

Dalry Community Development Hub

Notes of Public meeting held on Wednesday 1st October 2014

Residents of Dalry had been invited to attend the 2nd public meeting of Dalry Community Development Hub, held in Dalry Primary School at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st October. There were 35 people present. The Chairman for the meeting was James McCosh.

1. Update and progress report on actions agreed at 1st Public Meeting held on 6th May 2014

1.1 Establish a Community Development Hub for the Parish of Dalry

The Chairman, after welcoming all those who attended, outlined the plan to establish a community development hub for Dalry. He referred to the history of assets and funds for community benefit in Dalry, how sometimes these had not been well managed and that such funds had then become unavailable.

Under the auspices of the Strengthening Communities Programme supported by North Ayrshire Council (NAC), it was now proposed to make application to register the Hub with OSCR as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Trustees would need to be nominated to undertake the work needed and application to become a SCIO would take around 90 days to become a constituted group. It is envisaged that Hub meetings would take place 4 -5 times a year.

This would facilitate access to various funds, e.g. Landfill, Leader, for the benefit of Dalry residents.

1.2 Resolve current issues regarding ownership and the ongoing repair and maintenance of the Lynn Glen walk and other walks in the Dalry area

Luke Borwick, Chairman of the North Ayrshire Access Forum, has a meeting at the site with NAC next week. It is anticipated that some people are willing to volunteer to undertake work to repair the walk pathways and that NAC are willing to put resources for such work under the control of the Access Forum.

1.3 Meet with Community Wind Power Ltd (CWPL) 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 (Wardlaw Wood)

Attempts by Hub Steering group representatives to meet with Community Windpower Ltd had not succeeded yet.

Alastair Adamson updated the meeting on the community benefit issues associated with the CWPL developments at Dalry Community wind farm (Wardlaw Wood) and Milour Hill wind farm.

Since the 2006 commissioning of **Dalry Community wind farm (Wardlaw Wood)** CWPL should have, up to April 2014, delivered equivalent annual community benefits of £4,747.00 per MW installed. As the installed capacity is 18 MW, an annual community benefit of approximately £85,000.00 was perceived as being distributed for the benefit of the "Host community" between 2006 and 2014. There are still concerns about how, where and when this funding was spent and why the value of community benefit was then reduced to £2.5k / MW in April 2014

When the **Millour Hill** wind farm was commissioned in May 2012 a community benefit of £5.555k / MW installed was reported. As the capacity of the **Millour Hill** site at commissioning was 18 MW, Dalry had expectations of receiving an annual community benefit of £100k from this development.

This was then changed by CWPL to £0 / MW installed in the spring of 2014.

During May 2014 CWPL then revised their reported community benefit figure for **Millour Hill** to an index linked £5k / MW installed. (equivalent to £90k per annum)

In June 2014 a planning application from CWPL for a two additional turbine extension at **Millour Hill** was approved by North Ayrshire's Council's LRB. This extension will add an additional 7 MW of installed capacity, resulting in a total capacity of 25 MW for the **Millour Hill** development.

An annual community benefit of £125,000 per annum is now anticipated from **Millour Hill** when the extension is commissioned.

The **Millour Hill** community benefit funds will be managed by the recently formed Dalry Parish Boundary Trust (DPBT) (refer to agenda item 3 below).

Alastair asked Robert Barr if the DPBT would be able to follow up on the known issues regarding the **RES, Kelburn** wind farm and the **CWPL Dalry Community** wind farm , (Wardlaw Wood) community benefits.

Robert Barr responded by saying that the Dalry Parish Boundary Trust is currently constituted to only manage and disburse the **Millour Hill** community benefit funds provided by CWPL . *(this does not include community benefits from the **RES Kelburn** or **CWPL Dalry Community wind farm at Wardlaw Wood**)*.

At this point, there were some questions regarding community benefits. These included:

Question: Where would it be possible to see how funds have been spent to date?

