



# Community Council NEWS

March 2022

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils)

## Some Winning News!

CoSLA's Excellence Awards, the annual celebration of Scottish Local Government success, took place virtually last week. The annual event recognises areas of best practice and innovatively delivering services. Scotland's 32 councils were invited to submit entries to a panel of judges drawn from local and national government and the private sector.

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Planning and Engagement Service won in the category for Stronger Communities, Especially in Light of COVID with its work on Community Resilience Strengthened Through COVID.



The Dumfries and Galloway project focussed on developing community resilience plans and groups that helped communities and individuals through the Covid pandemic by organising support around food, medical deliveries, how to manage volunteers with expenses, personal protective equipment (PPE), and ensuring that these plans and arrangements were sustainable. The submission highlighted the volunteer response and how the Council Officers supported them.

Councillor Alison Evison, CoSLA President and Chairperson of the Awards, said of the award: "It's been wonderful being part of the judging panel and hearing so many positive and inspiring stories from council teams working hard to deliver valued services in communities right across the country. The impact of Covid can't be underestimated. This year's entries emphasised the critical role councils played during the pandemic and are now playing in Scotland's recovery. But what really shone through from the entries was innovation at a local level and the sheer determination from Scotland's councils to simply make people's lives better at a very challenging time for all."



A video of the Council's entry can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/oXb69I42ysY>.

**Well done to everyone involved within our communities and our staff on the award.**

## New Volunteers Required

**for our Dumfries and Galloway Tackling Poverty Reference Group**

To make a positive difference to those experiencing poverty, a Tackling Poverty Reference Group was formed. This includes, and is increasingly driven by, a group of volunteers with direct experience of living in poverty. The volunteers come from across the region and a variety of groups involved in supporting issues around poverty. We are looking for new members to expand our group. Could You help us make a positive difference by supporting issues around poverty in Dumfries and Galloway? If you would like more information or would be interested in becoming a volunteer with the Dumfries and Galloway Tackling Poverty Group.

Please contact us to register your interest.

Telephone - 030 33 33 3000 or

Email - [ChallengePoverty@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:ChallengePoverty@dumgal.gov.uk)

**#SupportDG**

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

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS access the webpage for all things Community Council

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils)

While we recognise that there are currently no restrictions in place that prevent face to face meetings happening, the reality is that under the current circumstances we would strongly advise that consideration should be given to meeting virtually wherever possible. However, where this is not possible and if your meeting is essential then you must adhere to all the current Government Guidelines which includes the following mitigations:

- Test for Covid regularly.
- Lateral Flow Testing is an important route and is available widely
- On any occasion that you intend to socialise or mix with people from other households - whether that is in a community hall, restaurant, house or shopping centre – please do a Lateral Flow Test first.
- Wear face coverings on public transport, in shops, and when moving about in hospitality settings.
- Keep windows open to improve ventilation.
- Follow all advice on hygiene.
- Work from home if you can.

The following are some useful resources on how to host and attend meetings online, using either Zoom or Microsoft Teams and we continue to be able to support you to do this on a one to one basis if required.

### [Scottish Tech Army Training Materials](#)

 [Teams User Guide \[PDF - 3.8MB\]](#)

 [Zoom User Guide \[PDF - 1.59MB\]](#)

## 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](mailto:Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk)



FOR TIPS VISIT  
[CLEARYOURHEAD.SCOT](http://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.

## Missed this Open University Learning Opportunity?

### Additional Support for Community Councillors is still available and it is FREE

The Improvement Service and the Open University (OU) in Scotland are working together to offer all community council volunteers the opportunity to upskill and reskill using OU courses.

Throughout the pandemic the Improvement Service's Community Councils (CCs) project supported by Scottish Government has been trying to find ways to support CCs as they adapt to new ways of working and the OU was one of the organisations we reached out to and asked how they could help.

Many CCs have fully embraced the digital journey during the pandemic and there are courses here to help you continue that journey such as using Microsoft Teams and succeeding in a digital world. In addition to digital skills there are also courses on a range of other topics that community councillors have suggested including finance, fundraising, community and business skills.

The OU has many courses to choose from but if you would like to suggest additional topics for training not covered that would benefit CCs in Scotland please let us know by e-mail: [scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk)

So what are you waiting for? Brush up on your skills or learn some brand new ones with the OU, just click on the link below to begin your journey:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-support0>

## Planning and Licensing - Transforming Planning News Update

Community Councils can view the latest in-depth update from Scottish Government Planning and Architecture here

Local Place Plans Local Place Plans offer communities the opportunity to develop proposals for their local area, expressing their aspirations and ambitions for future change. The Scottish Government has prepared a Circular to accompany the legislation:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/circular-1-2022-local-place-plans/>

The Our Place Website was launched on 20 January 2022. It includes information, tools and resources to help support the development of places and services that improve our health, our prosperity, our quality of life and protect our environment. Click on the link above to find out more.

### Scottish Government Current Consultations

Community Councils may be interested in three current consultations from the Scottish Government.

**Draft National Planning Framework 4** - NPF4 will, when adopted, set out the Scottish Government's priorities and policies for the planning system up to 2045. Further resources are available at [www.transformingplanning.scot](http://www.transformingplanning.scot).

**Local Development Plan Regulations and Guidance** - seeks views on the secondary legislative requirements and the draft guidance on implementing the future local development plan system.

**Open Space Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments** - there are new duties on planning authorities to prepare and publish an Open Space Strategy, and to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in their area for children. Scottish Ministers have powers to prepare regulations and this consultation paper discusses the proposed provisions and seeks views on both sets of draft regulations.

The Scottish Government is inviting comments on the three consultations by 31 March 2022

DGC open consultations ([www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations))

**Dumfries & Galloway Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)** - ongoing

**Empty homes owners survey** - ongoing

You can view more information on past consultations [here](#).

## Licensing News

### Update on short term lets – Legislation Approved - Local authorities to set up licensing schemes

All short-term let properties will require a licence to ensure they are safe and the people providing them are suitable, under legislation approved by the Scottish Parliament. Local authorities will be required to establish a short-term lets licensing scheme by 1 October 2022 and existing hosts and operators will have until 1 April 2023 to apply for a licence. The legislation was developed after residents across Scotland raised significant concerns about the impact of short-term lets on their communities, including noise, antisocial behaviour and the impact on the supply on housing in some areas. It will ensure the needs and concerns of communities are balanced with wider economic and tourism interests. To find out more, check out the links below.

Web: [Scottish Government website](#) and [Transforming Planning](#)

Twitter: [@scotgovplanning](#) and [@DigiPlanningSG](#)

E-alerts: [Planning and Architecture news updates](#)

Online application service: [eDevelopment.scot](#)

Follow Scot.gov [blog](#) for news and stories from Planning and Architecture



### Consultations and Engagements

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



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](#)



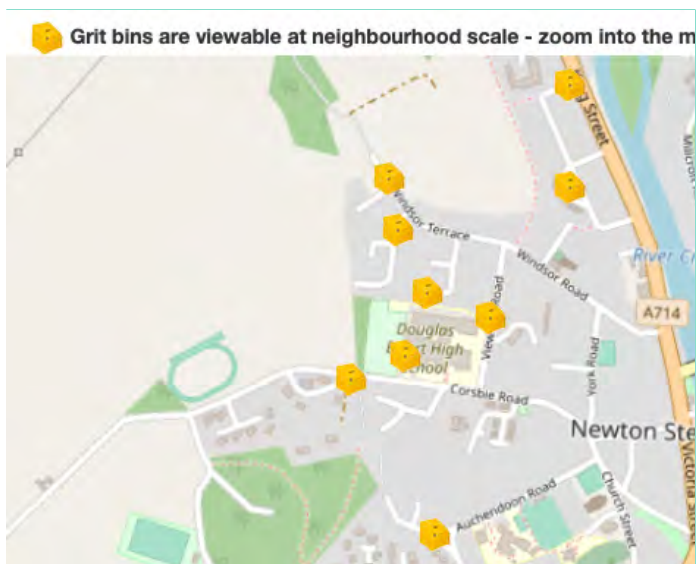
## Circulation List

The circulation continues to expand with new subscribers in 2022 and back editions of the Community Council newsletter available on the Community Council [webpage](#)

## Track My Gritter

**Track My Gritter is now live.** This new system allows members of the public to follow our newly named 18 winter service vehicles as they carry out winter maintenance on our primary and secondary routes across our region during periods of severe weather. The location of the vehicles is tracked on a map as they travel, providing their most up-to-date location. The map stores the last 12 hours of vehicle movements. Grit bins can also be viewed on the map and making it easier to report empty, missing or vandalised bins. You can access the map on

<https://dumgal.grittertracker.co.uk>



## Webpage Hits for Dec and Jan

Page views	550
Unique views	730

## Find your Community Council

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://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](mailto:Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk) and we will make the necessary changes.

## COVID

### Vaccination Update Young People aged 12 -17 GET VACCINATED

A call is being issued for young people aged 12 to 17 to attend one of the vaccination drop-in clinics in order to receive their second jag. Details on vaccinations and all the upcoming drop-in clinics can be found at the website [www.nhsdg.co.uk/vaccines](http://www.nhsdg.co.uk/vaccines) Drop-ins may require queuing and people are advised to dress warmly. Those eligible for a booster jag can use the national portal <https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp>, or by calling the free number 0800 030 8013. The local helpline can handle a limited number of enquiries for anyone experiencing problems with the national system - calling 01387 403090 or emailing [dg.covidenquiries@nhs.scot](mailto:dg.covidenquiries@nhs.scot) Any enquiries should go to Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership Communication and Engagement Manager Rod Edgar, by calling 01387 241061 (internal ext 33061) or emailing [rod.edgar@nhs.scot](mailto:rod.edgar@nhs.scot)



## YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

**Working with young people in Dumfries and Galloway**  
In some areas of the region, Community Councils have commented that they have very little interaction with local young people either through becoming Community Councillors or working with Community Councils on a regular basis. This does not need to be the case as we have many young people, across the region who are willing and able to be involved. Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council following their recent election and induction period, are now active. Why not take the opportunity to invite your Youth Councillors along to your Community Council to find out how you can work in partnership. Click on the link below and make that connection with your Youth Councillors.

Youth Councillors and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament are responsible for advocating on behalf of young people to local (Elected Members) and national (MPs and MSPs) decision makers to ensure that young people's voice are heard and acted upon. If you want to see who your representative is, here's a map outlining the membership of the Youth Council.

[View the Structure Youth Council 2019](#)

## Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee 2022

**Queens Jubilee Update several community councils are already planning their celebrations to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event in June this year.**

Funding, to support the events, is available through the [National Lottery Awards for All programme](#) (no deadline for applications). Applications for events and activities which celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee will be considered where the activity meets one of the standard Awards for All aims which are:

- bringing people together and building relationships in and across communities
- improving places and spaces that matter to communities
- help people reach their full potential by supporting them at an early stage



Further details on both programmes and how to apply are on the National Lottery website via the links above. Additional information can also be found on the Dumgal.gov website. Click on the links below to find out more.

[Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - Useful Information and Guidance - Dumfries and Galloway Council \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#)

[Lord Lieutenants in your area - Dumfries and Galloway Council \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#)

## FAQ's - Frequently Asked Questions from the Mailbox

### 'The Scheme'

The document that supports the rules, regulations and responsibilities of a Community Council is called the 'Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway', usually referred to as 'the scheme'. Quite a title and the document may appear a little daunting on closer inspection, however, please be assured this document is your friend and should be referred to at every opportunity, by every member of the Community Council.

### ICO - Information Commissioner's Office [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Section 2.5.9 of the scheme provides information on GDPR – general data protection regulations. Check out the changes to the website for the ICO, Information Commissioner's Office, and carry out the self-assessment to determine if the Community Council is required to register. The ICO have introduced this self-assessment as many voluntary groups, including Community Councils, were unsure if they were required to register or not and by completing this easy online tool, this will determine the outcome for your Community Council. If registration is required, a fee of £40 is charged and the amount can be taken from the Discretionary Grant received annually from DGC.

### Request for Training

Several Community Councils have been in contact recently requesting training sessions on the roles and responsibilities of a Community Council. These sessions are delivered by DGC staff and the training is focused on the scheme as a working document and this approach has received very encouraging feedback from participants.

## Report It Service

(Located at [WWW.DUMGAL.GOV.UK](http://WWW.DUMGAL.GOV.UK) opening screen)

Road Defects including potholes can be sent direct to the Report it system, located on the opening page of the Dumgal.gov webpage. The REPORT IT system allows the defect to be plotted on a map to ensure that the correct location is identified, processed for inspection and prioritised for repair. Each defect is assessed in accordance with current Dumfries and Galloway policy and the Well Managed Highways Infrastructure Code of Practice, which allows us to determine the level of risk posed by the defect and to prioritise and schedule for repair.

## RESILIENCE TEAMS UPDATE

Thanks to those who have recently updated their Community Resilience Plans. If you haven't already done so, please take time to revise and send through to us at [CommunityCouncils@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:CommunityCouncils@dumgal.gov.uk). The Resilience Team and Ward Officers are happy to help.

## IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

### Plea to help vulnerable adults at risk of harm.

People are being asked to keep an eye out for vulnerable adults in their local communities amid concerns the pandemic has left some people more isolated. Across Scotland around 750 referrals are made a week to Adult Support. Adult protection is everyone's business and every member of our community is due our consideration and protection. You might provide the vital piece in the jigsaw that helps keep someone safe, so, if you see something, say something. Contact details for where to make an adult protection referral in your local area can be found here [Act Against Harm Dumfries and Galloway](#)

### Still available

## RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC

### New Report Published on Community Empowerment

A recent report on the Principles for community empowerment, detailing how Scotland's public bodies worked with communities and empowered community organisations to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic is still available on the Audit Scotland website. The community response to Covid-19 demonstrated how community organisations, including Community Councils, can be more effective when bureaucratic hurdles are removed. If you want to read the report in full, you can find it on the Audit Scotland website by clicking [here](#)

### Scottish Local Government Elections 5 May 2022

The next scheduled election is the Scottish Local Government Election, which will be held on Thursday 5 May 2022. Forty-three members will be elected to represent the 12 Wards of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Some Community Councillors are being approached by candidates to attend meetings and introduce themselves. As the scheme clearly states that Community Councils are inclusive and remain open and transparent in their actions, it is recommended that any requests from any prospective candidates should be met with the same level of inclusion, regardless of any political influence.

## Watch Out for Covid Scams

Unfortunately, COVID scam text messages and emails are still happening in Dumfries and Galloway and across Scotland.

If you receive what looks like an official text message or email about COVID – such as a warning that you have been exposed to COVID or offering a digital coronavirus passport, or an offer of a test or a vaccination – always ask four questions:

1. Does it look unusual – odd language, misspellings or unusual phrasing?
2. Does it come from an unknown number or email address?
3. Does it ask me to visit an unfamiliar website?
4. Does it ask me for money, credit card details or other personal information?

In recent instances, **messages have taken people to fraudulent NHS look-a-like sites where they are asked to input their personal details and provide payment for a test.** These are scams – be on your guard and ask yourself the four questions above. **Never click on links in unsolicited emails**, no matter how convincing they look. And **never share your bank details** – the NHS does not ask you to pay for test kits.

If you're in any doubt, check with an official source such as the [NHS Dumfries and Galloway](#) website or the [Test and Protect](#) website. If you think you've received a fraudulent text message or email, forward it [tradingstandards@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@dumgal.gov.uk) or call 030 33 33 3000.

Last, remain scam aware, and remember – **if you think a message or an email to do with COVID doesn't look or seem right, then it probably isn't.**

**To avoid any confusion between Local Government and Community Council Ordinary Elections**, Scheme 7.2 provides the process to follow for Community Council Ordinary Elections and these take place every 5 years, following the same frequency as Local Government Elections but not necessarily taking place in the same year. The most recent Community Council Ordinary Election occurred in October 2019 and the next scheduled Community Council Ordinary Election will take place in October 2024. Casual Vacancy Elections can occur at any time within the 5 year term and allow the Community Council to fill existing vacancies, following the structured election process, without any disruption to Community Council business.

# Windfarm Funding

## News with James Parker

There are now many windfarms across the region providing community benefits to local communities. Over the coming newsletters, we'll be profiling a few of these and highlighting some of the work the funding has done so far.

[James.Parker@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:James.Parker@dumgal.gov.uk)



## Windfarm Fund Profile - Minsca

Minsca Windfarm is located on Risp Hill, 5 miles to the east of Lockerbie, next to the remains of one of the region's prehistoric settlements (more info on that here). The windfarm has been operating and paying community benefit funding since summer 2008.

### Technical info

- Number of turbines: **16 x Siemens SWT**
- Installed Capacity: **36.8MW**
- Hub height: **80m**
- Blade length: **40m**
- Powers around **21,750 homes**

A small selection of what the fund has supported over the past 14 years for the surrounding communities:

- **Corrie** have carried out significant improvements to their village hall
- **Middlebie & Waterbeck** have converted stables to a community facility
- **Tundergarth** have funded trips for the local scout group
- Multiple communities have used the funding to install defibrillators
- **Cummertrees** have installed electronic speed warning signs
- **Eastriggs D&C** have funded the local Christmas lights
- **Gretna & Riggs** have supported local sports facilities (Raydale project)
- **Langholm** have funded their junior rugby tournament
- **Lockerbie** supported their Royal British Legion Scotland Pipe Band
- **Royal Four Towns** run their community website
- **Annan** fund their annual Remembrance Day events

Application deadlines for the following funds

- Kilgallioch Fund 20th June 2022 (West of region)
- Ewe Hill Fund 31st July 2022 (Annandale & Eskdale)
- D&G Regionwide Community Fund April 22nd 2022 (Regionwide)

## Sharing Good Practice across the Region

**Kirkpatrick Fleming Community Council** are ensuring that traffic on local roads follow the required speed limit by recently installing 4 Speed Indicator Devices. The Scottish Government/Transport Scotland are encouraging the use of these signs as effective traffic calming features in their policy papers and they are already proving a deterrent to drivers on the roads approaching Kirkpatrick Fleming.

Facebook is becoming more widely used by Community Councils across the region and **Dunscore Community Council** have ensured that the Fairtrade Big Brew event is well publicised on their Facebook page. Take a look [here](#)

**Kirkcolm Community Council** have set up a repair system at the Wig Car Park as reported on Rhinns Active Facebook Page. Visitors and local cyclists can pump up tyres and use the tools to carry out emergency repairs. Check out the post [here](#)



# 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](http://dumgal.gov) website and if any changes are required, we would be grateful if you could notify us on [Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)