

## Clarkston Business Improvement District is launched

Clarkston has set its sights on becoming a Business Improvement District (BID) with East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce taking the lead in this new strategy for the area. Clarkston has begun the process of developing the BID which will involve a great deal of research, consultation and discussion with local businesses.

A BID is a tried and tested business led strategy which supports local business growth, economic development and regeneration. BIDs have been in operation throughout the world for nearly 40 years with over 1,400 successfully established.

This business led project lets businesses work together and invest collectively in local improvements to their business environment.

Projects and services delivered by a BID must be additional to those provided by the statutory authorities and may include services or projects associated with accessibility, safety and security, environmental improvements, marketing and promotion or asset management.

Gordon Brown, Project Coordinator for the Clarkston BID explained the process of developing the BID:

**"I believe a BID will be great news for Clarkston and will have a positive impact on businesses. A BID is for the benefit of local businesses, run by local businesses and controlled by local businesses - working in partnership with the local authority and public sector. We can shape the BID to be what we want it to be, and look at issues specific to Clarkston. If the vote is successful every business in the area contributes and every business benefits."**

To find out more about the Clarkston BID please contact Gordon Brown on 0141 585 7486 or email [gordon.brown@clarkstonbid.com](mailto:gordon.brown@clarkstonbid.com) or you can click on [www.clarkstonbid.com](http://www.clarkstonbid.com) for the latest news.

### Who is on the BID Steering Group?



From left to right some of the Steering Group - Terry Traynor, Gillian Blair, Daniel McKendry, Duncan Dick, Nuala Ashe, Gordon Brown, Paul Knight and David MacLennan (standing in for David Hammet).

The Steering Group for the Clarkston Business Improvement District has been selected and it represents a wide range of business interests from across the Clarkston BID. The steering committee was constructed via a letter to all Clarkston businesses asking for nominations and through individuals volunteering to sit on the committee.



### Get In Touch

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#### Clarkston BID Steering Group

David Hammet	Hodgkinsons
Terry Traynor	Autokits
Nuala Ashe	Nuala Ashe
Paul Knight	Eat Deli
Gillian Blair	Whispers
Patricia Cuthbert	Boots
Liz Kane	Ilxll Architects
Duncan Dick	Duncan's Property Services
Kate Jackson	Police
Phil Prentice	East Renfrewshire Council
Daniel McKendry	East Renfrewshire Council
Vincent Waters	East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce
Gordon Brown	Clarkston BID Project Co-ordinator

## Launch Day Announced

A launch day is being held at the Clarkston Halls on June 22nd to give all local businesses the chance to hear about the Clarkston BID. There will be an open session between 5.00pm - 7.00pm, more details will be available on the website, [www.clarkstonbid.com](http://www.clarkstonbid.com), shortly.

The event is open to all local businesses within the Clarkston area and members from the Steering Group, East

Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce and East Renfrewshire Council will be on hand to answer any questions. If you want to attend you can e-mail Gordon Brown at [gordon.brown@clarkstonbid.com](mailto:gordon.brown@clarkstonbid.com) or simply turn up on the day.

We are encouraging all local businesses to attend and look forward to seeing you at the event.



## News from BIDs Around Scotland

**Interest in BIDs continues to grow across Scotland with 9 BIDs now in development and a significant number of other areas across the country declaring an interest in developing a BID.**

**Lerwick in Shetland** became the most northerly BID while Inverness B&B Association in partnership with the Inverness BID and Highland Council also secured Scottish Government funding to develop the first tourism BID in Scotland, to include hotels, B&Bs and guest houses. It will focus on the promotion of Inverness to potential visitors from home and abroad.

The **Dunfermline Delivers BID** goes to ballot on 18th June and local business leaders believe a 'Yes' vote will allow Dunfermline to become one of Scotland's most vibrant examples of a thriving, dynamic city centre.

In March, approximately 45 delegates involved in the development of BIDs attended a seminar at Stirling Management Centre. This informative event gave attendees the opportunity to hear at first-hand, from the original pathfinder BIDs, about what needs to be considered when developing a BID in Scotland.

“  
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it to be.**”

**Gordon Brown**

## East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce back the BID

“ East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce is proud to have brought the BID project to Clarkston. The Chamber has appointed a first class Project Leader in Gordon Brown, who has both local credibility and knowledge, he is pleased to see the BID Steering Group set up, so local businesses are now driving forward the project pilot.

The Chamber of Commerce chose the BID project for its most important quality – that the businesses involved will decide if Clarkston becomes a BID area. There will be no outside control, no external imposition.

The Chamber is operating the project so that the BID can remain “by business, for business”.

A successful BID in Clarkston has the potential to boost local trade, with benefits for owners and consumers. A vibrant business heart to Clarkston will encourage local people to shop within their community and new prospects to come from further afield to enjoy a quality shopping experience.

It's important that every business in the area has the opportunity to understand the

BID concept. Talking to your “neighbours” is both an excellent way of spreading information about the BID, and of developing important local relationships because, ultimately, we will be stronger working together. And that, in a nutshell, is the best reason for a Clarkston Business Improvement District.

*Vincent Waters, President of the East Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce*