

Minutes

Dalry Community Development Hub (DCDH)

Trustee - Business and Progress meeting

Venue: Rosearden, Courthill St. **Date:** 13th April 2016 **Time:** 7.00 pm start.

Invited Attendees:

James McCosh	Chair
Sheena Woodside	Treasurer
Alastair Adamson	Secretary
Myra Sim	Trustee
Hamish Harkness	Trustee
Heather Grossart	Trustee
Catherine McMillan	Trustee
Caroline Cooper	Trustee (apologies)
Reg N-Graham	Trustee (on holiday)
Audrey Hillis	NAC
Thomas Reaney	NAC (apologies)
Anthony Hume	NAC
Jane Lamont	Beith Trust
Janet Gibson	DAG

1. Welcome/Introduction - purpose of meeting

James McCosh welcomed all and noted the attendance of invited representatives: Jane Lamont of Beith Trust and Janet Gibson of DAG.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to progress current initiatives and to consider any further activities the DCDH has been requested to address.

2. Record apologies and agree minutes of 26 January 2016 DCDH trustees meeting.

Apologies received from Caroline Cooper and Thomas Reaney was recorded. The minutes of the 26th January 2016 meeting were proposed for acceptance by Heather Grossart and seconded by Catherine McMillan.

Jane Lamont, Beith Trust provided some basic information about Beith Trust and the success the group had achieved to date.

Jane then introduced the concept of BID, as currently operated in the business district of Largs, and informed the meeting that £25k had been secured for Beith to undertake a similar "Pilot" scheme. Jane will be co-ordinating the Beith BID activities and wondered if this concept could be extended to include Kilbirnie, Glengarnock and Dalry business groups. The trustees agreed that the proposed initiative would be better discussed with Business Dalry, and it was suggested that Jane should contact Fiona Middler of Business Dalry for further consideration and support.

James McCosh thanked Jane for her very interesting presentation, and suggested that the future NAC proposals for Community Council revisions and Locality Planning Groups are issues which will no doubt require to be closely monitored by both groups.

3. “Stalled Spaces” funding and progress currently achieved with “left of 70 New St” site.

Dalry Community Development Hub was formed in 2014 with the aim of improving the environment of Dalry. One of the key aims is to Brighten up Dalry Town Centre. DCDH have been offered the chance of a funding package to tackle a “stalled space” within Dalry town centre. To this end, DCDH are particularly interested in improving the land to the west of 70 New Street in Dalry. North Ayrshire Council has advised that this site would meet the criteria for funding, since the land is vacant and unsightly. DCDH have checked that there is currently no permission in place for the redevelopment of the land. A stalled space project would involve the local community carrying out environmental improvements to the land at no cost to the current landowner. The Dalry Community Development Hub believes that such a project would make a positive difference to Dalry town centre at this very prominent location. Negotiation with the landowner is currently taking place. If an agreement can be obtained, it is hoped that funding can be released and the work undertaken by DCDH during the summer of 2016.

Sheena Woodside confirmed that the application for £5k had been successfully secured from “Stalled Space” and it was hoped that the current impasse, regarding terms and conditions between DCDH / Landowner (Mr MacMullen), could be resolved before the end of April 2016.

Public liability insurance will require to be in place before any work is carried out.

4. Lynn Glen – Tesco’s Bags of help - funding success and any ongoing issues to be resolved.

Having been successful with our bid to Tesco’s Bags of help funding, the DCDH will now require completing a number of terms and conditions requirements before the Phase 1 portion of the £8k funding is released.

- James McCosh to secure landowners agreements.
- Sheena Woodside to provide required bank account details.
- Alastair Adamson to secure 3 quotes for Public Liability insurance.
- Alastair Adamson to complete and submit final documentation to Tesco’s.

To comply with the T&C’s, all of the above actions should be completed by end of April 2016.

A meeting requires to be arranged with East Ayrshire Woodlands Trust, to progress outstanding actions related to costing estimates for identified Lynn Glen works, before the next meeting of DCDH on 18th May 2016.

5. Paths for All – funding application to improve “Park Walk” section from Courthill Street to Rye Bridge.

Dalry currently has a number of documented “Easy Healthy Walks in Dalry”, sponsored by NAC and Ways 2 Walk. (Literature can be found in Dalry Library). The recommended “Public Park” walk is one used by many residents of Dalry. Unfortunately there is one part of this route needing urgent attention. For more than 12 years the sector “At Tofts’ Mill Bridge following the track down to the Rye Water, passing the disused Mill Lade on your way” has been neglected, and has suffered from the common problem of “it’s not my remit” continually stated by the powers at NAC. This sector is full of water filled pot holes, and offers the community a very muddy and unwelcoming experience. The rest of the walk is good underfoot, and can be tackled with just a pair of comfortable shoes. This issue has been highlighted on many occasions to NAC and our local councillors. Nothing has been done to make any significant improvements. DCDH having been asked by the community to add this to their 2016 projects has now attempted to secure funding to address the problem.