Answer: Ask CWPL / BeGreen, and look at the Scottish Government community benefit website. Mention was made of the reduction by half in the amount of benefit now being offered by CWPL for the Dalry Community wind farm (Wardlaw Wood)..

Question: Would the Millour Hill community benefit only be for Dalry?

Kilbirnie, Fairlie and other North Ayrshire communities can at present also apply to Be Green Shop for Dalry Community wind farm funding.

Answer: Robert Barr confirmed that all of the Millour Hill community benefit funding was only for the host community within the Dalry Parish boundary.

1.4 Brighten up Dalry Railway Station with plants/flowers

Hilary Storm reported that work had begun to improve the station planting. Working in partnership with Louis Wall of South West Scotland Railway Adopter Group, which works with volunteers across 23 stations, potting materials, plants and bulbs had been made available. Eight people had expressed a willingness to help and work had begun in September with three sessions undertaken to date.

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

Alastair Adamson confirmed that concerns had been raised with NAC by Dalry Community Council, Councillor Robert Barr, Councillor Catherine McMillan and other individuals about the current Community Council boundaries and the proposed Community Planning boundaries. Alastair confirmed that he had recently received a reply from NAC indicating that the Community Council review was still ongoing and that final boundaries would be the subject of further consultation and debate.

1.6 Work with NAC to determine if the Hub should undertake some of the actions identified in the recently published Ayrshire 21 Dalry Action Plan

This item addressed in presentation on Agenda 21, agenda item 4 below.

2. The function and future of Dalry Community Council (DCC)

DCC member, Jackie Mack reported that a meeting had been held recently and that DCC will continue until NAC come up with any changes.

3. The function and future of Dalry Parish Boundary Trust (DPBT)

DPBT Chairman, Robert Barr told the meeting about the formation of this new Trust. Community Windpower Ltd had approached him as an individual and asked him to choose a committee to assist in managing the community benefits from CWPL. DPBT is now legally constituted and has a website where the application form can be found. Membership of the Trust is by invitation only. Funds from CWPL have yet to be received. Anticipated amount is £125,000. NAC legal services will not be involved with projects, and groups will have to account back for funds spent.

James McCosh thanked Robert Barr and added that he hoped that the CWPL contract to award community benefits funding to DPBT for allocation would be index linked and binding for a period of at least 25 years.

4. A presentation by Pam Crosthwaite, Community Development Manager, NAC, on the Ayrshire 21 Dalry Action Plan, highlighting some of the identified initiatives that the Hub may wish to address.

Pam Crosthwaite Updated the meeting on the NAC Community Action Plan, Agenda 21, copies of which were available.

She described the background to this initiative, saying that Dalry was one of seven areas selected within the Rural Ayrshire 21 Initiative of the Scottish Community Development Centre which is supported by NAC. Funding from the EU is anticipated to support the developments needed in each area.

Dalry has 40+ community groups but they tend to work in isolation. The Action Plan includes views from the people of Dalry about what they like which included: good schools, public park, library and a friendly community. Dislikes included: derelict buildings, overgrown pathways and not much for kids to do.

There are links to be made with the Healthy Dalry Initiative including play and park facilities, increase in adult evening classes. She referred people to the document for more about these issues.

Robert Barr added that Dalry Community Sports Club have produced a five year plan.

Alastair asked Pam whether there were any issues that the Hub could address. Pam responded by saying that this was for the local community to determine. Town centre improvements, the needs of young people and partnership with sports were all seen as priorities.

5. The proposed function and future of Dalry Community Development Hub

The main aim of the proposed Hub was to address issues that are not being tackled at present. There was no desire to duplicate matters.

There had been some hope that it might resolve Community Benefit issues.

Regarding Community Benefits, it was noted that:

- Millour Hill Windfarm Community Benefit: DPBT has been established to administer this so can be set aside
- Dalry Community Windfarm (Wardlaw Wood) Community Benefit: has yet to be resolved and the community may wish to lobby NAC and CWPL re this.
- RES Kelburn Windfarm Community Benefit: has yet to be resolved and the community may wish to lobby NAC and RES re this.

