

# SUSTAINABLE TIMES

The newsletter of Greener Duns  
Small Steps to Solve a Big Problem



## Duns told to 'get on its bike' as Tour of Britain races in

Greener Duns was out in force on 5th September to cheer on the world-class cyclists of the Tour of Britain as they sprinted into town. Wearing new, high viz waistcoats kindly sponsored by Event Scotland, Greener Duns teamed up with Cycling UK to run a stand to promote local cycling for leisure, sport and transport. It included maps of local cycle routes and of the new, planned green route between Reston and Tweedbank, a range of electric and other bikes and advice on Dr Bike sessions to put old bicycles back on the road. Forty-six passersby completed the Greener Duns Cycling Survey, which will be used to help lobby for better, safer cycling in the region.



Precious cargo, below: Scott Runciman of Cycling UK, right, demonstrates an electric cargo bike at the Tour of Britain in Duns.



## Council bid may advance railway paths

Scottish Borders Council has made a bid to the UK's national Levelling Up Fund which includes Active Travel as a key component. This could bring the Tweedbank to Eyemouth traffic-free route, which would pass through Duns, closer to fulfilment. The route, much of which is planned to follow the course of disused railway tracks, promises to be a valuable community asset for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Greener Duns is part of a Community Collaboration Group which is working towards developing existing walking and cycling routes between Tweedbank station and Eyemouth. The photo shows some members of the group on the Gordon to Earlston section of the route, under a road bridge built for the Berwickshire railway.

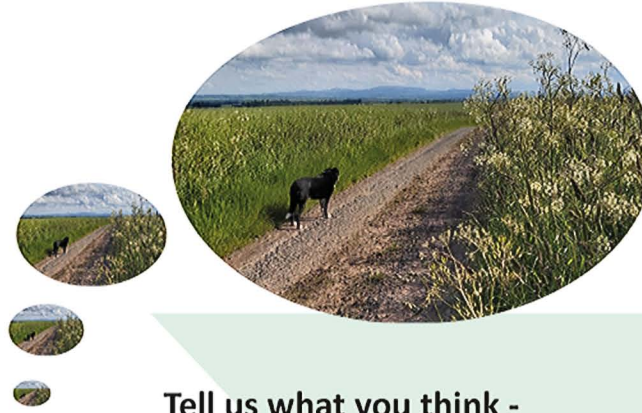


Left to right: Donald McPhillimy (Greener Melrose), Rachel Hardie (Greener Duns), Tim Jackson (representing Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth CC), Myra Watson (Walk It lead for Duns), Andrew Watson (Gordon), Sandy Keith (Greenlaw), Shelagh King (Greener Melrose)



## Sitting Pretty -

These chairs were destined for the waste stream, but they all found new homes, thanks to a Greener Duns' Facebook post which reached more than 13,000 people. The chairs were snapped up in less than 24 hours, with enquiries ranging from Greenlaw to Eyemouth.



Tell us what you think - What environmental improvements would you like to see in Duns?

Here are some suggestions:

- More litter control
- Traffic-free cycle routes
- Town-centre bottle banks
- Recycling bins for crisps packets and bottle tops in schools
- A repair shop in Duns
- More recycling of garden waste.

Get in touch!



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## One company's waste? Another company's windfall!

Calling all local businesses! Does your day-to-day work generate scrap materials that could be re-purposed instead of going for waste? If so, Greener Duns would like to hear from you as we may be able to put you in touch with a person or organisation who can use your scrap and contribute to the circular economy, where items are kept in use and out of the waste stream for as long as possible. This reduces waste going to landfill or incineration and reduces disposal costs.

Fleming Homes is one local business that is already recycling its waste building materials. Its Managing Director, Sarah Mathieson, explains why businesses like hers want to be part of the circular economy:

*"Industry, in particular the construction industry, has a huge role to play in addressing climate change. The construction industry alone is responsible for over half of all waste produced in the UK, which is far from ideal. We have been looking at ways in which we can reduce our contribution to this alarming statistic. The idea of a local circular economy signposted in a Greener Duns' newsletter is a great opportunity for us to work more closely with the local community as we address our own sustainability goals. We often have a variety of waste materials which could be repurposed, rather than be removed from our site as waste. The circular economy model makes a lot of sense. One company's waste could be another's resource. It's a small step, but one that will contribute to sustainability at a local level. Fleming Homes is one company amongst many in Duns. We'd love to encourage more businesses to get involved. A combined effort, collaboration and support from across the local business community would enable a much bigger impact."*



## Signs up! GD's No Idling campaign sees new street signs in Duns



Children from Polly Wolly Doodle nursery celebrate Clean Air Day with SBC Cllr Mark Rowley and one of Greener Duns' new No Idling signs.

Greener Duns' year-long campaign for street signs to stop engine idling has ended in success! More than 15 signs are now in place, asking drivers to switch off engines when stationary. The move is intended to cut harmful emissions from motor exhaust and improve the local environment.

Sites for the signs include the Market Square, Castle Street, Easter Street, Boston Court, the Volunteer Hall, the Co-op, Duns Primary School and the swimming pool. Further signs are planned for the Knoll Hospital car park.

Backed by Duns Community Council and funded by Scottish Borders Council, Greener Duns produced four different designs of No Idling sign and asked the community to vote on which design worked best. The 'winning' design was then made into signs and installed by Three Hills Graphics of Melrose.

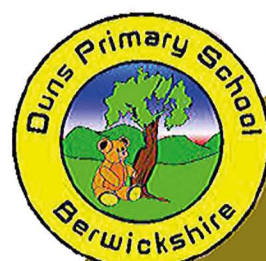
James Shirreff of Greener Duns said, "Sitting in a vehicle with the engine idling is not only a waste of fuel, it's a way of letting harmful fumes flow into the lungs of passers-by. Hopefully these street signs will deter people from doing it."

Local businesses have also expressed an interest in having No Idling signs on their premises. In June, James spoke to Duns Rotary Club, whose members gave the campaign their support. One member told him, "Some van and lorry drivers appear to switch their engines on when they start work in the morning and only switch off when they go home at night!" Perhaps the last words should go to Jackson, aged four, and Josie, both from Polly Wolly Doodle nursery. Jackson said, "I know that poisonous gases come from cars and can make us ill. It also kills animals in the environment," while Josie added, "Cars cause pollution in the air."



## Circular thinking to produce perfect triangle

In Scotland, we buy and consume products at such a rate it's as if we had three planets available to produce the resources we use and absorb the waste we create. Scotland's material consumption accounts for 82% of our entire carbon footprint. Moving to a circular economy - one in which materials are kept in circulation for as long as possible - will reduce our material demands and is key to meeting our climate commitments. A circular economy is one where we refuse, where possible, to create new items or materials, and try to reuse, repair, recycle and recover existing ones.



DUNS PRIMARY SCHOOL ECO COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH GREENER DUNS

*"Children at Duns Primary School are dedicated to making a difference for their local community and have set up a school ECO Committee to do just that. The children will be working towards their ECO Green Flag Award, Scotland, and are in the process of writing up their action plan for school session 2022 - 2023. They will be leading this across the whole school and will be supporting children and staff to make improvements towards a greener and more Eco friendly school community. The Eco Committee will be linking in with the team at Greener Duns to collaborate in partnership work in the community."*

Rachel Foy, Depute Headteacher