Alastair Adamson confirmed that most of the requirements of the application for £1.5k from “Paths for All” to fund the improvement to the path surface from Courthill St. to Rye Bridge of the “Dalry Park Walk” were now completed, and the timescales of 29th April 2016 date for submission would be met.

The application will be completed when the promised “note of comfort” from NAC, regarding ownership of this section of path, is received.

It was noted that the DCDH public liability insurance and a risk assessment would require to be arranged in advance of any work being undertaken at the site.

6. Dalry Town Centre improvements – progress report.

Alastair Adamson presented an update, and confirmed that every effort would be made to ensure that all promised works would be completed by NAC before 12th June 2016.

The following issues require to be progressed with Thomas Reaney of NAC and arrangements made for his attendance at the May 2016 DCDH trustee business meeting:

Dalry Town Centre – Update (April 2016)

Parking at Kings Revolution

The Roads department are installing 7 new bollards at The Cross, opposite the public house. These will be set back approx. 1.8m from the edge of the kerb. Two of the bollards will be lockable and keys will be given to the church officer to enable access for weddings and funerals. A Roads officer is due to meet with the church officer and the bollards should be installed thereafter by end of April 2016.

Loose block paving at the edge of the road will be repaired as part of the instruction. In addition, the Roads team will inspect car parking signs within the town to check if any additional directional signs are required. This issue is complicated by the one-way system in North Street/New Street which controls the route to the various car parks.

The PUBLIC meeting of August 2015 with NAC, and the February 2016 revisit by Thomas Reaney / Ian Kinghorn of NAC, identified the need to resolve the bollard issues directly opposite the Kings Revolution and also “close off” other access points round the perimeter

of the "Community Area". The recently reported works appears to have addresses the road marking for parking outside the public house (recently completed) and the 7 new bollards will no doubt secure the "Community Area" from access at this point, unfortunately no confirmation of the additional bollards required round the rest of the perimeter has been given.

It was agreed with NAC that large gaps existed with the current bollard arrangements, and a proposal for the provision of additional bollards would be prepared by NAC to resolve this. The proposed solution will address the access needs of St Margaret's Church and other users (SPT bus monthly visit, RBS mobile bank and Christmas activities).

DCDH hope to secure a final a drawing from NAC detailing their final "Community Area" layout proposals for seats, bins and other street furniture?

Other adjacent "The Cross" issues identified at the meetings, regarding refuse bins, the need to revise the arrangements at the corner of Courthill Street, and what is proposed when the public toilet is removed, were actions which it is understood will be included with this project.

Railings at St Margaret's Church

A contractor visited the site on 1 April 2016 to provide an estimate of the cost and timescale for completing this. The NAC Property team is working with NAC Planning on this, as it's a Historic Scotland site. Hopefully the planning process won't be too onerous, as it is replacement works not new works. NAC will keep the DCDH informed of any progress made.

Trees in the town centre

NAC still have reservations regarding the reinstatement of the 3 Trees at Dalry Cross. As an alternative they have offered to plant suitable trees in the area at the front of the Churchyard. The DCDH are still pursuing this issue and hope to secure a resolution which will result in trees being planted in the area at the front of Churchyard and suitable trees being sourced and planted by NAC to replace the 3 trees which were removed from the Cross a year or so ago.

Look at: http://www.urbanrealm.com/news/3734/Irvine_Magnum_Centre_replacement_unveiled.html

It is interesting to note the proposed trees at the new Irvine development. – Were trees provided?

Other Areas of improved signage

DCDH anticipate receiving final documented proposals from NAC for information and use. This should now include the provision of a map and improved signage at the Bridgend/Bridgend Lane corner, improved signage at Bridgend/ A737 "T" junction and a significant improvement to the current Town Centre arrangements. Although a public notice board as such will not be provided at the Bridgend/Bridgend Lane corner, it was agreed as a concession that there will be a small board below the map to accommodate information such as Taxi numbers and any other critical information required by the public arriving by train to Dalry.

Signage information for "Lovers Walk leading to Lynn Glen" and "National Cycle Route" is also being considered.

7. Other progress reports and Plans.

- Dalry Bypass – progress

It was agreed that there was still a need to confirm that the Den realignment funding has been made available in addition to the Dalry By-pass funding and that the final timescales for the completion of all of the works will not extend beyond 2017 – 2018 financial year. If Kenneth Gibson is re-elected on 5th May 2016, he will be invited to attend the 18th May DCDH meeting to provide an update.

