**DGN AGM 2019:**

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR FIRST YEAR SEPTEMBER 2017 TO AUGUST 2018**

**Dirleton Good Neighbours**

**Aims:** Set up to promote communications, activities and events within the village open to all residents, and to liaise with other local and area groups. To encourage intergenerational activities.

**Lunch Hub:**

Aim to provide a friendly meeting point for all village residents – both Village Shop and Gallery had recently closed

Initial help and advice from Area Partnership and then Aberlady Lunch Club has led to an ongoing connection between the two villages. The Kirk also very supportive re use of Hall.

From the start an enthusiastic and committed group of volunteers who have worked hard to make it a success.

Two initial grants to set up from GACC and NBCAP. A lot of this spent on getting the details right.

Connection made with ELC’s Health & Safety led to approval of Lunch Hub food practice format.

As Dirleton is a prosperous village important that the venue and details were attractive to dispel any negative image of a lunch club as charity. Also important that everyone felt welcome. Labelled ‘Five Star’ from start.

A lot of effort went into providing this welcoming atmosphere that encourages residents to linger over coffee and make friends. Cafetieres are good!

Start of Intergenerational Connection with Primary School through involvement in the Apple Harvest during DGFN’s first autumn. This has led to the Food For Thought project.

Used Lunch Hub as an informal way to promote other local groups e.g. Bowling Club and NBVCS – gave modest donations to both. (cake boxes etc) but this limited by food safety regulations.

By end of first year Lunch Hub had a steady and growing attendance with a good social and age mix.

It is now financially self-sustaining and able to use its funds to support village activities.

**Group and Activities Event in September 2017**

Organised in partnership with DVA. Invited other village organisations to take tables. Promoted sign-up lists to promoted new village activity groups.

Reasonable response but did not have a great follow through into creating new groups – needs more volunteer input to run.

Those that worked already had their own separate structure or lead volunteers e.g. Bowling Club and Book Club

**Short programme of activites** also had limited success, two talks reasonable, but some taster classes had poor take up.

**Befriending the Elderly** Maureen Allan from Strive attempted to set up a programme of befriending for the village. But this did not go ahead due to lack of volunteers able to commit. DGN is not alone in finding volunteers difficult to recruit – it is a general issue. But failures such as this are useful, as they lead to trying other approaches and the very recent Chat Cafe is looking much more promising.

**Communications**

DGN has used a variety of means to keep in touch with Dirleton residents. Mailchimp has been shared with the DVA to set up and we now have over 150 signed on. Newsletters – both by email and village-wide drops. Village Notice Board. Village Website.

**Governance**

Valuable advice from Strive enable DGN to have a **Constitution** from the start, which now needs some slight adjustments to reflect how DGN has developed over the first year.

A **Privacy Policy** was set up to be in line with new government policy of data protection.

DGN **registered as a Volunteer Organisation** with Volunteer Scotland, which has enabled us to go on in our second year to provide PVGs

**A Committee, committee meetings and an AGM** Have now followed in the early part of our second year.

The intention is definitely to keep DGN as informal, open and friendly as possible, but this formal structure now in place enables us as a registered Voluntary Community Group to apply for funds, administer PVGs etc

**Lessons learnt from First Year**

Good Start. Lots of Goodwill created. Better village communications