



Town Centre Notice Board

A new notice board has been sited near the Steelyard providing a functional facility for business and local organisations alike. The board is the first of 3 planned for the town with the other sites being Acredale Car Park near the toilet and the top of the pedestrian precinct near the new seating area.

Information in the unit will include a large-scale map of the town centre highlighting many aspects and features of the town perhaps not known to the town's visitors and shoppers. The notice board will also house information on forthcoming events throughout the year.

If any Bathgate based community organisation would like to advertise an event they should contact Enterprising Bathgate on 01506 776386.



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August 2008



The newsletter of Enterprising Bathgate - Scotland's first Business Improvement District

Safety & Security

I am fully supportive of Enterprising Bathgate and I want to make sure that the local police take an active part in improving and developing Bathgate Town Centre. We have given a commitment that we will do all we can to support local businesses to develop Bathgate into an attractive and safe place to visit. We are currently developing a retail radio link for local shop premises, taxi marshals to assist the night time economy and increasing foot patrols to provide a sense of security in the town centre.

We communicate regularly with the Scottish

Business Crime Centre to explore other opportunities that may be available to us with the intention of making Bathgate Town Centre a desirable and safe place to visit. I am confident that we will develop other innovative ideas to assist the business community and raise the profile of Bathgate as the largest and safest traditional town in the county.

I can assure you that I will do all I can to support Enterprising Bathgate over the coming years.

Tommy Tague - Chief Inspector Bathgate

EB Delivers New Vision For Bathgate

Enterprising Bathgate is delighted to announce that the BID team has been contracted by West Lothian Council to produce the brief for selected consultants who are being asked to produce a detailed Public Realm Guide for the town centre.

This will provide an integrated approach to the physical improvements which will be carried out to public streets and spaces. One of the main objectives is

to create a distinctive sense of place for Bathgate Town Centre.

The BID team will also manage the project right through until the final document is produced at the end of October.

The process is already underway and it is anticipated that initial submissions will be submitted during September. A consultation period will follow this stage when everyone will have the opportunity to see the detailed proposals.

Welcome



Welcome to the first quarterly edition of EB News, giving you up to date information on the initiatives, developments and activities taking place in Bathgate Town Centre. We're sure you'll find this newsletter informative and we look forward to receiving your feedback on it's content, or indeed any good news stories or other features you think may enhance future publications.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam Crawford, former chair of Enterprising Bathgate Ltd, for all his efforts to improve and develop the town centre over the past years. His leadership, drive and determination as a chairman will be sorely missed. Fortunately Sam will continue to work - along with Pat Kerr - to deliver the BID projects on behalf of Enterprising Bathgate.

The Enterprising Bathgate business plan - based on the feedback we received from the business survey - clearly sets out our goals to make Bathgate a better place to shop, work and socialise. Over the next five years we will implement initiatives in four key areas as identified by you in our survey.

1. Improve the town's perception and image.
2. Create a cleaner and more attractive town centre.
3. Help create a safer and more secure town centre.
4. Improve the accessibility of Bathgate town centre for pedestrians and motorists alike.

Enterprising Bathgate, in partnership with you the businesses and West Lothian Council, is certain it can develop Bathgate into one of the best traditional shopping centres and places to visit in the region.

Enterprising Bathgate Board

Bathgate's First Music Festival



Enterprising Bathgate is all about improving the quality of life for the folk in the town, residents, visitors, as well as business people. When Bathgate recently earned Business Improvement District status we highlighted the importance of providing different events to encourage more people to get out and about in the town. The Bathgate Music Festival is a great new event because it builds on the tradition of making music, provides something for everyone and has performances happening everywhere, in the street, pubs and hotels and of course

in the Regal Community Theatre. This is a new opportunity for Bathgate and Enterprising Bathgate is proud to be one of the festival partners. Enjoy the music.

The festival is spread over the week 14th - 20th September. For more details look out for the festival programme or telephone the box office on 01506 433634

David Stein
Chair of Enterprising Bathgate.



Membership of Enterprising Bathgate

We recently wrote to you seeking applications for membership as a BID member of Enterprising Bathgate Ltd.

Any person who pays the BID levy within the BID area is eligible to apply for membership as a BID member of Enterprising Bathgate Ltd. BID members are expected to promote the objects and interests of the company.

Membership gives you the right to attend and vote at General Meetings, in accordance with the company's Articles of Association.

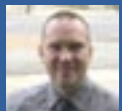
If you would like to apply to become a member, please contact Amanda Finlayson on 01506 776386 for an application form. Please note that applications for membership will be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Update on the Board of Directors

As you will note from the "Welcome" on page one, Sam Crawford resigned as Chair at the last Board meeting held on Thursday, 19 June 2008. Sam resigned in order to concentrate fully on delivering the BID business plan and together with Pat Kerr carrying out the work of the BID company under the Board's direction.

Following the Board's acceptance of Sam's resignation, David Stein was unanimously appointed as the new Chair.

Your BID's Team



David Stein
Chair



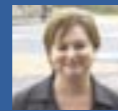
Alan Dunlop
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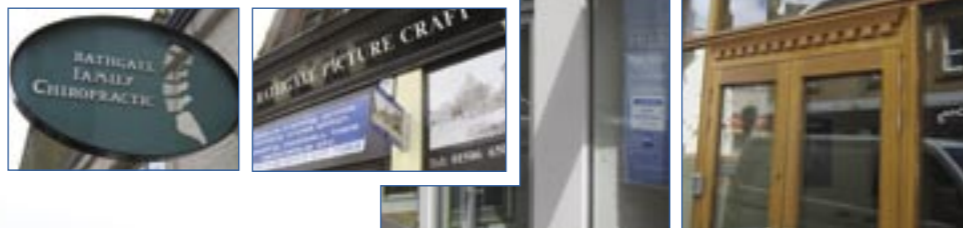
Please get in touch if you have any good news you would like to share with the rest of the business community in the BID area. Future editions of the newsletter will have more pages and we plan to introduce new features as the newsletter evolves.

Write to the team at: Enterprising Bathgate Ltd, Lindsay House, South Bridge Street, Bathgate EH48 1TS

Business Premises Improvement Scheme To Continue

The remarkable success of Enterprising Bathgate's Shopfront Improvement Scheme looks set to continue. By the end of June 2008, 84 businesses had benefited from grants totalling £42,368. This represents an average grant award of £504. The most encouraging fact of all is that the total expenditure on shop fronts by participating businesses totalled £226,915. The BID company will continue to help any new businesses setting up in the BID area as well as those re-locating. Also remember that we plan a second phase of the shopfront improvement scheme which will commence in April 2009.

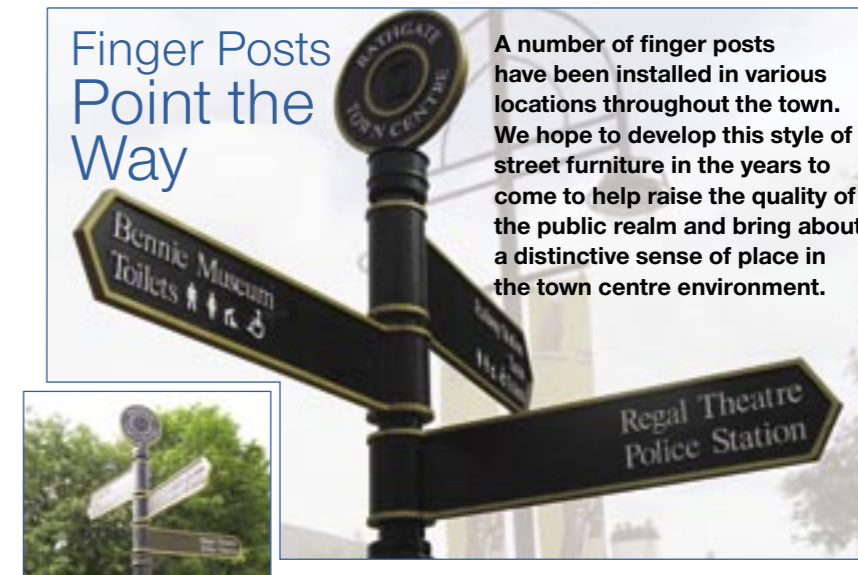
The scheme is not only available to retail shops but also to offices and any other organisations who wish to invest some money to improve the external appearance of their property.



Bathgate's Success is Celebrated

West Lothian Council's annual Celebrating Success awards event will be held on 15 August 2008. Of the 132 entries received, Enterprising Bathgate has been selected as one of the 21 finalists. Although the application was initially submitted under the category "Working in Partnership", the Bathgate BID has been shortlisted for the Provost's Award. Whatever the outcome on the night, reaching this stage of the awards is a real acknowledgement of the strong partnership working behind Bathgate's recent success. Watch this space for the result.

Finger Posts Point the Way



A number of finger posts have been installed in various locations throughout the town. We hope to develop this style of street furniture in the years to come to help raise the quality of the public realm and bring about a distinctive sense of place in the town centre environment.

Hanging Basket Sponsorship

I'm sure you will agree that the hanging baskets sited around the town have made a colourful addition to the environment of the town. Watering and maintaining the displays is only possible with contributions from businesses in the town and we are grateful to the companies who have sponsored the displays so far. We will be contacting these companies soon and look forward to their continued support.

However, there are still a few sites available for sponsorship. For the very reasonable cost of £55 per annum your company would not only be contributing to the overall appearance of the town but your company name will be highlighted on a plaque situated on the hanging baskets uprights. If you would like to sponsor one of the hanging basket sites please contact **Patrick Kerr on 01506 776057**.

Our hanging baskets project has been much copied by other areas in the region and your support is vital if we are to keep our town ahead of its competitors.



New Rates Relief Scheme For Small Businesses - Make Sure You Take Advantage

In April 2008 the Scottish Government introduced a new scheme which has resulted in a significant reduction in the business rates payable by many small businesses in Scotland.

We're sure most of you have already applied to take advantage of the Small Business Bonus Scheme. However we'd like to make sure that all eligible businesses in Bathgate town centre are aware of the scheme.

The main provisions are:

- It is based on the **combined rateable value** of all properties occupied by a business in Scotland.
- If this combined value is **£15,000** or less you will benefit from the scheme.
- It is an application-based scheme. You have to apply to West Lothian Council to obtain relief. Application Forms can be obtained from Revenues Unit, St. David House, Bathgate EH48 1TT, or by telephoning 01506 776982.
- The scheme started on 1st April 2008. The percentage relief **increases** again on 1st April 2009.

The table below sets out the projected relief rates for the **next three years**.

Combined rateable value of all business properties in Scotland	Percentage relief available, subject to eligibility		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011
Up to £8,000	80%	100%	100%
£8,001 to £10,000	40%	50%	50%
£10,001 to £15,000	20%	25%	25%

For further information visit www.scotland.gov.uk/businessrates

Kirstie Scoops Top Businesswoman Award

West Lothian's Women in Business Awards took place at the end of May. The accolade of West Lothian Businesswoman of the Year 2008 went to Kirstie Stein of David Stein Butchers in North Bridge Street. Kirstie has taken forward the family business, diversifying from a traditional butcher to include a first-class deli, coffee bar and the sale of specialised wines and spirits. New own-branded products have also been introduced.

Kirstie explained the vision behind the shop's success, *"We strive to take the business to the top of our field, whilst developing and maintaining close relations with local suppliers and customers, and never forgetting family business values."*



Car Parking Strategy

As part of the process of developing the Bathgate BID we carried out a consultation with the businesses to identify their priorities for the town centre. Implementation of an improved car parking strategy was highlighted by your completed questionnaires.

It must be said that car parking seems to be a big issue in every town and city centre as the changes in shopping habits and greatly increased car ownership impact on the availability of car parking spaces.

At the inaugural meeting the Board asked the BID team to undertake a car parking survey and report back to the June board meeting for consideration. It was clear from the survey that a significant number of centrally-located

parking spaces are being occupied all day by train commuters choosing to use Acredales car park, for example, rather than car parks designated for use by those taking the train. The spaces taken up by these commuters are the most convenient spaces for town centre shopping and ways should be found to free up some of these spaces.

The board of Enterprising Bathgate approved the recommendation that some short-term (perhaps two hours) car parking spaces (a total of approx. 50 spaces) be installed in selected key car parks in the town centre and proposed that we pursue this strategy with West Lothian Council and the police with a view to new regulations being implemented later in the year.