- Dalry Scout Hall – progress.

Little or no physical progress has been observed, and the many promised start dates and completion dates are now passed.

- Progress achieved by Dalry Sports Club – Dalry Park development project.

Sheena Woodside will enquire and report at next meeting.

- NAC consultation on Revision of Community Councils (this will include the revised community council boundaries which the DCDH has lobbied for over the past two years).

Nothing more to report other than community council boundary now aligns with post code and historic parish boundary.

- NAC consultation on Locality Planning.

Councillor Catherine McMillan indicated that she was likely to be the newly appointed chair of the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership. Further information will be provided by Catherine at the next DCDH trustee business meeting.

- NAC consultation on Community Benefit.

Reported as completed.

AA will provide update at next DCDH trustee business meeting.

- Community Empowerment

AA will report, on his attendance at the Monday 18th April Kilmarnock focus group meeting, at next DCDH trustee business meeting.

- Windfarm Community Benefit. (funds available to Dalry from CWPL and RES developments)

Little has been addressed by the DCDH since the AGM of 2nd March 2016.

It has now been clearly established that developers do not require to provide any community benefit from onshore renewable developments, and the current Holyrood ministers and MSPs are not prepared to do anything substantial to address the current injustices being perpetrated on the good people of Dalry. With the recent revision of Community Council Boundary definitions, to make them align with Post Code and Historic Parish, the capacity of wind farms being hosted by the community of Dalry is now slightly in excess of 70MW. (Kelburn + Dalry Community + Millour Hill) According to Holyrood this should result in £350k per annum being received by the host community.

The DCDH is still attempting to establish how much Dalry has and will receive.

RES (Kelburn Wind Farm – 28 MW) still refuse to allow Dalry to apply for any of the voluntary funding they provide. Only Fairlie, Largs and Cumbrae can apply for funds. CWPL (Dalry Community Wind Farm – 18MW) provides community benefit as and when they see fit.

CWPL (Millour Hill Wind Farm – 24.4MW) – Dalry Parish Boundary Trust and CWPL still require to provide a clear indication of what funds have and will be provided.

Will an index linked sum of £122,000.00 per annum be made available from 1st April 2016?

- 22 Sharon Street proposals.

As a consequence of the correspondence sent by DCDH to NAC and elected representatives, the site at 22 Sharon Street is no longer up for sale. NAC are currently retaining ownership and considering how best the land can be used for immediate and future “Community” needs. The “For Sale” signs and website advert are now reported as having been removed.

The extension of Watt Court, on a section of about 25% of the site, is the most likely development which NAC will be considering in the near future.

Consolidation of existing NAC services in Dalry to new facilities at 22 Sharon Street, with the exception of Dalry Library, is also being considered.

It was recorded that Councillor Catherine McMillan and Patricia Gibson MP both supported this DCDH initiative, and neither Councillor Robert Barr nor Kenneth Gibson MSP had as yet replied to our correspondence requesting their support.

- Ayrshire 21 – Dalry action plan.
Nothing discussed

10. Any other DCDH business?

A.

Concern was raised by Hamish Harkness about the condition of the section of A737 road to be de-trunked, on completion of the Dalry By-pass, and the condition of many road surfaces, pavements and drains in other areas of Dalry.

Alastair Adamson agreed to report any specifically identified problems to "FIXMYSTREET" and inform Crawford Forsyth NAC, MSP and local councillors about the concerns listed in the schedule tabled by Hamish.

Alastair highlighted the advantages of reporting problems to "FIXMYSTREET", as issues were logged and then forwarded by "FIXMYSTREET" to the appropriate authorities.

It was also agreed that DCDH should send a letter to NAC with copies to MSP and local councillors requesting that early consultations should be initiated regarding the de-trunking of the A737 section through Dalry, and the necessary traffic management revisions within the Town of Dalry, on completion of the Bypass.

- Will the de-trunked section of the A737 be transferred in an acceptable state of repair, from current Holyrood funding responsibilities, to NAC for funding of ongoing maintenance?
- Are the existing traffic lights still required, and who will fund their existence or removal?
- Will the existing one way systems be retained, and if not who will fund any required changes?
- Will existing double yellow lines be retained?
- Will the current "No Entry" arrangements be retained?
- Will the current road signs require revision?
- Will any proposed changes have an impact on current CCTV facilities?
- Will there be any changes to existing bus routes through the town?
- And no doubt other pertinent issues.

B.

Janet Gibson offered her services as a DCDH trustee, and the secretary agreed to make the necessary arrangements for this to be confirmed and recorded.

11. Date of next DCDH trustee business meeting.

The next meeting will be held in Rosearden at 7 pm on Wednesday 18th May 2016

12. Close

The meeting was brought to a close at 9 pm