

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

# A RESOUNDING YES



## VOTE FROM BATHGATE BID LEVY PAYERS

**Businesses in the Bathgate Business Improvement District (BID) once again turned out in numbers to vote YES to support another 5-year term of the Bathgate BID.**

The YES votes (166) were within 1 vote of the last ballot count 5 years ago. The NO votes (29) were down from 42 at the last ballot count. The YES votes accumulated £2.913m of rateable value against a NO vote value of £647,350.

	By number		By Rateable Value	
	2018	2013	2018	2013
<b>YES</b>	<b>166</b> (85.1%)	167(79.9%)	<b>£2.91m</b> (81.7%)	£3.10m (80.9%)
<b>NO</b>	<b>29</b> (14.9%)	42 (20.1%)	<b>£0.65m</b> (18.3%)	£0.83m (19.1%)

Enterprising Bathgate would like to thank everyone who took part in the ballot and also those who took the time to talk to us about the future aspirations for businesses in the town centre.

Ten years ago, David Stein, chair of the board of directors at that time said, he never saw the BID as a five-year project and wanted to see the delivery of projects and initiatives which would benefit the town for many years to come. Enterprising Bathgate board members agreed with his philosophy then and still do today as we set out on our third 5-year term.

Our Business Plan, which accompanied the voting papers, outlined your priorities and highlighted how we will continue to improve our town centre and support businesses and organisations based there.

Every business was given the opportunity to have their say through a business survey sent to all our levy payers in 2017 and their views were reflected in the Business Plan for the next 5 years. The survey demonstrated the popularity of our established projects, such as the Premises Improvement Scheme, the Bathgate in Bloom initiative, funding 24/7 monitoring of the town centre's CCTV cameras and providing free First Aid courses to all businesses within the BID area.

**WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THESE POPULAR PROJECTS AS WELL AS DEVELOPING AND SUPPORTING OTHER INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT OF THE TOWN FOR ALL.**



# PREMISES IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

**On average more than 80 businesses participate in our annual scheme with an average grant award in excess of £500.**

In our business survey **100%** of responders either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, *"The Premises Improvement Scheme provides real support for businesses and should continue as an annual project".*

**For details on how to get involved please visit our website.**

*"The annual Premises Improvement Scheme is a brilliant project. It has allowed us to programme a series of improvements to our premises."*

*Kirsty and Jon,  
Maciz Lounge*



# BATHGATE IN BLOOM



Bathgate in Bloom along with the Adopt a Station initiative – under the wing of Enterprising Bathgate – continues to grow with 114 hanging baskets adding colour to our town centre. In addition to this Enterprising

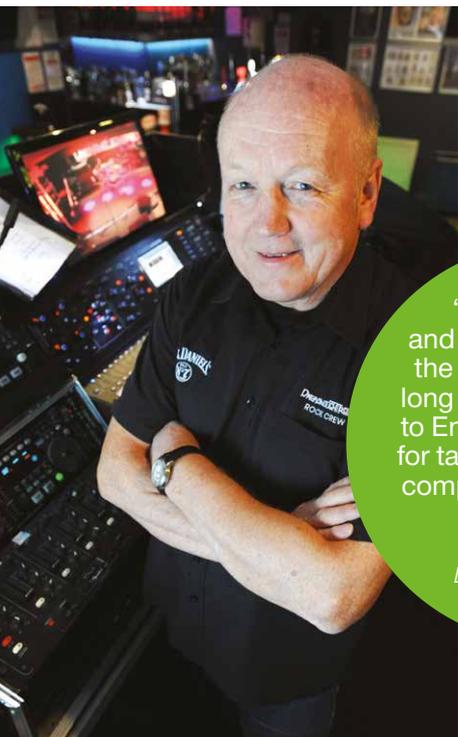
Bathgate is responsible for the flower beds at the top of Hopetoun Street, the raised bed outside the Regal Theatre, the landscaping outside Albacare, some of the soft landscaping in Acredale car park and the plant troughs and containers situated at the rail station.

