



Community Council NEWS

October 2021

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils



Community Council Enquiry Service (CCES)

We are delighted to have seen an increase in the use of the Community Council Enquiry Service (CCES) in recent months, and we hope that you have seen an improvement in the speed and quality of responses to your enquiries.

To ensure that this continues, can we please ask for your support with ensuring that we have the most up to date name and email address of your preferred contact.

The preferred contact can be any member of your Community Council – they are responsible for submitting all CCES enquiries on behalf of the Community Council and will receive all responses sent by Dumfries and Galloway. Please submit your most up to date contact information to CCESMailbox@dumgal.gov.uk following which we will update the CCES contact information accordingly.

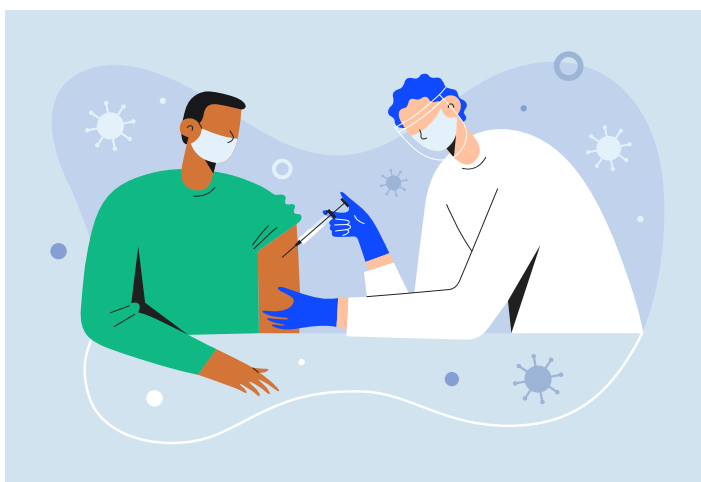
Community Council Meetings

We are aware that large number of Community Councils have already taken the decision to resume in person meetings whilst some are continuing with online meetings meantime and a smaller number are considering a hybrid model so as to ensure as much as possible that they are in compliance with the requirement to hold a minimum of 6 meetings including an AGM in this current financial year.

Please remember there is a requirement to ensure that you are familiar with and adhering to all the necessary Scottish Government guidelines when organising your meetings details of which can be found [here](#)

#SupportDG

Go onto the website to find out all the latest news in connection with Covid 19 [here](#)



COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccinations against COVID-19 are currently taking place within Dumfries and Galloway in the form of scheduled clinic appointments and Drop-ins. Drop in clinics are now open to anyone aged 16 or over who has not yet received a first dose of vaccination, and anyone who has waited more than 8 weeks for their second dose. Anyone aged 12 to 15 and a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed, can also attend a drop-in clinic for their first dose with the Pfizer vaccine. Click on the link [COVID-19 Vaccines – NHS Dumfries & Galloway \(nhsdg.co.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/COVID-19-Vaccines-NHS-Dumfries-Galloway) to find out more information.

Community Council Annual Discretionary Grant Process 2021/2022

The Community Council Annual Discretionary Grant Process for 2021/2022 is now open. Further information including the criteria and how you can apply can be found [here](#). Please submit your claim by no later than 31 December 2021 to Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

DGC Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Team

Find out more, call 07880 942909 or email

ChallengePoverty@dumgal.gov.uk

There are a range of support mechanisms and organisations available to help anyone who is struggling to heat their home and may be worried about the future costs and how to cover these for the rest of the winter months.

The Scottish Government- Additional Winter Payments

Details on the various payments and schemes available can all be accessed through the Scottish Government website: [Winter Fuel Payment](#)
[Cold Weather Payment](#)
[Warm Home Discount Scheme](#)

Additional Information and Assistance Dumfries and Galloways Citizens Advice Service

Call: 0300 303 4321

Website:

[Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service](#)

Home Energy Scotland

Call: 0808 808 2282

or complete an [online contact form](#)

Contact us

Call: 030 33 33 3008

Email: fiatreferrals@dumgal.gov.uk

Funding - Covid 19 Emergency Fuel Top Up Funding for Tenants Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership Loreburn Housing Irvine Housing

We would love to hear from you



Would you be happy to share good practice stories that others may be interested in?

