

## Minutes

### **Dalry Community Development Hub (DCDH)**

#### **Trustee - Business and Progress meeting**

**Venue:** The Carriage House, Blair Estate: **Date:** 12th August 2015: **Time:** 7.15pm start.

#### **Attendees:**

James McCosh	Chair
Sheena Woodside	Treasurer
Alastair Adamson	Co-opted Secretary
Lina Borwick	Trustee
Hilary Storm	Trustee
Myra Sim	Trustee
Hamish Harkness	Trustee
Heather Grossart	Trustee
Catherine McMillan	Trustee
Stephanie Ross	Trustee
Caroline Cooper	
Ann Bell	
Fiona Middler	
Luke Borwick	
Audrey Hillis	NAC (apologies)

#### **1. Welcome / Introduction - purpose of meeting**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance, thanked Luke and Lina for hosting the meeting and asked those attendees, not yet Trustees, to consider offering their services to the Hub.

As the agenda has a significant number of issues to be discussed, the Chairman requested that a maximum of 10 minutes be allocated to each topic.

#### **2. Record apologies and agree minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 DCDH meeting.**

Apology for absence was recorded from "birthday girl" Audrey Hillis NAC.

The minutes of the DCDH meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Heather Grossart

Seconded: Sheena Woodside

#### **[minutes 150609 - link](#)**

#### **3. Presentations, Progress reports and Plans.**

- **Dalry Station – progress report and 2 year Development Plan for 2015-2017.**

Anne Bell and Fiona Middler attended the meeting to update the trustees on current progress being achieved through the Dalry Station initiative.

Since the Dalry Station sub-group was established, significant progress has been witnessed by the station users, and further improvement initiatives are now planned over the next 2 years.

Reference was made to the following papers provided by Anne and Fiona:-

**[Dalry Station Garden Project Plan – link](#)**

**[Dalry Station Notice - link](#)**

**[Dalry Station Garden Project work plan 2015 - link](#)**

**[Wildflower Garden Project work plan - link](#)**

**[Dalry Station Plan - link](#)**

The sub-group was congratulated on the progress achieved to date.

Further help and support will be required to ensure delivery of the proposed 2 year plan.

Resources are likely to be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from Garnock

Academy Duke of Edinburgh Award group.

Criminal Justice people may also be able to provide some help on a "call off" basis.

More volunteers from the hub and Dalry community would also assist.

The main thrust of the works to be undertaken over the next 3 months will be as follows:

1. An all day event at **Dalry Station on 18<sup>th</sup> September** to help publicise the current and proposed works being carried out at the station.

John Yellowlees (Scotrail Community Liaison) and Louis Wall (Nurseryman providing plants) hope to attend. – **any trustees willing to help?**

2. Come up with some ideas for features at the station. Anne specifically requested that, due to non availability of a mains water supply, no more planters should be considered for the station. Anne also confirmed that Scotrail would not include any water catchment arrangements in their design for the proposed replacement platform shelters.

3. Generate funding applications through the DCDH.

It was agreed that arrangement would be made for the subgroup to complete and submit a funding application to BeGreen/DPBT, based on the current costing information contained in the circulated project plan, before the next meeting of the DCDH.

4. Secure the help of more volunteers, and encourage the community to donate plants and seeds.

- **Lynn Glen - progress report.**

Reference was made to the various Lynn Glen walk sub-group papers and the progress report circulated before the meeting:-

**1. Lynn Glen Walk – Progress report - link**

**2. Lynn Glen Walk – Survey report notes from "Access Officer" - link**

**3. Lynn Glen Walk – Survey report from Leslie Baird - link**

**4. Lynn Glen Walk – Survey report Map 1 - link**

**5. Lynn Glen Walk – Survey report Map 2 - link**

**6. Lynn Glen Walk – NAC "extract of 2004 outdoor access strategy" - link**

James McCosh confirmed that he was making progress with the required arrangements to secure signed agreements from the 5 land owners to access the various sectors of the Lynn Glen walk to carry out the identified remedial work.

