

# ***Dalry Community Development Hub September 2014 Newsletter Update from Steering Group***

## **Progress Report**

### **Establish a Community Development Hub for the Parish of Dalry**

The ongoing work to formally establish a constituted Hub is making good progress, and it is still anticipated that this will be achieved in a timescale to allow nominations for election to the Dalry Community Development Hub committee to be an agenda item at the next public meeting.

This meeting will be held at 7.30pm in Dalry Primary School on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

The public meeting is essential to achieve cohesion, mutual support and objectives. It is vital that ALL those concerned with the town and people of Dalry attend and share their aims and objectives. This includes the local councillors, the Community Council, members of the Dalry Parish Boundary Trust, representatives of NAC, representatives of the "Dalry Hub" and other relevant organisations. We can then have a clear picture of how to work together constructively towards a better future for Dalry.

### **Brighten up Dalry Town Centre**

Although the Hub can't take any credit for the exterior of the former Drinks Cellar – which has now reopened as a 'pound' shop, Stalker the Butcher and the BeGreen premises being refreshed, it's still nice to note the difference this can make to the visual quality of the Town centre. Interpretation boards with local history information have also been erected by the Council at the Biggart Fountain and in Kirk Close.

We now need to encourage other owners of premises in the town centre to follow the positive examples set by the new owners of the Drinks Cellar, Stalker and BeGreen.

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

The ownership and access issues are still being addressed, and it is now hoped that the necessary programme of remedial work will start in the autumn of 2014.

The community has shown significant interest in this initiative and their continued support would be very much appreciated. Volunteers will be required!!!!

## **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 (Wardlaw Wood)**

Over the past 4 months, every effort was made by the Steering Group to secure a meeting with CWPL, to discuss community benefits and their methods of allocating funds to the host community. CWPL appeared to be reluctant to commit to a meeting.

It has now been established that during this time CWPL engaged with other representatives of the Dalry Community, and have now formed and formally constituted the “Dalry Parish Boundary Trust” to manage and distribute the index linked £5,000 per MW installed, from the current and soon to be extended Millour Hill Wind Farm.

As the present capacity is 18 MW, this should have resulted in an initial community benefit of £90,000 (index linked) from 2012, with a further £35,000 (index linked) when the two turbine (7 MW) extension is brought into service. The Hub hopes to engage with the DPBT to establish more details about the Trust’s activities, ensure there is no duplication of effort and that the best deal for Dalry has been secured.

It should be noted that BeGreen will still manage and spend the Dalry Community Wind Farm (Wardlaw Wood) community benefit fund, which would now appear to be reduced from £4,747 to £2,500 per MW installed.

## **Brighten up Dalry Railway Station with plants/flowers**

Steady progress is being made with planning for improvements to Dalry Railway Station. Health and Safety Training has been completed, hi-visibility vests have been provided and new shrubs from ScotRail have been delivered. Spring flowering bulbs have also been ordered.

Clearing and tidying of existing shrubs can begin from September. All we need is a few volunteers! Dalry Gardening Club Chairman will be sharing our request for volunteers.

A few helpful friends have already stated their interest, and a poster has been designed to assist in attracting volunteers. It is hoped to have a pool of volunteers who would then take turns in tending to the plants.

The poster and a simple planting plan for Dalry Station will be displayed at the Dalry Horticultural Show, to share what the Hub is doing. The Hub also plan to publicise more widely within Dalry – eg. library, community centre, town centre notice boards, Coop and possibly schools.

ScotRail have also indicated that they are prepared to install a lockable tap at the station for watering the plants.

As part of our overall aim of brightening up the station to make it a more welcoming place, we have also asked ScotRail to consider replacing the existing brick waiting shelter on Platform 1. After several attempts, they have agreed to do so during the current financial year. It just goes to show that “if you don’t ask, you won’t get!”

### **Lobby NAC to ensure that Community Council boundaries of Dalry reflect the Parish/Post Code Boundaries.**

The Hub steering group has again communicated with NAC and local councillors regarding boundary concerns. We are still waiting for a reply.

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

NAC will give a presentation at the next Dalry Community Development Hub meeting, highlighting some of the identified Dalry Action Plan initiatives which the new Hub may wish to consider addressing.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Some people have been asking what is happening with the plans for the Dalry bypass. We have checked this with Transport Scotland (the agency with the responsibility for the project). They have indicated that a public local inquiry and hearing session will be held during early December 2014 (venue to be arranged). A pre-inquiry meeting is scheduled to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> September at the Volunteer Rooms in Irvine, there being no suitable venue available in Dalry on that date.

The purpose of the inquiry and hearing session is to enable a 'Reporter' appointed by the Scottish Government to hear the views of objectors to the proposed bypass. Objectors include land owners and other individuals who have concerns about the route of the bypass, the potential effects on their property and the area generally.

Members of the public are entitled to attend the inquiry and hearing sessions to observe the proceedings.

This is a normal procedure when objections cannot be resolved through negotiation and it is understood that a final decision could be taken by Scottish Ministers during 2015.