



Community Council

NEWS

December 2021

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils

Community Council Discretionary Grant 2021 – 2022 - Reminder

Thank you to all the Community Councils who have already submitted the monitoring form and relevant documentation to receive your 2021 – 2022 Discretionary Grant. As per the letter issued on 7 October 2021, we kindly ask that all **forms** be submitted by no later than the 31 December 2021.

As you will be aware, **Paragraph 11.6.3 in the Scheme of Establishment** states part of the criteria is “evidence of a minimum of 6 meetings being held throughout the previous financial year”, however, on this occasion only, due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic we will accept evidence of having met at least ONCE in the previous financial year. This this will be sufficient on this occasion only.

The criteria outlined in the **Scheme at Paragraph 11.6.3** will apply to all when applying for next years’ Annual Discretionary Grant, therefore, to be able to apply for the full amount you will be required to evidence of 6 meetings including an AGM having been held between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

As always, we are keen to support Community Councils who are not yet meeting virtually – the Annual Discretionary Grant provided by Dumfries and Galloway Council can be used to purchase IT equipment for Community Councillors or as a contribution towards wi-fi costs etc.

Please find below some useful training materials and resources on how to host and attend meetings online developed by the Scottish Tech Army as a result of the training delivered to a number of Community Councils during 2021 which can also be found **HERE**.

[Scottish Tech Army Training Materials](#)

[Teams User Guide \[PDF - 3.8MB\]](#)

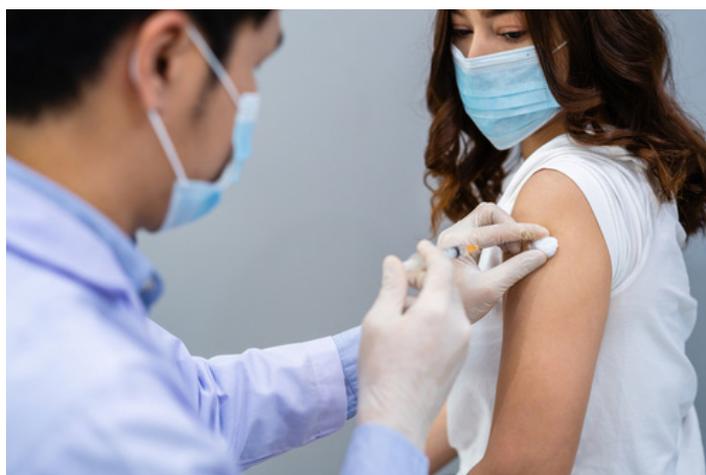
[Zoom User Guide \[PDF - 1.59MB\]](#)

In addition, we would be happy to discuss any challenges that you are experiencing with holding online meetings on a one-to-one basis if that would be helpful.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at **Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk** should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Urgent – Book Your Booster Call Now Amid Concerns Over Covid Variant

A BID to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations as quickly as possible in the face of the Omicron variant means everyone eligible should book their booster now. As the dangers posed by the new variant continue to be assessed, everyone aged 40 and above, unpaid Carers and those who are household contacts of people who are immune-suppressed are being urged to schedule their vaccination by visiting <https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp> or phoning 0800 030 8013. The gap for everyone in the above categories between second dose and boosters has been reduced from 24 weeks to 12 weeks, so everyone in these groups who is 12 weeks from their second dose should now book their slot – irrespective of what is stated on the portal. Visit <https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp> or telephone 0800 030 8013. Would you like to see the most recent breakdown of the current Covid statistics for Dumfries and Galloway? Click **[here](#)** to find out more



#SupportDG

Go onto the website to find out all the latest news in connection with Covid 19 **[here](#)**

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS access the webpage for all things Community Council

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils

As the situation emerges regarding the new Delta and Omicron variants, it is as important as ever to ensure that we all continue to strengthen our compliance with existing protocols. Whilst we recognise that there are currently no restrictions in place that prevent face to face meetings happening, the reality is that under the current circumstances we would strongly advise that consideration should be given to meeting virtually wherever possible. However, where this is not possible and if your meeting is essential then you must adhere to all the current Government Guidelines which includes the following mitigations:

- Test for Covid regularly.
- Lateral Flow Testing is an important route and is available widely
- On any occasion that you intend to socialise or mix with people from other households - whether that is in a community hall, restaurant, house or shopping centre – please do a Lateral Flow Test first.
- Wear face coverings on public transport, in shops, and when moving about in hospitality settings.
- Keep windows open to improve ventilation.
- Follow all advice on hygiene.
- Work from home if you can.

