**Report on Dirleton Good Neighbours AGM held 28.2.2019**

**Apologies:** Janice MacLeod, Tillie Baird, Tom Drysdale

**Present:** Anne Orr, Coordinator, Gordon Duncan, Treasurer, DGN committee members: Pam Ager, Lynn Anderson, Mary Carter

Derek Carter (for Dirleton Bowling Club), Elaine Mackie, Deborah Simpson, Barry Thomson, Emma Johnston (for DSP)

**Summary of the First Year’s Activities:** Presented by A Orr. A summary is available as a separate report.

**Presentation of Accounts:** Presented by G Duncan for the period 1.9.17 to 31.8.18 and approved. Note : Changes to the Constitution include a financial year running with the calendar year, meaning that the next set of accounts will cover 16 months from September 2018 to December 2019.

**Election of Coordinator and Committee:** Pam Ager requested to stand down from the committee. All other officials were re-elected unopposed.

**Changes to Constitution:** Minor changes to the original constitution were presented and approved.

**Discussion of Activities for 2018 to 2019:**

**Activities underway:**

**Lunch Hub:** Discussion of entry charges – there have been suggestions to put up or not have a two tier adult rate. Agreed that attendees are generous and often overpay and so to keep rates as they are for the coming year.

**Food for Thought project with Dirleton Primary School**

Children’s involvement in the Lunch Hub has been well received and is popular with attendees. There is ongoing work on integrating the monthly seasonal food themes into the school curriculum, and adding ways for the children to interact with lunchers. Produce Table run by the children – funds go into the project and so after initial support from DGN funds, should now be self-funding from sales/donations.

**Volunteering within the School**

Some volunteers have come forward and PVGs are starting to be organised, but a slow process as requires an additional ELC check. Hoped to get some in place for this school year, but fully operational for next school year.

**DSP and Christmas School Fair**

E Johnston pleased with link up and value to school fundraising and would like to repeat this year

**Amalfi Cafe Events**

Started in February with four events – two Craft Cafes, one Chat Cafe and a Bridge Cafe. Good response. DGN has sponsored complimentary drinks and cake to get cafes going at a total cost for this month of just under £100. Agreed to retain pattern for March of events but maybe add other board games to Bridge event and just provide complimentary refreshments for anyone attending for the first time. Looks promising for encouraging others to ‘host’ individual events. Craft event is starting to draw in ‘Mums’. Discussion of adding Chess session – D Carter suggested evening event in Castle Inn might be more suitable? Intention to use the Chat Cafes for social prescribing, but will need to draw on professional help available via AP to achieve this

**Possible New Activities:**

**Film Screenings**

Some debate whether these would be popular and D Simpson suggested canvas village opinion first. M Carter keen on possibility and to help with research. Link with Aberlady could lead to sharing equipment. A Orr suggested that it might be best to do some initial research to check that Dirleton as a small village can find a structure to avoid high licensing fees, and then put proposal to village. E Johnston said would be keen to involve DSP. Some research also being done of the use of the school for both screenings and exercise classes.

**Exercise Classes:** the Kirk Hall has limited availability for extra classes, particularly in the day time, so the school hall might be a good alternative and B Moody keen to extend use of school premises by village. Pilates, Zumba and New Age Curling have been mentioned as possibilities. Plus the AP has funded a carpet bowling mat for intergenerational use at the school, which has yet to be used. Currently exploring fees and how use may fit in with school curriculum.

**A Community Day** discussed having an event this autumn to promote local groups, activities etc. DGN now has much better contacs than when a similar event held September 2017.

**Support for the Bowling Club**

D Carter asked that DGN support the Club’s applications for grant funding both by written endorsement and some actual funding. L Anderson and others agreed worthwhile.

**Fete and Games**

DGN has been asked to take part and format of participation discussed. An information table at the F & G last year had not seemed appropriate to the event. A link up with DSP for the event mentioned as a possibility.

**Garden Visits**

B Thomson thought these would be a good idea and other endorsed, particularly as this year Dirleton does not open its own gardens.

**Cultural Outings**  Small groups sharing transport to go to the theatre, ballet etc in Edinburgh were discussed as a possibility. G Duncan keen.

**How Funds are spent**

A Orr described that DGN did not need a large reserve, as annual insurance was the only major ongoing expense, and any larger projects that might come up would need to apply for grant aid. £250 seems a sufficient ‘cushion’. Agreed that spending over a certain amount should be approved by the committee, but omitted to agree an amount (£50?)– for committee to sort. A Orr described that this year DGN are spending more of funds organically on activities as we go along e.g. supporting village Christmas events. Initially the school project required funding but this is now funded by the children’s produce table. The various Cafes have been funded to set up. Complimentary drinks and cake will be eased off and just offered to new attendees. Funds may be used towards craft projects and for obtaining board games – but agreed to ask for donations of games etc as required. No other immediate uses for funds were suggested other than the support for the Bowling Club mentioned above,

**No other business was raised.**