

Dunbar in Bloom

Minutes of the open meeting held at the Royal Macintosh Hotel

Tuesday 6th March 2012.

Present:

Mary Young (chair), Rodney Thomas (secretary), Ross Combe, Frances Soutar (Dunbar Primary School), Lucy Whittaker, Sarah Turnill, Graham Turnill, Rita Brad, Sue Guy & Susie Goodwin.

Apologies:

Janet Barnes, Val Colin, Will Colin, Su Nuttgens, Stephen Bunyan, Dee Davison, Louise Dickson, Ian Dickson, Pippa Swan, Alisdair Swan, Lesleymay Miller, Lucy Pumphrey & Matthew Bower.

Welcome:

Mary Young welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Sue Guy & Susie Goodwin who made presentations;

Sue Guy:

Sue spoke of Sustaining Dunbar's project: Incredibly Edible Dunbar & District which is attempting to encourage local residents to grow more of their own food.

There will be opportunities for Dunbar in Bloom to incorporate vegetables and fruit into planting schemes as is being done in Stirling and Todmorden.

Sue is attempting to draw neighbourhood groups and volunteers in to helping Dunbar in Bloom.

Susie Goodwin:

Susie informed the meeting of some of the plans for the North Light Arts Festival which commences in June 2012 at which there will be some growing projects as art work.

Plans include a physic garden in the battery on Lamer Island and a wildflower meadow on The Glebe. It is hoped to engage visitors to Lauderdale Park to tend the flower beds there.

The organisers would like local groups such as Dunbar in Bloom and the Harbour Trust to get involved and it is hoped that such groups will take the opportunities presented to them.

Dunbar Beaver Scouts;

The scout leader, Matthew Bower, is looking to involve the beaver scouts in a growing project for their community week in May 2012.

The committee will look at what might be possible bearing in mind that the site needs to be safe for small children.

Matthew has also volunteered his own services to look after a growing bed in the vicinity of the Twinning Association sign in Spott Road once something is established there.

High Street Planters:

We are having some success in persuading shopkeepers to look after planters outside their premises. Volunteers are still needed to look after those in more remote locations.

It was agreed to look at planting herbs and some vegetables in the planters.

Rodney to compile a list of planters.

Hanging Baskets & Banners:

Funding has been obtained for a water bowser to water hanging baskets but a suitable storage location will need to be found.

ELC have offered to plant up the baskets and hang them at a cost of £25 per basket and funding will be sought to cover this.

It is understood that new banners have been purchased by ELC.

Funding:

The next round of the Civic Pride Fund is inviting applications and Rodney will draw up a submission.

Dunbar Sings has made a donation of £300 to DiB

It was noted that ASDA have a scheme which supports local charities and this may be worth investigating, an approach is also to be made to the store to allow another sponsored bag pack and coin collection.

Greenhouses:

Mary informed the meeting that the first seeds had been planted and help would soon be required in pricking out.

Sarah & Ian Turnill have volunteered to take this job on and to generally oversee the greenhouses at Maidendew.

We also have an offer of another greenhouse at 34 Brunt Court which needs to be followed up on.

Town Gateways:

Rodney has been in touch with ELC Estates Dept to ascertain ownership of the verges along Spott Road and it transpires they are the responsibility of Transportation Dept who have been asked to respond to our request for permission to establish a bed around the Twinning Association sign. No reply has yet been received.

Harbour Festival:

Dunbar Harbour Trust is planning a harbour Festival on 2nd June 2012 and have asked if DiB can help in any way.

It was decided to carry out planting of the area adjacent to the vaults and an area at the bottom of Victoria Street next to the gateway into Buglass Shellfish which ELC are assisting with.

It was also suggested that a floral decoration could be placed on the balcony of the Sailing Club.

Children:

It was generally agreed to look at ways to involve children in growing plants.

Frances said that this was more necessary as the grounds of the new primary school were landscaped and there was no room for the children to plant their own garden as they had been able to do at the old school.

If planters could be provided at Belhaven Church they would be looked after by children belonging to Belhaven Rainbows.

It was suggested that we could try to involve the Scouts at the new Community Centre and the Sea Cadets as well.

AOB:

Rodney to remind ELC to remove the rest of the grass from the triangular bed in Victoria Street to allow this to be further developed and the hawthorn tree to be planted.

A request has been received to assist in tidying up the front of West Barns village hall and to perhaps instal some planters which will be considered.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 4th April 2012 at 19.15 hrs in the Royal Macintosh Hotel.