

“Draft” minutes**Dalry Community Development Hub (DCDH)****5th Public meeting****Venue: Rosearden, Courthill St. Date: 26th October 2016 Time: 7.00 pm start.**

Residents of Dalry had been invited to attend the 5th public meeting of Dalry Community Development Hub. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 people.

DCDH trustees and speakers in attendance:

James McCosh	Chair
Sheena Woodside	Treasurer
Alastair Adamson	Secretary
Myra Sim	Trustee
Hamish Harkness	Trustee
Heather Grossart	Trustee
Catherine McMillan	Trustee
Caroline Cooper	Trustee
Reg N-Graham	Trustee
Janet Gibson	Trustee & DAG
Julie Wales	Trustee
Audrey Hillis	NAC – DCDH support officer
Thomas Reaney	NAC – Brighten up Dalry Town Centre
John Hopkins	NAC – Dalry Scout Hall project
Bruce Davidson	East Ayrshire Woodland (Lynn Glen project)
Ian Shaw	Project Kilbirnie & Garnock Valley LPG

1. Welcome / Introduction - purpose of meeting / approval of 4th Public meeting notes.

James McCosh welcomed all to this the 5th Public meeting of DCDH, and commented that it was encouraging to see so many attending the meeting. He indicated that the purpose of tonight’s meeting was to provide an opportunity for the Dalry community to reflect on the reasons for the initiatives being requested at the 6th May 2014 Public meeting, and to determine what DCDH had achieved over the past 30 months. Since the May 2014 meeting, significant progress has been achieved with the many actions requested by those attending the first and subsequent public meetings of DCDH. The attendees were invited to you look at the walls of the meeting room, and observe the montage recording the initiatives already successfully delivered, and those which are still “work in progress”.

Presentations on the progress made with the initial initiatives, and a number projects subsequently taken on board by DCDH, will form this evenings agenda topics. This will demonstrate the many achievements gained, by DCDH on behalf of the community it represents, through partnership and engagement with other organisations.

Arrangements and proposed actions, for the second half of year 2016 – 2017, will also be considered.

The chair noted that the minutes of the 4th Public meeting, held on 24th November 2015 had been approved at a subsequent DCDH trustee business meeting.

<http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site12788/151124%20DCDH%20PUBLIC%20MEETING.pdf>

2. Reminder of the concerns raised and actions agreed at 6th May 2014 meeting and at subsequent Public meetings.

JMcC reminded the meeting of the following:

Concerns:

- Concern that, over the past couple of decades, the “Dalry Community” may have suffered from a lack of co-ordinated community involvement in many aspects of our community life and the upkeep of our community assets and facilities
- A desire to make Dalry a better place in which to live.
- The need to establish a Community Development Hub for the Parish of Dalry.
- The need to identify potential sources of community funding, and a requirement to determine how a Hub can access and manage such funds for the betterment of the Dalry community and its valued assets.

Actions agreed:

- Establish a Community Development Hub for the Parish of Dalry.
- Brighten up Dalry Railway Station with plants/flowers.
- Brighten up Dalry Town Centre.
- Lobby NAC to ensure that Community Council Boundaries of Dalry reflect the Parish/Post Code Boundaries.
- Resolve current issues regarding ownership and the ongoing repair and maintenance of the Lynn Glen walk, and other walks in Dalry.
- Meet with Community Wind Power Ltd, and attempt to resolve the current impasse regarding Millour Hill community benefits and the perceived limitations imposed by the current method of managing and allocating the community benefits derived from the Dalry Community Wind Farm.
Continue with attempts to secure access to RES Kelburn wind farm Community Benefits.
- Identify possible funding opportunities to support our local assets, and work with NAC and other local groups to determine if the Hub can help deliver initiatives identified in the Ayrshire 21 - Dalry Action Plan.
- Ensure that 22 Sharon Street (Old school site) is retained by NAC for future community needs.
- Engage and work with other groups to offer support and help influence improvement to Dalry and neighbouring areas.

3. Progress achieved, current financial position, and what we hope to do next.

Alastair Adamson provided updates and observations regarding the following initiatives:
Power Point Presentation:

<http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site12788/161026%20ppt%20for%20DCDH%20meeting%20AA.pdf>

Establish a Community Development Hub for the Parish of Dalry. – Achieved

DCDH was registered as a SCIO on 6th March 2015 - (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) Dalry Community Development Hub, Scottish Charity number: SC045464

Brighten up Dalry Railway Station with plants/flowers. – Achieved

If you have visited or used the Dalry Station over the past 2 years, you will no doubt have witnessed significant improvements and noticeable enhancements.

