



Dundee Civic Trust
'Encouraging the Best'



Trustees' Annual Report 2019-2020

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report, for the year ending 31 January 2020.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name:

Dundee Civic Trust (SCIO)

Charity number:

SC001399

Address (Treasurer):

Brian Smith, 9 South Tay Street, Dundee, DD1 1NU

Current trustees:

Donald Gordon	(Chairman)
Brian Smith	(Treasurer)
Neale Elder	(Secretary)
Nick Day	
Barbara Illsley	
Hugh Macrae	
Glenys Marra	
Dorothy Nicoll	
Roderick Stewart	

Our structure, governance and management

Dundee Civic Trust was founded on 6 February 1973. As in other towns and cities, the creation of a civic society was a citizens' response to the rapid (and not always favourable) changes then taking place in the urban environment.

Having previously assumed charitable status, the Trust was converted to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in January 2014.

Our governing document as a SCIO, the constitution, was formally approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting of 20 March 2014.

The board of charity trustees forms the executive committee, which meets ten times per year. The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, governance and management of the Trust. We have no paid staff and all work to further the Trust's aims is undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Service on the board is open to any member of the Trust who is legally permitted to act as a charity trustee. The board must contain a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven trustees, who are normally elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March. The board may, however, appoint a member to serve as a trustee at any time should a vacancy exist.

Our aims

The charitable purposes of Dundee Civic Trust are:

- **to preserve and promote the natural, historic, artistic, cultural and social amenities and features of the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to interest, educate and inspire civic pride in the local community;** and, in furtherance of this:
- **to encourage the maintenance of high standards of architecture and town planning in the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to ensure the protection or improvement of the local environment.**

Our activities and achievements in 2019-2020

Annual outing

On two dates during the summer of 2019, parties of our members enjoyed tours of the D C Thomson publishing works at Kingsway East.

Awards

An Awards jury of seven Trust members, with a diverse range of backgrounds, considered 24 nominated projects which had been completed between June 2017 and May 2019. This was reduced to a short-list of twelve sites, which were visited on 23 July.

The jury decided that three developments were deserving of a Civic Trust Award for 2019. These were:

- **Dundee Railway Station (new concourse, hotel, car park and cycle hub)**
Client - Dundee City Council; Lead design - Jacobs; Architect - Nicoll Russell Studios; Main Contractor - Balfour Beatty
- **V&A Dundee, Museum of Design**
Client – Dundee City Council/V&A Dundee; Lead architect – Kengo Kuma and Associates; Delivery architect – PiM.studio Architects; Executive architect – James F Stephen Architects; Project management -Turner & Townsend; Main contractor – BAM Construction
- **Water's Edge, Camperdown Street**
Client/Developer – Tayforth Properties; Architect – Nicoll Russell Studios; Main contractor- Lyon Building Services

Four Commendations were also awarded, to Craig Gowan, Broughty Ferry; Hotel Indigo; Riverbank (a private house in West Ferry); and the Riverside flood protection scheme.

The Awards and Commendations were presented at an evening ceremony on 31 October at the Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee. This proved a most satisfactory venue and the event was much enjoyed by those who attended.

‘City Scene’

The latest issue of our annual journal, *City Scene*, was due for publication towards the end of 2019. The journal is a quality product which is widely commended. However, it is also the result of much hard work by a small team of volunteers which, as occasionally occurs, is at the mercy of outside demands. For this reason, the publication date has unfortunately slipped. Members are assured that the awaited issue is expected to be ready in the early part of 2020.

Evening events programme

Our established programme of Thursday evening talks delivered a popular range of subjects:

- 21 February 2019 (joint meeting with Friends of Dundee Heritage Trust) – *A Tradition of Skill* [Colin Tennant, Historic Environment Scotland];
- 21 March 2019 (talk following our AGM) – *Dundee’s New Railway Station* [Graham Steel, Nicoll Russell Studios];
- 17 October 2019 – *‘Thinking the Unthinkable’ – The Future of Town and City Centres* [Professor Leigh Sparks, University of Stirling];
- 21 November 2019 – *‘Scots’ Architecture* [Crichton Wood];
- 16 January 2020 – *Dundee Museum of Transport* [Peter Webber and Derek Simpson].

Except for the joint meeting in February, which was held at Discovery Point, all the above events took place at our regular venue of the Dundee Art Society gallery in Roseangle. As usual, they were followed by a short social session with refreshments, allowing those present to share their views in an informal setting and acting as an introduction to the Trust for non-members.