- Dalry Boundaries: These are under discussion by NAC. If realigned, as recommended in option 3 of the Community Planning proposals, the slopes above Dalry may be included in the North coastal areas. If the boundaries revert to the 'old' Parish Boundaries / KA24 post code, then a proportion of RES, Kelburn Community Benefits would return to Dalry instead of being restricted to Fairlie, Largs and Cumbrae, as at present.

It was suggested that the Hub could instigate the tidying up of the town including shop fronts and litter. A drop in centre for young people could be considered. Therefore, the Hub would be a 'talking shop' to progress such issues.

At this point, the Chairman invited further questions from the meeting.

Robert Barr re-emphasised that Community Windpower had invited him to Chair the DPBT as an individual and not in his role as Councillor for Dalry.

James McCosh informed the meeting that he had spoken with NAC legal services this afternoon and had been informed that a Section 75 obligation would be attached to the planning for Community Windpower Ltd. He also affirmed that Community Benefit funding is voluntary. Accordingly, it is imperative to have a good agreement in place between developer and host community prior to planning approval being given.

Question to DPBT: As to whether there was a plan for spending the Community Benefit funds. Robert Barr said that DPBT would look at individual applications.

Question: Would the Hub and DPBT be chasing the same pot of money? Robert Barr said that NAC legal services department were dealing with this at present. James McCosh restated that there are various other funding sources that the Hub would be looking at.

It was noted at this point that both Wardlaw Wood (Dalry Community Wind Farm) and Millour Hill wind farms are owned by the same developer, Mr and Mrs Wood of CWPL who are based in Cheshire. Also that there are still some concerns that Dalry is losing out on significant funding.

The Minister responsible for energy is believed to be considering tightening legislation to ensure community wind farms pay out community benefit.

Pam Crosthwaite added that the Hub needs to identify what it needed money for. Then it could apply to DPBT and elsewhere. DPBT is a grant making body whereas the Hub would be a 'doing' body. There are many other funds available.

Alastair Adamson asked how many people knew that in May this year, CWPL had reduced community benefit for the Dalry Community Windfarm (Wardlaw Wood) from £5,000 to £2,500 per MW installed.

Robert Barr added that DPBT had been set up as a charity that has to make three monthly returns to both NAC legal services and CWPL.

Pam Crosthwaite asked how it (DPBT) would be promoted. Robert Barr responded by saying it would be via the computer. A point was made that with no criteria everyone would be able to apply. Robert Barr affirmed this would be so. He went on to say that applications could be made for grants and it was possible that not all funds would get spent in any one year. In addition, he'd had to fight to keep the funding from going into NAC and referenced the Miss Margaret Archibald Trust.

6. Nominations for election of trustees of the Dalry Community Development Hub

At this point the Chairman asked those present if they were in agreement with the proposal to formalise Dalry Community Development Hub as a charitable body, a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO). This was agreed by the majority.

The Chairman then asked for nominations for Trustees which were made as follows:

- Catherine McMillan, nominated by Alastair Adamson, seconded by James McCosh.
- Sheena Woodside, nominated by James McCosh, seconded by Caroline Borwick.
- Myra Sim, nominated by Caroline Borwick, seconded by Dianne Ralston.
- James McCosh, nominated by Pat Lockett, seconded by Luke Borwick.
- Caroline Borwick, nominated by Alastair Adamson, seconded by Catherine McMillan.
- Heather Grossart, nominated by Mary Gemmell, seconded by Catherine McMillan.
- Hilary Storm, nominated by Alastair Adamson, seconded by James McCosh.

It was also agreed to identify two youth representatives and also representation from Dalry Community Association, Dalry Business Club and Dalry Community Sports Club
Pam Crosthwaite agreed to liaise with the development officer for young people.

7. At this point, there being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions and closed the meeting.