This has been achieved since the summer of 2014 through hard work and endeavour by a number of local volunteers.

Since December 2015 the “Station Garden Group” has operated as an independently managed and funded organisation.

This group of enthusiastic and committed volunteers turn up at the Station every Friday morning. They would welcome further support. If you wish to help, Friday 9 am is the **time** and Dalry Station is the **place**.

Brighten up Dalry Town Centre. - 90% Achieved

Since the meeting of August 2015 significant improvements have been noticed at Dalry Town Centre and its surrounding area.

Thomas Reaney will provide a more detailed report after the comfort break.

Stalled Space Site & 70 New Street was an associated initiative undertaken by DCDH. Work at the stalled space site is now completed and it is anticipated that the roughcasting of 70 New Street will be carried out by the end of this month.

Lobby NAC to ensure that Community Council Boundaries of Dalry reflect the Parish/Post Code Boundaries. – Achieved

The new Dalry Community Council Boundary now more or less mirrors the old Parish Boundary and current Post Code boundary. The people of Dalry now have a defined locality which reflects a better understanding of belonging.

Resolve current issues regarding ownership and the ongoing repair and maintenance of the Lynn Glen walk, and other walks in Dalry. - The ownership, access, identified remedial works, securing required funding and partnership arrangements are now all in place.

Work started in August 2016, and it is anticipated that all works will be completed by June 2017. – Bruce Davidson will provide a more detailed report after the comfort break.

Meet with Community Wind Power Ltd, and attempt to resolve the current impasse regarding Millour Hill community benefits and the perceived limitations imposed by the current method of managing and allocating the community benefits derived from the Dalry Community Wind Farm.

DCDH will continue with our efforts to secure fair and equitable access to this source of funding for the community of Dalry. We must however give recognition to the fact that community benefits are entirely voluntary, and there is little control over how they are awarded and distributed.

The exception to this is the arrangement finally implemented from July 2015 for the management and distribution of the Millour Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit.

CWPL signed a NAC S75 planning obligation to provide DPBT with £5k per MW of installed capacity for the lifetime of this installation.

Continue with attempts to secure access to RES Kelburn wind farm Community Benefits.

DCDH will continue with our efforts to secure fair and equitable access to this source of funding for the community of Dalry. We must however give recognition to the fact that community benefits are entirely voluntary, and there is little control over how they are awarded and distributed.

Identify possible funding opportunities to support our local assets, and work with NAC and other local groups to determine if the Hub can help deliver initiatives identified in the Ayrshire 21 - Dalry Action Plan.

- A joint initiative resulted in the Queen's 90th birthday event at the refurbished Dalry Cross.
- The success of the "Big Fit Walk" on 6th August was made possible thanks to the significant support provided by NAC, DAG and other Garnock Valley groups and a grant from DPBT to DCDH to cover the event costs incurred by the Hub.
- The synergy generated by the "Big Fit Walk" has resulted in a weekly youth activity now being held in St Margaret's Church Hall.

Ensure that 22 Sharon Street (Old school site) is retained by NAC for future community needs.

The NAC "For Sale" sign has now been removed.

Income and expenditure are as follows: Sheena Woodside

Sheena gave a brief summary of the DCDH income and expenditure over the past year, and highlighted the fact that the funding received from some benefactors was normally based on payment of invoices received. Others provided a % of the agreed funding, with the balance being made available on completion of the project.

Delivering projects funded in this fashion is no easy task, and yet the Hub has successfully completed a number of initiatives and works.

Full financial details can be found in the DCDH A4 folder in Dalry Library and at:

Proposals for Art on the Dalry Bypass and associated Heritage Trail: Julie Wales

Julie introduced the proposed initiative, “Art on the Dalry Bypass and associated Heritage Trail” to be undertaken by the DCDH Subgroup, and gave a very interesting and informative presentation about perceived problems, how the community of Dalry should prepare for its completion, and through joint efforts make the Bypass work for us.

Julie indicated that the Dalry Bypass could be the wake up call we have been needing to make us look at our town and think of ways to improve it for ourselves, and ways to promote it not only to tourists but as a good place for people to move into and bring up families.

By 2019 we will hopefully have the Dalry Bypass completed, with the town of Dalry no longer suffering from the dangers, inconvenience and pollution caused by daily traffic congestion.

If we plan for the future, by linking both the Dalry Bypass and Dalry Town, we can ensure that the development provides new benefits to the community.

And that’s where Bypass Art comes in. The members of the Subgroup want an appropriate landmark for Dalry on the Dalry Bypass, so that people driving past, having seen it, will want to know what it is and the story behind it. When they Google it we need to make sure that not only Bypass Art information comes up, but a whole load of information about what Dalry has to offer also comes up .

We want the landmark to be a beacon, shining its light onto Dalry.

- ***What should this landmark be?***

Bypass Art would like it to be Bessie Dunlop

- ***How would this project be funded?***

The DCDH Subgroup will apply for heritage grants, art and culture grants and other monies which are ring fenced for projects like this. If we don’t apply, another town will.

- ***What has Dalry got to offer heritage wise?***

Bessie Dunlop – The Dalry Witch

Walter Wingate – Poet “The Sair Finger”

Margaret Thompson – Granddaughter of Robert Burns

Mrs Clarice McNab Shaw – Visionary who opened Dalry Nursery School in 1939.

George Houston - Artist

The Blair Estate

Lynn Glen

Town Centre/St Margaret’s Church

And many other attractions

J McCosh thanked Julie for her very interesting and informative presentation, and confirmed that DCDH were delighted to support this Subgroup initiative.

At this point Councillor Robert Barr provided an update on “Good News For Dalry”

- The old laundry in New Street now has planning permission to be converted to flats.
- Realignment of the two bad bends, on the Girtle farm and Yonderhouse sections of the B714 from Dalry to Saltcoats, will be completed in 2017.

Comfort Break

3. Presentations on the following associated topics:

DCDH/EAW/NAC Lynn Glen project: Bruce Davidson

Bruce re-emphasised that the path is very muddy in most places, with water causing further erosion due to failed land drains or blocked pipes. The Path is overgrown, and obstructed at a number of locations due to fallen trees. Fences, steps, culverts and bridges require urgent attention, and better signposting of this valuable community asset is also required.

Dalry Community Development Hub, having now secured £8k funding from “Tesco Bags of Help” and £14.870k from “LandTrust”, are now working with East Ayrshire Woodland to bring the Lynn Glen walk back to its former glory.

With the necessary Landowners Permission in place, and the applied for Tesco and LandTrust funding secured the DCDH will, with professional assistance and project management provided by East Ayrshire Woodland Trust (Funded by North Ayrshire Council), be able to bring together contractors, community volunteers and other interested parties to complete the restoration phase of this project.

Bruce confirmed that local youth trainees have been employed to work on this project, and since August 2016 have been undergoing training and carrying out initial remedial works on site. The majority of work to be carried out from August 2016 to June 2017 has been divided into two phases of funded works.

Phase 1 – Tesco Bags of Help (£8k) identified works to be completed by end December 2016

Phase 2 – LandTrust (£14.870k) identified works to be completed by June 2017

Negotiations are now well in hand for the access arrangements for the delivery of Phase 1 materials.

NAC working with DCDH to Brighten up Dalry Town Centre: Thomas Reaney

Thomas Reaney, Senior Manager Streetscene delivered a presentation on the 'Brighten Up Dalry Town Centre' initiative. This covered the following actions:

- New bins – **Completed**
- New benches - **Completed**
- Re-pointing the community area – **Completed**

- Additional bollards - **Completed**
- New lockable bollards - **Completed**
- New railing at St Margaret Church – **To be Completed by early November 2016**
- Paint curved bench and brighten up corner. – **in hand**
- Revise Town Centre signage. – **in hand**
- Liaise with DCDH regarding the proposed sponsored 3 tree initiative. – **Outcome of pit inspection now anticipated by early November 2016**
- Map of Dalry Walks, with an additional small notice board, to be provided at corner of Bridgend / Bridgend Lane. – **in hand**
- Signage at corner of Bridgend / Bridgend Lane – (Town Centre). – **in hand**
- Bridgend Lane Signage – (Lovers Walk to Lynn Glen). – **in hand**
- Signage at “T” junction Bridgend – A737 (Town Centre). - **Completed**
- Sort out concerns regarding bin parking at corner of Courthill St. - **DCDH was advised to discuss the possibility of creating a centralised bin store at the site of the recovered public toilet with other NAC departments. – Action AA**

New Dalry Scout Hall: Mr John Hopkins

John Hopkins, chairperson of the Dalry Scout Group, presented the design drawings of their proposed new scout hall. The scouts have decided to demolish the existing hall on Smith Street and rebuild a new hall. John confirmed they have around 80% of the required funding in place. They have decided to proceed with a first phase of the works, consisting of the ground floor accommodation initially. The works were due to commence on 7th November, but have been delayed due to reports to the Planning Department of bats seen around the hall. John informed that a bat survey is to be carried out shortly and that works will hopefully not be delayed too much. The scout's plans were well received. Some questions were asked, specifically about energy efficiency of the new building and the funding of the 20% of budget requirements still to be secured.