Newsflash

Over the year five editions of our e-bulletin, the Newsflash, were issued to members. This brought the total number of issues to 42.

Online presence

Having been in place for several years, our website was overdue for an update. The Trust established a small working group to examine this matter. The new improved site, incorporating online membership application facilities, is expected to go live in the first half of 2020.

The Trust continues to utilise its Facebook presence to publicise forthcoming events as well as other activities, news links and matters of interest.

Planning monitoring and the urban scene

Our planning group remains highly active and has welcomed some new participants from the general membership. In addition to scrutinising individual planning applications and commenting as appropriate, the group often finds itself examining wider issues which have been brought forward by members and discussed by the board of trustees.

Some examples of the subjects examined by the Trust in 2019-20 have been:

- Vacancy levels in the city centre (both in terms of retail units and upper floors) and what might be done to address the challenges faced by most town and city centres;
- Low-density peripheral expansion versus inner area 'brownfield development', especially in light of the planning and transportation implications of addressing the 'climate emergency';
- In view of the high profile achieved by V&A Dundee, measures needing to be taken to improve the city's tourism strategy and facilities to encourage visitors to stay longer.

In connection with the last of these points, the Trust has participated in discussions with the city council and other stakeholders with a view to recognising the city's seagoing history by developing a maritime trail around the waterfront and harbour, linking the historic ships with other heritage features.

Support for other organisations in Dundee

Dundee Civic Trust gave statements of support to the Unicorn Preservation Society and Dundee Museum of Transport, two enterprises whose efforts to preserve respective elements of the city's heritage (HMS *Unicorn* and Maryfield tram sheds) are of great significance.

In a different vein, the Trust was again delighted to support the annual Creative Spaces Challenge, the unique and inspirational design competition for S2 school pupils which has been developed by Doug Binnie.

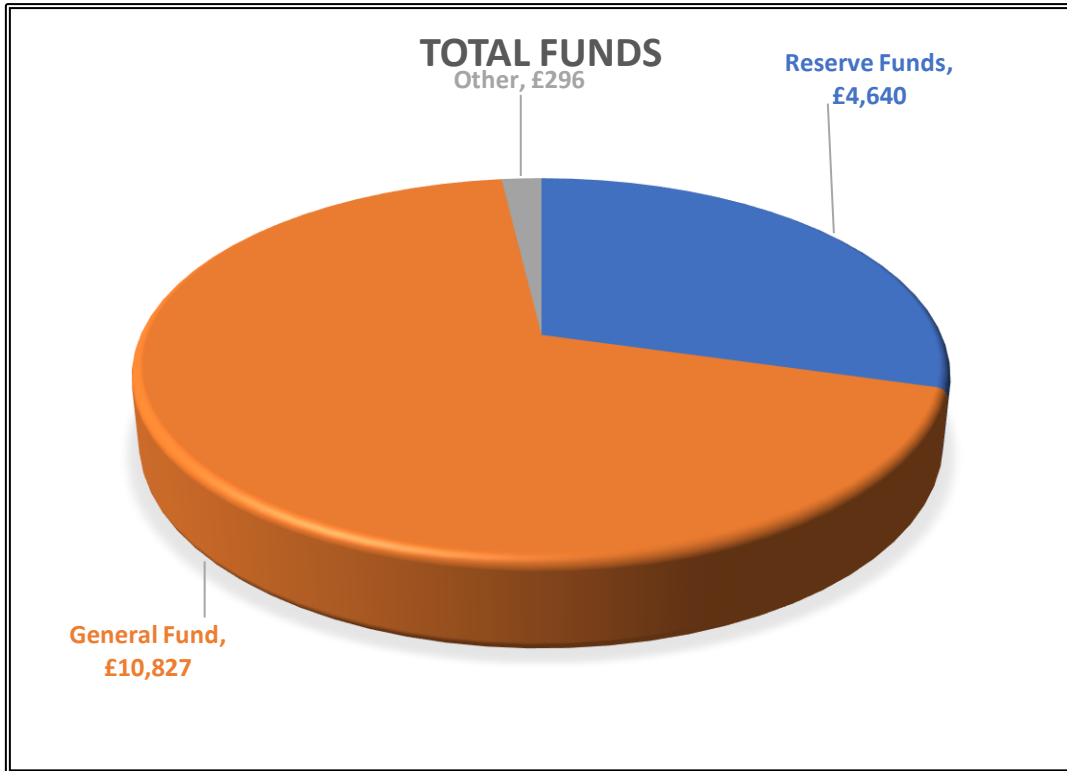
Impact

As the above summary demonstrates, Dundee Civic Trust has continued to promote its values through regular interaction with the city council, discussions with other local organisations, communication with its members and a programme of evening talks which is also open to the general public.