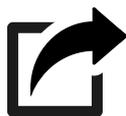
The following are some useful resources on how to host and attend meetings online, using either Zoom or Microsoft Teams and we continue to be able to support you to do this on a one to one basis if required.

Scottish Tech Army Training Materials

 [Teams User Guide \[PDF - 3.8MB\]](#)

 [Zoom User Guide \[PDF - 1.59MB\]](#)

We would love to hear from you



Would you be happy to share good practice stories that others may be interested in?

Do you have creative ways to engage with your community that you would be happy to share with us? Is there something you would like featured in the Newsletter?

Please let us know by contacting Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

RESILIENCE TEAMS UPDATE

Recent online training sessions have taken place across the region to further support the work of the local resilience teams. Feedback from the sessions has been very positive and will support the work required to update resilience plans where required. It was determined that during a response, all calls should come through the contact centre 030 33 33 3000 to be directed to the Duty Resilience Officer. However, some resilience teams have developed their own social media platforms. To find out the valuable work of Cree Valley Resilience Team, check out their Facebook page [here](#)



FOR TIPS VISIT
CLEARYOURHEAD.SCOT

Health Advice [#clearyourhead](#)

The Scottish Government's #ClearYourHead Campaign was launched during the Coronavirus pandemic to support people to look after their mental health and provides practical tips on the things we can all do to make us feel better.

As restrictions ease, the campaign focuses on encouraging people to keep up any good habits they have developed to help them cope. As well as tips and ideas, the campaign website [#clearyourhead](#) signposts to various helplines for those who might need to talk to someone.

Our circulation list is growing!

With almost 400 subscribers, do you know of anyone who would like to receive the Community Council newsletter? To subscribe please send your email address to:

community.councils@dumgal.gov.uk



Consultations and Engagements

For the latest information on current consultations check out our webpage [here](#)

Planning and Licensing - Transforming Planning News Update

The planning system in Scotland is in the process of being reformed with significant emphasis being placed on community engagement in the planning process, place making, community health and wellbeing, climate change and sustainability. One of the first stages in the reform programme is the publication of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which the Scottish Government published on 10 November 2021. The Framework is a long term plan for Scotland looking to 2045 that will guide spatial development, set out national planning policies, designate national developments and highlight regional spatial priorities. Once approved and adopted by the Scottish Parliament, the Framework will be part of the development plan which means it will influence planning decisions and the content of the next Local Development Plan for Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government are inviting everyone to have their say on the document and have created a web page with further information on the Framework along with how you can get involved - [Get involved | Transforming Planning](#). A Community Grant Scheme is available to support communities to engage locally, this would assist Community Councils in carrying out their role in gathering and representing the views of their community further information on this and is available [here](#). Dumfries and Galloway Council will be submitting its own response to the consultation and would urge communities and individuals with an interest to get involved in the consultation events and submit their comments by the deadline of 31 March 2022.

These and a number of other resources, can be found at www.transformingplanning.scot along with the latest news on NPF4.

Web: [Scottish Government website](#) and [Transforming Planning](#)

Twitter: [@scotgovplanning](#) and [@DigiPlanningSG](#)

E-alerts: [Planning and Architecture news updates](#)

Online application service: eDevelopment.scot

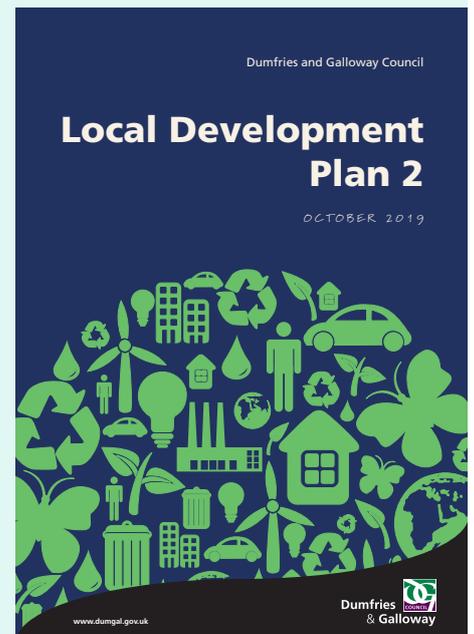
Follow Scot.gov [blog](#) for news and stories from Planning and Architecture

Licensing News

Legislation on short term lets is now before Parliament and under this legislation, Councils will be given powers to ensure short-term lets are safe and meet the needs of their local communities. All local authorities will be required to establish a short-term lets licensing scheme by October 2022. The legislation was developed after residents across Scotland raised significant concerns about the impact of short-term lets on their communities, including noise, antisocial behaviour and the impact on the supply on housing in some areas. It will ensure the needs and concerns of communities are balanced with wider economic and tourism interests.

