.

We aspire to make Dollar a greener and more pleasant place to live. We will see what the community will support and assess if the stretch target of ultimately making Dollar a net energy exporter is achievable.

TOWNSCAPE GROUP

The Townscape Group has gratefully received funding from the EDF Burnfoot fund to kick-start a bigger funding process and to help identify where to focus our future efforts. We are very supportive of the recent work by Dollar in Bloom and the Horticultural Society and are always looking for further townscape improvements. Further dog bins will be provided around Dollar and there are plans to provide more benches and to improve the Mill Green, perhaps with a BBQ area, 'trim track' and an enormous 'Big Bench'. We are also looking into setting up a Traders' Association and, in conjunction with Dollar Museum and Stirling University, establishing a scenic trail around Dollar that will be part of the 'Landscape Legacies of Coal' app. If you are interested in volunteering to help with any of these projects, do please become a member of the DCDT and join the Townscape Group.

THIS IS YOUR TRUST: Please support us.

To become a member email us at: membership.dcdt@gmail.com or pick up a form at the Hive.