Financial review of 2019-2020

At 31 January 2020, our total funds amounted to £15,763 (as against £14,502 in 2018-2019). This figure represents the balances of our Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows accounts, along with equipment valued at £604.

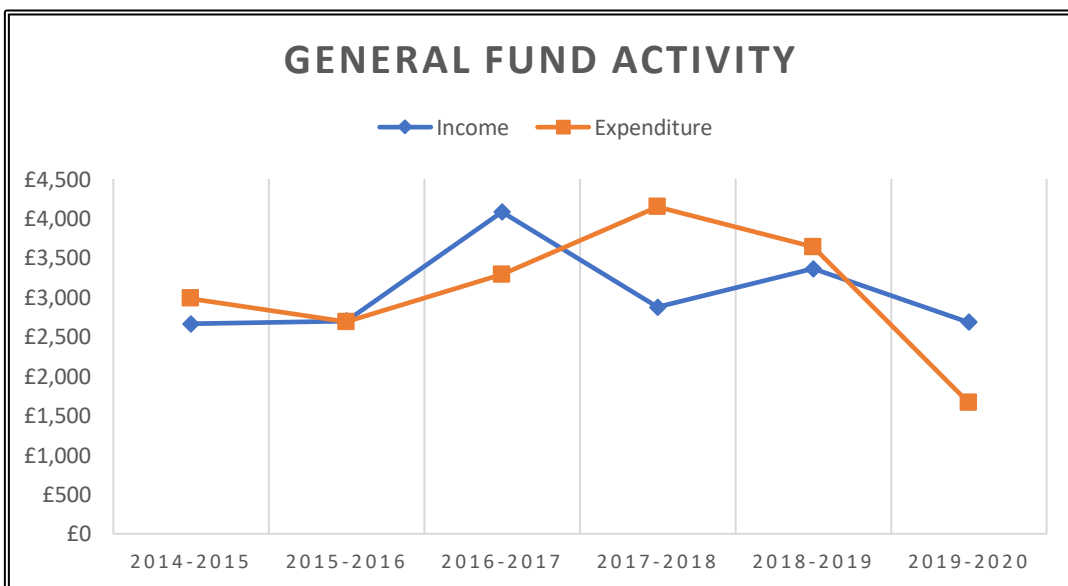
Income from membership subscriptions remained the Trust's principal source of revenue. This rose from £1,943 in 2018-19 to £2,134 in 2019-20. Overall income for the year was down by £597. However, expenditure fell by £1,977. This was largely due to the absence of printing costs for *City Scene* in 2019-20. As a result, the accounts record a total surplus of £1,261 (compared with a deficit of £119 for year ending 31 January 2019).



The board of trustees decided to transfer two sets of unrestricted funds (the Denis Naulty Fund of £6,778 and the Closes Study Project Fund of £584) to the General Fund, as it was unlikely either would now be used for its originally intended purpose. The General Fund remains the principal area of financial activity, while the Reserve Funds of Lifetime and Foundation Membership are sufficient to address any unforeseen financial commitments.

In January 2020 our membership stood at 233, of whom 56 were life members.

The Trust's finances remain healthy and the board is committed to regular monitoring of income and expenditure.



Services donated

The board once again wishes to express its gratitude to Bird Simpson & Co, for independently examining the annual accounts free of charge.

Sponsorship

We remain grateful to the various local businesses and other organisations who lend their sponsorship to the Trust's web pages, journal and Newsflash.

McNicoll and Cairnie, wine and spirit merchants of Broughty Ferry, became sponsors of our evening event refreshments.

Looking ahead

The board of trustees will continue to advance the aims of Dundee Civic Trust by promoting participation in our programme of events. We seek to broaden our membership base and to encourage a diverse range of views regarding what is best for the local environment of Dundee.

As stated above, plans for an improved website are already well advanced.

Our members will continue to be kept informed through our regular Newsflash and *City Scene*.

We will continue to monitor the standard of new developments in the city and recognise those which are worthy of award or commendation so that we may live up to our stated aim: **'encouraging the best'**.

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Donald Gordon
Chairman
11 March 2020

Appendices to Trustees' Annual Report 2019-2020

- Treasurer's report to be presented at Annual General Meeting ~~of 19 March 2020~~
(postponed due to coronavirus pandemic)
- Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2020, including Statement of Financial Activities
- Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 January 2020