Do you have creative ways to engage with your community that you would be happy to share with us? Is there something you would like featured in the Newsletter?

Please let us know by contacting Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk



Dumfries and Galloway Council's Renewal and Recovery Plan and Council Budget 2022/23-2024/25

Our engagement on the Council's Renewal and Recovery Plan and the Council Budget 2022/23-2024/25 is now open and the closing date for this engagement has been extended to 09:00 on 1 November 2021. We held one online and one drop-in Community Conversation in each of the 12 Wards across our region between 27 and 29 September 2021 and are grateful for the feedback provided by attendees. After evaluating these, we have decided to extend a further opportunity for citizens to speak to us and are therefore pleased to provide you with the following 5 additional dates. Please use the links provided below to join us for the session in your area or across the region. These will work at the time stated, with no need to register.

Area	Date	Time	MS Teams Link
Regional	20 Oct 2021	7 to 8pm	Click here to join the meeting
Annandale and Eskdale	25 Oct 2021	7 to 8pm	Click here to join the meeting
Nithsdale	26 Oct 2021	7 to 8pm	Click here to join the meeting
Stewartry	27 Oct 2021	7 to 8 pm	Click here to join the meeting
Wigtownshire	28 Oct 2021	7 to 8pm	Click here to join the meeting

Additional information about the engagement can be found on our website [HERE](#).



Consultations and Engagements

For the latest information on current consultations check out our webpage [here](#)

'Plant A Tree For The Jubilee'

Invitation From Your Lord Lieutenant(S) To Hear More About This Unique Initiative

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking seventy years of service. An extended Bank Holiday from Thursday, 2 June to Sunday, 5 June 2022 will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to mark this extraordinary milestone. [Queen's Green Canopy \(QGC\)](#) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee." Communities are being encouraged to become part of the QGC. The Woodland Trust [Free Trees for Schools and Communities Scheme](#) have generously made over three million saplings available (on a first come first served basis). The tree planting season is officially October to March, and we hope that as many communities as possible will consider supporting this historical by planting a Platinum Jubilee Tree in your community during this period as a 'special gift' to The Queen, in her Platinum Jubilee year. Therefore, we are pleased to offer you the opportunity for a representative from your Community Council to attend one of the following online information sessions at which your Lord Lieutenant will be present to provide an overview on this unique initiative; to hear about any plans that you have to take part overall in this historic occasion; and to answer any questions you may have on any of the key [Platinum Jubilee](#) events.



The sessions will be delivered via Microsoft / MS Teams. Further information will be circulated separately but meantime if you have any questions or would like to register your interest in one any of the following online sessions' please email us at Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk.

The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright

Monday, 8 November 2021 – 7.00pm to 8.15pm

Wigtown

Tuesday, 9 November 2021 – 7.00pm to 8.15pm

Dumfries and Annandale

Wednesday, 10 November 2021 – 7.00pm to 8.15pm



FOR TIPS VISIT
CLEARYOURHEAD.SCOT

Health Advice [#clearyourhead](#)

The Scottish Government's #ClearYourHead Campaign was launched during the Coronavirus pandemic to support people to look after their mental health and provides practical tips on the things we can all do to make us feel better.

As restrictions ease, the campaign focuses on encouraging people to keep up any good habits they have developed to help them cope. As well as tips and ideas, the campaign website [#clearyourhead](#) signposts to various helplines for those who might need to talk to someone.

Webpage Hits for September 2021

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils 461

CCESCommunities@dumgal.gov.uk 39



Dumfries and Galloway Council also have a Facebook page which is updated regularly with news, information and contact details. You can find out more [here](#)

Our circulation list is growing!

With almost 400 subscribers, do you know of anyone who would like to receive the Community Council newsletter? To subscribe please send your email address to community.councils@dumgl.gov.uk

Community Council Resilience Teams

Thank You!

Firstly, we wish to thank you all once again for your commitment and dedication with supporting your local community during the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2020 and beyond. Given we live in Scotland and there is always the potential for heavy rain, wind, snow and ice, we must now turn our focus to preparing for winter. Can we please ask that you take some time **to review/ update your existing CR Plan** or alternatively let us know if you no longer wish to continue with this. Please send your updated plan and / or response to Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk by 31 October 2021.