In our business survey **99%** of responders either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, *"Bathgate in Bloom is an important project which enhances the town centre".*

**If you would like to sponsor one of our hanging basket columns please visit our website for further details.**

*"The hanging baskets in the town make a lovely, colourful difference to the town's environment during the summer months. Long may it continue."*

*Gayle and Daniele,  
La Piuma Restaurant*



# CCTV

Enterprising Bathgate – in partnership with West Lothian Council – invested in the upgrading of the CCTV cameras and renewal of all cabling in the town centre. The project also involved a successful funding application to the Scottish Government and input from Police Scotland. Enterprising Bathgate now provides the revenue to facilitate 24/7 dedicated monitoring and management of the town centre public space CCTV in Bathgate.

*"The upgrading and 24/7 monitoring of the CCTV system was long overdue. Well done to Enterprising Bathgate for taking ownership and completing the project."*

*Douglas Croft,  
Dreadnought Rock  
Night Club*

In our business survey more than **92%** of responders either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement *"The CCTV Monitoring Project is an excellent development which should improve safety for both daytime and evening economies".*



# FIRST AID TRAINING AND DEFIBRILLATORS

Enterprising Bathgate introduced a new initiative in 2017 offering free Emergency First Aid Training to levy payers and their employees. To date nearly 100 people have attended the courses. We also installed the public access defibrillators outside the cinema and Albacare building.

In our business survey **94%** of responders either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement *"First Aid Training for people working in the town centre is an excellent idea which should be encouraged"*.

**Further details on how to sign up for one of the courses are highlighted on our website.**

"I thought the first aid training class was excellent. Our instructor made the whole experience very engaging and I would encourage more representatives from the businesses in the BID area to participate."

Scott McKenzie, Nautica



## CHILD HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CLASSES

After a successful pilot project in 2017, Enterprising Bathgate in partnership with Xcite Bathgate rolled out a programme of child healthy lifestyle classes in Bathgate's primary schools. The concept behind the project is based around the NHS Lothian Get Going Programme. The aim is to provide a mix of Education and Physical Activity creating an environment that is both educational and fun which the pupils will hopefully take into their adult life.

In our business survey **84%** of responders either strongly agree or agree with the statement *"The funding of these classes is a worthwhile project which also build links to the wider community"*.

## CHOOSE BATHGATE WEBSITE

Enterprising Bathgate funds the Choose Bathgate website which provides a free listing for all businesses and organisations in the BID area. We offer a free service to achieve a high level and consistency of design along with links to individual's websites and social media.

**choosebathgate.com**

In our business survey **72%** of responders either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement *"The Choose Bathgate website is well designed and provides an excellent platform to showcase businesses"*.

**For more information on how you can get your business listed, visit our website.**





## OTHER PROJECTS WE ARE INVOLVED IN AT THIS TIME INCLUDE:

- The refurbishment of the vennel between Hopetoun Street and Acredale car park, including re-painting, information panels and improved CCTV coverage planned for completion in Spring / Summer 2019.
- Streetscape Improvements in conjunction with West Lothian Council.
- Enterprising Bathgate continues to support local organisations in return for advertising in various forms. These include:
  - Bathgate Procession and John Newland Festival,
  - Bathgate Thistle Community Football Club
  - Regal Radio
  - Christmas in Bathgate.



“The sponsorship provided by Enterprising Bathgate in return for advertising at our football ground and on our away strip is invaluable to a community club like Bathgate Thistle.”

*Bathgate Thistle Community FC*

“Having been a retailer in the town for 14 years, the improvement in our town centre has been significant and has grown each five-year term of the BID. We need to keep progressing as a town centre.”

*Alan Waddell,  
Bathgate Kilt Studio*



## CONTACTING ENTERPRISING BATHGATE

Our office is only open a few hours a week. You may phone and leave a message if you wish but **for a quicker response it would be best to email us**. You will also find the latest news on all our projects on our website. Please visit it regularly to get information on all our projects and initiatives.



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