John confirmed that insulation levels of the new hall will far exceed that required by the Building Regulations, and that the outstanding 20% (£40k) will hopefully be secured within the next few months. Dalry Scouts have applied for Leader funding to address any shortfall in the funding required to complete the project, and also add to the facilities in the new accommodation.

John was thanked for attending the meeting and congratulated on the progress achieved with the reforming of the scout activities for Dalry and the continued efforts to secure an appropriate venue for the future.

Project Kilbirnie proposed joint initiatives: Ian Shaw

Ian thanked DCDH for the opportunity to meet with the Dalry community again and hoped that this would help demonstrate the benefit of ongoing engagement between the two groups.

Project Kilbirnie recently hosted the second in a series of open community discussions around cycling in Kilbirnie, Glengarnock and Dalry and the potential for a network of 'cycle routes' that would connect these communities, promote safer cycling and enable

regeneration in the area. An overview was given of the background to the situation and feedback from the previous meetings.

J McC welcomed the proposal and confirmed that DCDH would be more than willing to support this initiative.

Details of Project Kilbirnie current projects were recorded:

- The installation of an all-weather playing surface at the old tennis court site adjacent to Garnock Swimming Pool.
- Installation of locally produced artworks on the windows of the gable end of Knox Mill building, near Kilbirnie Cross.
- Stewardship of Place Woodland and environmental conservation work there.
- A growing project involving local schools, with a view to commercially produced fruit branded as Kilbirnie Produce.

DAG Christmas lights and Torchlight and Tinsel parade: Janet Gibson

Dalry Action Group work hard all year round fundraising to help bring the community together for the yearly Tinsel & Torchlight Event. DAG is currently in the second year of an arrangement to lease lights for the cross and New Street, which has again been made possible with the help of a generous funding grant from DPBT.

DAG has also secured funding this year from the lottery "awards for all" which will help cover the costs of purchasing lights for Main Street Dalry and also help with the running costs for the event. DAG believes that this event is very important for Dalry as it helps bring the community together. Will the funding secured from DPBT and Lottery "awards for all" the community of Dalry can again look forward the annual Christmas lighting, and the Tinsel & Torchlight parade on 25th November 2016.

4. Q&A from floor. (Trustees & Speakers to reply)

- Thomas Reaney was asked if the proposals for the revised Children's Play Area at Dalry Park would be the subject of consultation with the community.
Thomas confirmed that the Dalry play park will be enhanced with the commuted sums achieved from previous developments, and that the planned arrangements for new items of equipment were already in place.
- John Hopkins was asked to provide some indication of the proposed timescales for the various phases of the Scout Hall project.
John hoped that the existing building would be demolished and the site cleared by the end of the year.
Work on the initial funded stage of the works would be completed by July 2017. This will deliver the new building with all of the facilities on the ground floor provided, and with the basic structure of the second floor in place. When the additional funding of £40k is secured, the outstanding second floor facilities will be addressed and the project will then be completed.

- A question was raised about the funding of the Dalry Bypass and the associated Den Realignment projects.

Although the 13/04/2016 update from Kenneth Gibson MSP appeared to indicate that both projects had been authorised and funded, there now appears to be some doubt about the funding of the Den Realignment.

<http://www.kennethgibson.org/single-post/2016/04/13/UPDATE-A737-Dalry-BypassDen-Realignment>

DCDH was asked to establish if and when the Den Realignment was officially funded.

Action - James McCosh to contact Kenneth Gibson MSP.

Any other DCDH business?

- **Volunteers for sub-group membership – update**

JMcC asked all in attendance to make every effort to support the activities of DCDH and encourage recruitment of more volunteers and subgroup members.

- **It was agreed that DCDH required to make further efforts to raise its profile.**

5. The meeting was brought to a close at 9.00 pm