Available Training & Support

We are pleased to offer you the opportunity for a representative from your Community Resilience Team / Community Council to attend one of the following **online information and training sessions** which are being designed to help 'Get Ready for Winter' and that will include topics on Wider Resilience – An Overview; The Role of the Community Resilience Team and Partners; Risk Assessments; and a virtual walk through of a Winter Scenario. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at various stages throughout the session(s). The sessions will be delivered via Microsoft / MS Teams and all sessions will have the same input. Further information will be circulated separately in the coming weeks but meantime if you have any questions or would like to register your interest in any one of the following sessions, please email your **name, email address** along with the **date and time** of the session that you would wish to attend Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk.

Date	Session 1	Session 2
15 Nov 2021	3.00 to 4.30pm	7.00 to 8.30pm
17 Nov 2021	3.00 to 4.30pm	7.00 to 8.30pm
22 Nov 2021	3.00 to 4.30pm	7.00 to 8.30pm
24 Nov 2021	3.00 to 4.30pm	7.00 to 8.30pm

Find your Community Council

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils - Are your Community Council details up to date on the dumgal.gov website? Check out the information available to the public about your Community Council. Send any updates to the Community Council mailbox on Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk and we will make the necessary changes.

Police Scotland

Police Scotland is a rights-based organisation that puts our values of integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to upholding human rights at the heart of everything we do.



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

This means we will protect the rights of people who wish to peacefully protest or counter-protest, balanced against the rights of the wider community. We work hard to keep people safe when there's events and gatherings in our vibrant communities. We want to hear your views if you have attended a protest or event, if you live near to where events take place or if you have any thoughts to share in general.

We want to hear what you think about our approach to keeping people safe. We will use your feedback to shape our decisions in the future. Follow the link to have your say [here](#)

We welcome your feedback and hold public consultations and information days so that you can take part in decisions that affect you. Please check out our consultation page [here](#)

Community Council Survey Results 2020/2021

As a Council we are always looking for ways to improve the service that we deliver, so we carry out an Annual Survey to ask about the different aspects of our support to you.

The results of this survey focus on the work of the Community Planning and Engagement Service and show an increased response rate of 21% to that of the previous survey. This is an excellent performance given the additional demands on Community Councils and on Council staff over the past 18 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For further information and to see a summary of the feedback please [click here](#)

Youth Council Update

Young Peoples Voices in Dumfries and Galloway Dumfries & Galloway's Youth Council is the democratically elected voice of young people aged 12-25 in the region. The organisation includes 35 Members including Ward Youth Councillors, Nominated Youth Councillors and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. To extend an invitation to attend your Community Council meeting, find out more about Youth Councillors in your area here A joint meeting with members of DGC and young people was held on 8 September 2021 and as with all DGC meetings, can be viewed on You Tube [here](#)

Remembrance 2021 RBL 100



Remembrance Sunday on 14 November is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.



2021 marks the 100th Anniversary of The Royal British Legion Scotland (Legion Scotland). In recognition of this, and to mark the Centenary year, Dumfries and Galloway Council will be laying a wreath at each of the 97 War Memorials across Dumfries and Galloway on Remembrance Sunday.

Whilst this is very much a contribution to The Royal British Legion Scotland (Legion Scotland) 100th Anniversary, the hope is that it will also be an opportunity to bring communities together, to show support for our Veterans and Armed Forces, to acknowledge and to remember.

We are currently collating a list of the Wreath Laying Ceremonies that we have been made aware/are aware of that are due to take place Sunday, 14 November 2021. To assist with this and to ensure that we have the most up to date information for 2021, we would be grateful if you could please send details of any Wreath Laying Ceremonies that are due to take place within your area on this date to Civic.Hospitality@dumgal.gov.uk as soon as possible. Please include:

- Name of War Memorial/Location
- Time
- Contact Name, Email Address and Telephone Number
- Any other relevant information ie. any restrictions in place; format etc

FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions from the Mailbox

Frequency of Meetings

Section 9.2 of the scheme provides the latest guidance on the frequency of meetings and takes into account non-attendance due to the pandemic. Some Community Councils have expressed concern that not all members attended scheduled meetings in 2020/2021 and wanted clarification on what to do. A gentle reminder from the Community Council may prompt a response from an absent member and it would then be the decision of the Community Council how to proceed.

