

[DCDH Letter of 041214 – Re: 22 Sharon St. site.](#)

Dear Kenny and Katy,

As our active and concerned political representatives I wanted to share the extreme concerns we, as the trustees of the newly formed Dalry Community Development Hub, have over the proposed sale for housing of the old School area in Dalry.

In the Dalry Action Plan, expensively commissioned by NAC, one of the acknowledged needs was a safe and central meeting place which provided a centre for the young people of Dalry, a Youth orientated centre with all the potential for the development of life skills and social interaction.

The one site that would have the opportunity for improving the vitally needed chances for Dalry's youth is being subsumed by NAC with the aim of putting in more houses just to raise money.

WHY are we sitting back and allowing this total disregard of our Council to recognise that YOUNG people are our future and without proper facilities and safe places to go and be we are just storing up more trouble. Dalry does NOT need to be a dormitory that does not care for or cater for its young people.

The decision to raze the old school building was a disastrous one as the building along with the area around it was the perfect place for a 'Teens sanctuary' a skate park, a Mugger play area, a 'dry cafe/safe centre' a place to be and to explore development opportunities.

There are at least four other areas zoned for housing in Dalry which are in no way critical to the opportunity to provide a safe place for the young in the centre of the town and will provide excellent quality housing.

If the other areas are successfully developed and the Town Hall is sold the money could go towards providing the central facilities for the young that we so badly need if the needs of young people are to be catered for and these facilities need to be central to the town. This would improve Dalry and make it an appealing place to live, help revive the centre, improve peoples' awareness of the facilities on offer and help Dalry be distinctive in the area.

From the information received from the young people, the area around the new school is a place they feel safe which is why they congregate there. There is a lamentable failure on the behalf of NAC to consider the needs of our young people.

What does it cost to rescue them from the disasters for boredom, lack of appropriate support, and safe places to be and grow up?

The costs of NOT considering the emotional, physical and psychological needs of our young people between the critical ages of 13 to 17 are HUGE in many areas such as medical, social, psychological and employment. We have a social and community responsibility to ensure that the whole needs of all the age groups in the community are appropriately catered for.

Dalry has the advantage of a number of concerned community groups who are prepared to put their time, effort and expertise to use for the Community. This flagrant disregard on behalf of NAC of their own Dalry Action Plan given the new initiatives of the Dalry Community Development Hub and other concerned groups for the short term gain of selling off the Old School area is appalling.

What message do we want to give of Dalry? Do we want to spread the message that the town we are proud of is a good place to LIVE? Living involves more than just houses. Good facilities for young people is a CRITICAL aspect of quality of life for families.

If this planning goes ahead what chances of any money raised being spent in Dalry for the one thing we desperately need to improve the lot of the most critical age group in our community? With the Town Hall also up for sale where are we fighting for the needs of Dalry as a COMMUNITY?

We need all those who care for Dalry and the future of the town, which is of value to all those who live here, to fight for our young people and their needs.

As a panel member of the Children's Hearings we see the consequences of failure to address the needs of young people and the disastrous consequences daily.

Caroline N Borwick (Trustee)  
on behalf of the Dalry Community Development Hub.

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