The necessary documents have now been produced and arrangements are in hand to meet with the land owners. James McCosh with assistance from Jim Hair hope to have this very important milestone completed before the DCDH next meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.

When the agreements have been secured, phase 1 of the remedial works will then be able to proceed.

Alastair Adamson confirmed that he had "e" mailed and discussed the missing (Miss Archibald's) plaque with Louise Kirk. To date no further information has been secured. It would appear that the plaque disappeared at the time NAC realigned the road bridge. It was suggested that J McC could also ask Mr Russell if he has any information about the plaque in the archived files related to the estate of Miss Archibald.

James McCosh highlighted his concern about potential liability issues.

Alastair Adamson suggested that this could be resolved if the Hub could convince NAC to agree to a joint partnership for the Lynn Glen walk restoration initiative and longer term maintenance. NAC could be responsible for any liabilities, surveys and any other assistance that could be offered by the Access Forum, and the Hub would facilitate the securing of funds, sponsorship and volunteers.

AA also suggested contacting DSM, Reid's, CWPL and Wilson's as potential sponsors.

The future could be:-

***“The Lynn Glen Walk is supported by NAC, DCDH and the following sponsors”***

Luke Borwick agreed to discuss this and other Dalry walks issues with Louise Kirk NAC access officer, and at the NAC Access Forum meetings.

JMcC / AA will also raise this issue with Dr Audrey Sutton Head of Service, Economy and Communities and Andrew Fraser Head of Democratic Services.

Hamish Harkness asked about the initiatives that had been undertaken regarding “Path Maintenance” and “Dry Stane Dyking” courses. JMcC confirmed that a number of Garnock Academy pupils currently involved with The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme had participated in both courses. A trained resource was now willing and able to undertake work at the Lynn Glen, when arrangements are finalised and a programme of work is agreed and funded. Other local residents have also indicated their willingness to volunteer.

Sheena Woodside had initially volunteered to engage with the youth in the schools but this did not happen as workshops were initiated.

As there was some concern that this initiative could stall, it was agreed that further School engagement would be necessary to ensure continued commitment from the youth of the Garnock Valley.

Lina Borwick offered to help the sub-group with this task.

The sub-group (SW, HG, CMcM) working with Audrey Hillis of NAC, has successfully delivered a number of start-up actions.

Audrey Hillis would now like to proceed with funding applications based on the information currently available. The trustees now require to give serious consideration to this urgent task and decide how best to support Audrey with this task.

Sheena Woodside requested additional help from other DCDH trustees to help expedite this action.

- **Brighten up Dalry Town Centre - progress report.**

It was noted that the consensus view, solicited from the Dalry community, was something should be done to improve the Dalry Town Centre.

Sheena Woodside raise her concerns at the June DCC meeting, and asked for an assurance that both bollard and tree issues would be addressed.

Having witnessed the deterioration of the Cross which was revitalised in 2009, and the attempts by NAC during June/July 2015 to resolve one or two issues raised by others, a letter was written to NAC on behalf of DCDH requesting confirmation that remedial work would be addressed and new trees would be planted. When it became clear that NAC did not intend to provide new trees and were only willing to undertake some minor cosmetic changes, it was concluded that a meeting should be arranged with NAC and representatives of the town. This meeting was convened at the Cross on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 11 am – 11.45 am.

At a meeting later that day, JMcC / AA raised the question of the Scottish Governments “Town Centre First” policy (Town Centre Tool Kit) with Dr Audrey Sutton NAC.

Reference was then made to the resulting report circulated in advance of the meeting and other relevant associated papers.

**[Brighten up Dalry Town Centre progress report - link](#)**

**[NAC proposals subsequent to 6<sup>th</sup> Aug meeting – link \(still to be received\)](#)**

**[Town Centre Tool Kit – link](#)**

**<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/04/9849/0>**

**[Place Standard for Scotland – link](#)**

JMcC confirmed the result of the meeting was that NAC were now prepared to undertake significant works at Dalry Cross and surrounding area. Confirmation of Phase 1 works

and timescales should be received from Chris Gooding of NAC within the next couple of weeks.

AA reported that Audrey Hillis was currently organising a meeting to undertake a pilot “testing” which NAC had now identified Dalry as the subject for this initiative.

It is understood that the purpose of the session is to test the tool which is still in its pilot stage, and should not as yet be seen to raise any false expectations of future development or changes within the town.

This pilot will hopefully embrace both “Scottish Governments Town Centre Tool Kit” and “Place Standard for Scotland” and will in time allow the Dalry community to support improvements to more than just the immediate Town Centre area.

The DCDH have already identified a number of issues at the Cross and other central community areas. We now have the opportunity to influence and add support to the new direction NAC now wish to take.

This meeting, which will be facilitated by the North Ayrshire Council Planning Team, has been arranged to be held in Rosearden, Courthill St. Dalry from 7 pm – 9 pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. All DCDH trustees will be invited to attend.

Put on your thinking caps and come up with some suggestions.

Dalry Cross, 22 Sharon St, improving the pedestrian route from the Smith Street car park via Masonic Lodge to the Cross and concerns about a number of outstanding “NAC enforcement orders” related to Town Centre properties are already on the DCDH hit list.

- **22 Sharon St. - update.**

AA expressed his concern that the DCC had, at their June 15 meeting, recorded that they had been approached by a member of the Dalry community who had raised concerns about the current state of the plot of land at 22 Sharon St (Old School grey building and playground). This resulted in the DCC corresponding with NAC requesting that the housing proposals detailed in the NAC sales package should be implemented as quickly as possible. It was agreed that the DCDH should write to DCC requesting further detail about this request and why they considered this to be the representative view of the community.

In 2014 the DCDH, having solicited the view of the community at their well attended public meetings, agreed to investigate the practicalities of 22 Sharon St. being retained for long-term Community facilities development. As this plot of land is adjacent to the current Dalry Campus, and would be ideal for staged developments of further community facilities (Buildings, parking and open activity space) there is concern that this opportunity could be lost forever and significant congestion problems could result, if housing was developed on this site.

**22 Sharon St – summer 2014 correspondence with NAC - link**

AA reminded the trustees of the 041214 letter sent by Lina Borwick on behalf of the DCDH to Kenneth Gibson / Katy Clark and subsequent letters sent to local elected officers by other trustees.

**22 Sharon St. letter of 041214 – link**

The trustees agreed that this issue should again be pursued with some urgency.

***This could possibly be raised at the pilot “Place Standard for Scotland” meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> August at Rosearden as the attendance will no doubt be representative of the various sectors interested in Dalry’s future wellbeing.***

If it is established that the pilot “Place Standard for Scotland” is not an appropriate avenue to progress this issue, the DCDH will send a further letter to NAC.

- **Dalry Boundary - progress report.**

AA gave a brief resume of the 16<sup>th</sup> June meeting between Andrew Fraser / Audrey Sutton of NAC and JMcC / AA of DCDH. This meeting's main agenda item was the response made by NAC to the recent Boundary Commission proposals, and how NAC's recommendations differed to those being suggested. The Boundary Commission has subsequently rejected the NAC proposals and the issue is now open to public consultation.

Reference was then made to correspondence circulated to trustees in advance of the meeting.

[\*\*Dalry Boundary Progress Report - link\*\*](#)  
[\*\*NAC proposed Boundary Map - link\*\*](#)

Having considered the significant benefits the NAC proposals could secure for Dalry, the DCDH agreed to submit a response to this consultation supporting the NAC case.

Draft response: -

[\*\*DCDH response to the Boundary Commission consultation – link \( still to be completed\)\*\*](#)

- **Community Benefit - progress report.**

JMcC confirmed that he was still finding it very difficult to secure a meeting with Mr Rod Wood of CWPL. He also indicated that his attempts to meet and discuss the DCDH concerns about community benefit with Mr Kenneth Gibson MSP, Councillor Robert Barr and Robert Barr of DPBT had not significantly progressed.

JMcC reported that he had secured a telephone conversation with Kenneth Gibson MSP who had now offered to help facilitate a meeting between representatives of DCDH and Mr Rod Wood of CWPL.

Reference was then made to correspondence circulated to trustees in advance of the meeting.

[\*\*Community Benefit – Progress report and recommended actions - link\*\*](#)

The contents of the report, and its recommended actions, were agreed in principle. It was however suggested, that before any formal correspondence was sent, an informal meeting should take place between James McCosh / A Adamson / Audrey Mason. JMcC agreed to arrange this meeting within the next couple of weeks.

AA agreed to prepare and circulate a report on the outcome of both proposed meetings to the trustees.

- **Funding opportunities, applications and initiatives – progress report.**  
Report from A Hillis was noted.

- **Local Youth Action Plan – progress report.**  
Report from A Hillis was noted.

[\*\*Youth Questionnaire Results - link\*\*](#)

- **Ayrshire 21 – progress report.**  
Report from A Hillis was noted.

[\*\*Ayrshire Leader-themes, objectives and priorities - link\*\*](#)

- **Dalry Bypass. – What can the DCDH do to help Dalry secure this long awaited development?**

J McC confirmed that he had managed to discuss the concerns of the Dalry Community about the apparent lack of progress with the Bypass. JMcC reported that Kenneth Gibson MSP had stated that he now hoped the final approval by the Scottish Ministers would shortly be secured, and funding would be made available for an anticipated September 2016 start. Luke Borwick voiced his concern that the Bypass would never happen unless significant lobbying was immediately instigated.

Reference was then made to correspondence circulated to trustees in advance of the meeting.

**[Dalry Bypass – How can DCDH help influence a speedy implementation?- link](#)**

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the First Minister, and other elected representatives, by the Dalry Community Development Hub, asking for a commitment to the funding and delivery of the Dalry Bypass at the earliest possible date.

Draft of proposed letter:-

**[Dalry would like its Bypass – link](#)**

Letter to be sent to First Minister before 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

**[Letter sent to First Minister - link](#)**

- **Dalry Scout Hall – update**

It was agreed, as there was still some confusion about Community Benefit funding for the proposed refurbishment of the Smith Street Scout Hall, that a clear statement should be secured by DCDH when the proposed meetings with DPBT and CWPL finally take place.

**4. Agree arrangements and time line for first years financial reporting and audit.**

Further investigation will be undertaken (AA/JMcC/SW) before any final decision is made regarding how best to comply with statutory requirements.

**5. Agree venue date and time for AGM, and consider other dates and times for future meetings planned between September 2015 and March 2016.**

JMcC suggested that further discussion would be appropriate before the AGM date is finalised. This will be an agenda item for the next DCDH meeting.

It was agreed that the next Trustee business meeting of the DCDH will be:-

**Venue: The Carriage House, Blair Estate Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 Time: 7.15pm start.**

Other meeting dates for November 2015, End January/February 2016 and March 2016 still to be agreed. It was suggested that the November 2015 meeting should be a Public meeting. AA will circulate a number of proposed date options for consideration before the 23<sup>rd</sup> September

meeting.

## **6. Any other DCDH business?**

Sheena Woodside confirmed that significant progress had been made by the Dalry Sports Club with their proposed initiative to secure the required funding to develop the Dalry Park.

It has been reported that the Dalry Parish Boundary Trust is now actively engaged with the Dalry Sports Club project and currently considering how best to assist with its delivery.

AA indicated that Paul Nelis of SCDC had been in contact, and had asked if he could attend the next DCDH business meeting. Paul wishes to establish where the group are and to finalise SCDC support as they are now at the end of the Supporting Communities (Phase1)

Paul had been advised that this meeting would take place on week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> September. AA asked the trustees to consider how best to address and progress any outstanding actions, as detailed in the Dalry Community Development Hub (DCDH) – Plan, before the September meeting convenes.

[\*\*DCDH Outcomes - link\*\*](#)

## **7. Close**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.