Minutes and Agendas

Continue to be sent to the Community Council Mailbox, Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk Please send enquiries only to the enquiry service CCESmailbox@dumgal.gov.uk which will allow us to deal with them following the correct procedure.

Changing a Community Council boundary

Section 15.4 in the scheme, follows a set procedure and usually takes place during a review of the scheme. Let us know your intention and we can proceed from there.

Sharing Good Practice across the Region

Canonbie and District Community Council

Secretary, Carol Midwood, provides an update and background on the Community Council. "Following the decision of the majority of community councillors not to stand for re-election, the new Canonbie & District Community Council held its first meeting almost 2 years ago on 10th October 2019 with the minimum of members.



One of the first things we did was to setup a Facebook page and website to provide information to the local community and we are proud to say that we now have 267 followers and are continuing to expand. We held our first casual vacancy election in March 2020 and successfully recruited an additional 3 members and we hope to do the same in March 2022. Our first challenge came with the start of the pandemic in March 2020 and we were the first Community Council in our area to hold an AGM and business meeting virtually and carried on with our monthly virtual meetings throughout the pandemic. With donations and in an effort to cheer up the children in the local primary school we purchased easter eggs for each child and the schools' teachers delivered them to the children. We have continued this event this year and hope to make it an annual gift for the children. A number of people volunteered to help with shopping and prescription collection for the elderly and vulnerable in the area, and we produced our community resilience plan, which is now on its 3rd revision.

Moving forward we have purchased a Saltire which was flown from our newly painted flagpole on St Andrews day at the end of November and have delivered donated kindling to pensioners. As things begin to get back to some sort of normality, we are planning to purchase extra dog waste bins for the area and manage these with volunteers, continue with our work to introduce traffic calming in Canonbie village and mark Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee with a tree planting ceremony and tea party on 5th June 2022, our local school will be taking part in the free trees for schools' scheme".

Colvend Family Gala

Saturday 21st August 2021 with an update from Simon W Pain, Vice Chair, Colvend and Southwick Community Council. "This was the first occasion that the Colvend & Southwick



Community Council had attempted to run an event of this type for the community. It was a 2-centre event making use of the Colvend Village Hall and also the new Colvend Recreation Field that the Community Council had built in 2018 for the community and for Colvend Primary school at a cost of £50,000. The gala was timed to celebrate the end of the pandemic lockdown and was an attempt to bring people together and say thank-you for the way in which the community had helped one-another. The hall featured displays of spectacular photographs of Rockcliffe during lockdown, the work of the community council, highlights of the school year and an information displays from the Police, Fire Service and visitor information from Colvend's "Secret Coast" visitor centre. Despite suffering from 36mm of rain, the Recreation Field hosted about 200 people determined to enjoy themselves. Activities included face painting, a bouncy castle, barbecue, refreshments tent, milk shake bar, and displays by the D&G Council Community Safety Team. The main feature of the afternoon was a series of fun races for both children and adults, but unfortunately these had to be curtailed because of the slipping hazards caused by the rain. The event ran successfully from 2:00 – 5:00pm and it is hoped to repeat it next year. The Colvend & Southwick Communities would like to express their appreciation to Dumfries & Galloway Council for helping fund the event".



Following a recent casual vacancy election, 7 new members joined **Moffat and District Community Council**. Taking advantage of an introductory session on the roles and responsibilities of a Community Council and hosted by Dumfries and Galloway Council, members had the opportunity to become familiar with the scheme which is the official governance document for Community Councils.

Does your Community Council require a refresher session on the Scheme? Get in touch now on Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

Windfarm Funding News - What's been happening

James Parker, Development Contributions Officer, James.Parker@dumgal.gov.uk provides an update on Community Funds. Below are some examples of how funds from last year's Regionwide Community Fund have been used.

Annandale Community Transport Services (ACTS) - £7,500 – Community Transport in Langholm & Canonbie

ACTS used their funding from the RWCF, alongside other local funders, to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle for community transport use.



The vehicle is currently being used in the Langholm/Canonbie area, driven by local volunteers (trained & disclosure checked) to provide an affordable and stress-free transport option for residents who need it to attend hospital appointments. The work was covered in the local newspaper, crediting this fund for its support.

