Drumoig Community Trust


Introduction:

The Drumoig Community Trust (DCT) was incorporated on 14th April 2010, Company No.376810. The Trust was set up following the demise of Torith, the civil engineering company who built the houses and initially owned all the surrounding land including the Driving Range and Golf Course. Following the collapse of Torith much of the land outwith the golf course was in the hands of the Receiver and the opportunity to apply for a Community Right To Buy (CRTB) arose. A number of residents set up the DCT as the vehicle to take this forward and with the backing of the majority of residents it was hoped the community could have a greater say in the future of the land in question. Sadly this was not to be as the application was rejected by the Scottish Government.

From the early days of housing at Drumoig, residents formed the Drumoig Residents Association (DRA) which kept residents informed of current issues and organised a number of social events. Over the years the demand for social events has dwindled and the decision to amalgamate the DRA and the DCT was taken in 2015.

As you will see from this Annual Review, Drumoig Community Trust continues to be involved in a number of important issues and events and we will endeavour to continue to keep residents informed and make sure our voice is heard by all relevant bodies throughout the coming year.

We have prepared this Annual Report as a way of summarising the activities of the DCT and the work of the Committee over the last year. Much of the information has been issued either by email or on our website. We would encourage our members to become more engaged in the work of the DCT and to propose areas they feel the DCT should develop for the benefit of our community.
Planning:

As you are aware we have been actively engaged in monitoring the planning application for the development of Drumoig, including submitting objections to the scale and appearance of the proposed housing. That application was approved, after appeal, and details were posted on our website.

In summary, the developers, Parkhill Construction Services & Drumoig Developments Ltd, have been given conditional approval to build 35 houses on the land to the north and south of Forgan Drive and to the east of Pickletillum Avenue. The development also includes affordable housing, to be established on the site of Pickletillum Inn, and a landscaping plan for the area.

Final approval has not yet been granted but it is anticipated that detailed plans will be submitted for the houses in due course. The DCT will continue to monitor this.

Core Path:

Over recent years the DCT tried to establish new paths, and upgrades to existing paths, to improve our connections to surrounding areas. The footway between Forgan Smiddy and Forgan Roundabout was upgraded by Fife Council. We contacted the Council about adding a new path from the entrance of Drumoig to Forgan Smiddy but that seems unlikely to happen.

The work of restoring the Golf Centre and Driving Range gave some residents cause for concern over the integrity of the Core Path that cuts through Drumoig. This path comes over the Golf Course, down Craigie Hill and around the back of the Driving Range to Vicarsford cemetery and beyond. The Committee checked with the Fife Council Core Path Team and our local Councillors. We verified that due process was being followed and that access to the path, and its continuity, was not under threat.

Home Security:

The DCT arranged for our local Police to give a presentation to residents in the Drumoig Hotel.

Following that interesting, often entertaining, event emailed our members with a comprehensive summary of precautions residents could take to improve home security.
Website:

The DCT now has its own website, http://drumoig.btck.co.uk/, where we post news, events, local information and publish minutes of our DCT meetings. Residents are encouraged to monitor the site regularly to keep informed of Drumoig matters.

Scone Palace visit:

21 of our members took part in a private tour of the House and Gardens of Scone Palace in May 2016. The event was organised by one of the committee members who is a guide at Scone and our party was treated to a great day out.

Ramblers:

Our Rambling Group has been rambling for some years now and continue to enjoy outings every six weeks or so. The rambling isn’t strenuous but it gives people a good opportunity to socialise, have lunch and enjoy a walk, typically within Fife. See the website for details.

Clubs:

Members have other clubs of interest, namely Mah Jong and the Book Club. See the website for details.

LPG:

Drumoig residents will be well aware of our reliance on LPG rather than mains gas. For some years now we have negotiated on a bulk-buying basis and have secured competitive prices and large savings for our members. Contracts run for two years but this is a continuous activity for your committee.
Logs:

Many residents have installed wood-burning stoves. The DCT checked a range of suppliers of kiln dried hardwood, to see if there was any bulk-buying advantage, and selected the local company, StoveCo, as the preferred supplier. StoveCo, Guardbridge, can deliver logs in crates at a price agreed for DCT members.

Golf Competition:

The DCT, and previously the DRA, have held an annual Golf Competition for residents, followed by a social evening in the Hotel. Dwindling numbers in recent years have resulted in us having to cancel the arrangements. We will keep this under review but would welcome thoughts and input from residents.

Road Markings/potholes:

The DCT committee presented a detailed report on road defects within Drumoig. As a result Fife Council did work during 2016 to repair and re-paint sections of the roads.

Defibrillator:

You should be aware that a Public Access Defibrillator has been installed on the outside wall of Drumoig Hotel. This follows lobbying by the DCT to secure the installation of the defibrillator, and our donation to local charity HeartStart. Additional financial support was provided by Drumoig Golf Club and a charity golf day held by DTM Management.

CPR Training:

A number of residents attended a training session on CPR which we held in the Hotel as part of the Defibrillator project and to raise awareness on how to respond to such a medical emergency.

Finances:

The finances of the DRA and the DCT were combined during 2016 and the committee proposed that we cease collecting annual fees until further notice. We hold monies in reserve to cover incidental expenses and for any future projects that would add value to Drumoig.
Fife Council Communications

The DCT is in regular contact with our local Councillors on a range of issues. The Councillors are generally supportive of our needs and are willing to be involved.

We also have a committee member who sits on the Tayport Community Council to monitor activities local to this area.

Community Police:

We have held occasional meetings with our local Community Police Officer. Although we are fortunate to enjoy a relatively crime-free village we are keen to maintain a dialogue with our local Police. From these meetings we have seen the reduced speed limits outside and inside Drumoig being established, and the recent Home Security presentation.

Drumoig Golf Centre

Many of our residents welcome the continuing success of the golf centre, under the management of Stuart Syme. Their 9-hole short course is now open and is a good place for kids and beginners – and regular golfers. Stuart has plans to expand his leisure facilities and we will monitor with interest.

Committee membership:

Under our DCT Articles of Association we have a minimum requirement of four Directors, or Trustees. We have operated with eight committee members over this last year and this is reviewed at our AGMs. Committee membership is shown on our website.

Membership Directory

When the Drumoig Residents Association was formed we created an extensive register of residents and their families which was valuable information for the new residents of Drumoig Village. We have since updated the details to simplify the list of all residents of Drumoig and that was recently issued directly to DCT members. We hope to maintain this list and re-issue on a regular basis. Members are reminded to let the Secretary know of any changes to their details. We do not intend to publish these details on our website.

Trades and Services

Our early Newsletter used to contain a list of local Trades and Services recommended by residents. We have looked at other ways of providing a service to residents interested in finding a local tradesman. Our website rules prohibit us from advertising but we still wish to
provide a method of listing local services. We have used our emailing system to provide this service several times.

If any resident wishes to find a local tradesman then they should email the Secretary who will then email all residents with the request. That way the information is likely to be more up to date. Residents should be aware that the DCT does not make recommendations but any recommendations are those provided by our residents.

**Annual General Meeting:**

The next AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th January 2017 at the Drumoig Hotel.

If you have any matters you’d like addressed, you can either notify the Secretary in advance or raise them at the AGM. Any nominations for the DCT Committee should be made to the Secretary before the 4th January

November 2016

Chairman  Secretary
Rob Pirie  Alec Burden

Committee:  Joanne Cooper, John Cuthbertson, Iain Lawson, Harry Orr, Frank Tennant, Silvia Whithorn