Dalbeattie Star Youth Football - £1,411.66 – Training Equipment

The club spent their money on a variety of training equipment which has allowed them to train all of their youth football players on the Colliston Park community pitch during the summer months. The additional equipment has helped to train for free all summer, enabling enough money to be saved to pay for winter training pitch hire, taking place on the high school's 3G pitch. This has kept the training fees as low as possible, helping make the club accessible to all the children in the community.

“The money has massively improved the club's ability to provide fun structured training for all our players all year round. The club is going from strength to strength, with a large part of that due to the funding we received. The fact that we can get up to 90 children training and playing football on a regular basis outside, will greatly improve their physical and mental health. The club now has a committed forward thinking committee who are striving to keep progressing the club and to make the children's experience an enjoyable and fulfilling one. Thank you”

Kirkcudbright Community Tennis Club - £7,500 – Renovate Tennis Courts

The Kirkcudbright tennis courts were previously in a poor state of repair, and the club have used their RWCF grant to provide new courts that will last for years into the future. The new courts have already proved popular with players, seeing a growth in the club's membership numbers since the improvements. The club are also working towards taking on full management of the site through the Community Asset Transfer program.



Ae Community Council - £5,843.10 – Village Recreation Area

Ae's funding was spent clearing a recreation area in the village and to provide a hard path, drainage, handrail, and benches through the area. This allowed all residents to be able to use the space safely and those with poorer mobility are now able to access the site, especially in the winter months.

The village school benefited too; using this trail after lockdown as well as a socially distanced elf hunt for both school children and pre-schoolers being arranged which was enjoyed not only by the children but also the parents. There has been positive feedback from local residents, and once current restrictions lift there are further plans to use the spaces for school lessons with different themed trails and planting of fruit trees.

Coming Up

Dalswinton Windfarm Funds will be paid to communities in Nithsdale in early October, distributing around £40k to community benefit projects in that area.

Windfarm Community Funds - some dates for the calendar

- Next deadline for ANCBC main fund 3rd December (Annandale & Nithsdale)
- Next deadline for Kilgallioch Fund 18th October (West of region)
- Next deadline for Ewe Hill Fund 31st January 2022 (Annandale & Eskdale)
- D&G Regionwide Community Fund next opens in January 2022 (Regionwide)

Gentle Reminders



86 Community Councils are now established across the 12 Wards within Dumfries and Galloway.

Emailing Community Council contacts is the communication method used by DGC and we would appreciate each Community Council ensuring their main contact details are up to date and correct. Please check out the list of main contacts on the dumgal.gov website and if any changes are required, we would be grateful if you could notify us on Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk as soon as possible

Ward Officers can provide support with community engagement, community empowerment, community development and community planning. Click [here](#) to access more information about Ward Working across Dumfries and Galloway.

Has your Community Council registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) yet? Signed up for the free newsletter? Need more information on this? Visit the Information Commissioners Office [here](#)

Additional Information for Community Councillors on dumgal.gov website including Insurance, Discretionary Grants and Data Protection Registration is available [here](#)

The Voluntary Sector



TSDG Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

Community Councils are eligible to become Associate Members of Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Interface. The detailed website provides regular updates on Funding Opportunities, free subscription to the funding newsletter, training opportunities, volunteering opportunities and a great deal of useful information which is updated on a regular basis. Find the website [here](#)

Where can you find more Information?



www.communitycouncils.scot

Scottish Government Community Council website. This website is for anyone interested in community councils. The site has up to date information on news, events, guidance and grants as well as advice on how to be a Community Councillor. Check out the help and support section [here](#)

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Information based Dumfries and Galloway Council website features the services and functions of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Keep up to date on current consultations by going to the Get Involved page [here](#)

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils

Community Council Webpage – Useful information for Community Councils including Find my Community Council. In particular, check out the Information for Community Councils section [here](#) Keep your Community Council information on the webpage up to date. Send DGC any changes to membership or individual contact details to ensure all information sent out by DGC is being received correctly.

CCESCommunities@dumgal.gov.uk

A Dumfries and Galloway Council operated enquiry service. Send your request for support or any other topic of Community Council business. Need more information on CCES, click [here](#)

Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

The Community Council mailbox administered by Dumfries and Galloway personnel.

Send in your Agendas and Minutes to comply with the scheme – Role of Secretary, section 6.5 of the scheme [here](#)