D&GLDP - Local Development Plan

Dumfries and Galloway Council has published the 13th edition of the Development Plan Scheme (DPS) on our website: [Local Development Plan \(LDP2\) \(click here\)](#). The Development Plan Scheme sets out the programme for preparing and reviewing the Local Development Plan (LDP). There are a number of changes taking place at the national level that will impact on when work will begin on preparing the next Plan (LDP3) and what that Plan will look like.



For further information Click [here](#) to comment on this edition of the Development Plan Scheme and to register for e-mail updates.

Webpage Hits for Oct and Nov 2021

Page views	1,401
Unique views	1,045



Dumfries and Galloway Council also have a Facebook page which is updated regularly with news, information and contact details. You can find out more [here](#)

Response to Pandemic

New Report Published on Community Empowerment

The Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland have published a report on Principles for community empowerment, detailing how Scotland's public bodies worked with communities and empowered community organisations to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The report features case studies and examples of best practice from across Scotland which illustrate the value and importance of the community response to the crisis, especially in support of the most vulnerable in our society. The community response to Covid-19 demonstrated how community organisations, including Community Councils, can be more effective when bureaucratic hurdles are removed. Report authors state that communities should be supported to take more control over local decisions and assets, using routes through Community Councils and local authorities to enable local people to participate in decisions about local issues. If you want to read the report in full, you can find it on the Audit Scotland website by clicking [here](#)

Report It Service

(Located at [WWW.DUMGAL.GOV.UK](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk) opening screen)

We are continuing to see a number of enquiries being logged through the CCES, Community Council Enquiry Service relating to road defects. We would like to ask all Community Councils to note that the preferred route for reporting road defects continues to be the REPORT IT system.

The REPORT IT system allows the defect to be plotted on a map to ensure that the correct location is identified and the person logging the defect is kept informed of its status and outcome. All defects are also logged on the Council's REPORT IT system in order for them to be processed for inspection and prioritised for repair. Each defect is assessed in accordance with current Dumfries and Galloway policy and the Well Managed Highways Infrastructure Code of Practice which allows us to determine the level of risk posed by the defect and to prioritise and schedule for repair. We thank you for your support and assistance in this matter.

Find your Community Council

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils - Are your Community Council details up to date on the dumgal.gov website? Check out the information available to the public about your Community Council. Send any updates to the Community Council mailbox on Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk and we will make the necessary changes.



Children and Young People's Centre for Justice

Survey Launched on Issues Facing Young People In Local Communities

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) works to improve outcomes for children in conflict with the law, their families and their communities. They want to hear from Community Councils in Scotland about issues facing communities, with a particular emphasis on the issues that children and young people within those communities are encountering. They have created a short anonymous survey for Community Councils to share their views. The information that Community Councils and others provide will help shape the work of the CYCJ next year, including creating resources and hosting events. The CYCJ will compile a report based on the findings of their survey, which they intend to share with Community Councils. The survey can be completed online [here](#)

You can find out more about the work of the CYCJ on their website: <https://www.cycj.org.uk/>



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Youth Council Update

www.youthwork.dumgal.gov.uk

Ward Councillors In Place - Dumfries & Galloway's Regional Youth Council is a group of 35 members who want to make change and get young people's voices heard across the region. The recent D&G Youth Council elections were held from Monday 8th – Sunday 21st November 2021 and on Monday 22nd November, the elections results event took place and representatives were duly elected. The new Youth Council will be going through an induction period before starting their formal meeting schedule in January 2022. Why not take the opportunity to invite your Youth Councillors along to your Community Council to find out more. To find out the Youth Councillor representing your ward, click [here](#)





Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Funding Stream Available Now

Please find below details of a stream that may be of interest to your Community Council should you be planning events to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

National Lottery Awards for All programme (no deadline for applications). This is an existing smaller grants programme (funding up to £10,000) which can support a range of community led activities. Applications for events and activities which celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee will be considered where the activity meets one of the standard Awards for All aims which are:

- bringing people together and building relationships in and across communities
- improving places and spaces that matter to communities
- help people reach their full potential by supporting them at an early stage

Further details and how to apply are on the National Lottery website via the links above. The best way for groups to get in touch initially is through the advice line on 0300 123 7110 or by email at advicescotland@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk where enquiries will be directed to the funding team for the required area.

FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions from the Mailbox

Casual Vacancy elections

are happening for 4 Community Councils across the region – Cairnryan, Dalry, Kirkcowan and Wanlockhead. Scheme section 7 provides the procedure to follow.

The re-establishing of a Community Council in Wanlockhead followed the procedures detailed in 2.2.1 and 3.3 of the scheme.

Schedule 2 Independent Complaints Procedure

is a vital part of the scheme and the contents are agreed by every member of the Community Council on accepting the role of a Community Councillor. Becoming familiar with the scheme and in particular Stage 1 of the Independent Complaints Procedure would be a good starting point for every Community Councillor.



Royal British Legion War Memorial Project

A total of 14 entries across 4 categories were received, judged by councillors and a Legion Scotland representative. Dumfries and Galloway's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Archie Dryburgh, commented that 'the brave men and women whose names are listed on these memorials are long gone but in many cases their descendants are still in that town or village. Even where there are no relatives anymore it was clear from our visits that there is enormous respect for their memory in the way the memorials are looked after'. Winners are as follows:

Large Community with Garden
joint winners

Lochmaben and Dalbeattie

Small Community with Garden
Closeburn

with Kirkconnel runner up

Large Community without Garden
Parish of Penningham
(Newton Stewart)

Small Community without Garden
Whithorn
with Bargrennan runner up

The communities of Lochmaben and Auchencairn provide a summary of the community projects they have been involved in below.

Lochmaben War Memorial Project - Colin Davidson, Chairperson of Lochmaben and District Community Council commented that 'Lochmaben Community Council readily acknowledge and appreciate the help, support and assistance of local businesses, residents, children and DGC in helping to deliver this project in time to mark the centenary of the Royal British Legion'. Carol Rogerson, Community Councillor, provides an update on the actions carried out. 'The youngest helper was 4 years old (her dad is a veteran who also helped). Three boys who have a great, great uncle named on the memorial washed and polished the granite. The local nursery have made poppies which they place in the flower beds in time for the Remembrance service. The painting of the flower containers was carried out by a group of 4, Carol, Liz, Angela and Carol, they also tidied the flower beds. A local roofer offered to do the scaffolding, this enabled the figure to be cleaned and when a fine crack was discovered on the statue a local builder quickly offered his help. The ornate ironwork and gate have been carefully restored and the funds enabled us to purchase the specialist materials required. A local company donated the granite chips which were needed to patch in the space surrounding the memorial. Our next task was to create the stone poppies, they have become a real talking point in Lochmaben. From a personal point of view, the work has been rewarding and I feel proud of our community coming together to make sure our War Memorial looks its best, as it should, but especially on this 100 year Anniversary'.

Auchencairn Primary School War Memorial Project - an account of recent activities was provided by Auchencairn Community Council, Treasurer George Makins

As Remembrance Day approached this year, staff at Auchencairn Primary School decided to bring some of the older children to the village War Memorial to help understand why this memorial was built and what its significance is in the community. They also contacted a member of Auchencairn History Society, who thought this was an excellent project and was happy to be involved with it. On the Tuesday following Remembrance Sunday, a group of Primary 4-7 children with two members of staff walked from school to the War Memorial. The task was to draw the War Memorial, but first there was a short discussion with the member of the History Society who was present which the children found very interesting.

Windfarm Funding News

with James Parker

There are now many windfarms across the region providing community benefits to local communities. Over the coming newsletters, we'll be profiling a few of these and highlighting some of the work the funding has done so far.

James.Parker@dumgal.gov.uk



Fund Profile Dalswinton

Dalswinton Windfarm is located 9 miles north of Dumfries near the village of Dalswinton, and has been operating and paying community benefit funding since 2008

- Number of turbines: **15**
- Installed Capacity: **30MW**
- Hub height: **80m**
- Blade length: **40m**
- Powers around **15,000 homes**

A small selection of what the fund has supported over the past 13 years for the surrounding communities:

- **Auldgirth** have carried out extensive improvements to their village hall
- **Closeburn** created a community orchard
- **Dunscore** Gala has received a lot of support over the years
- **Hollywood** provided free fruit for all at Hollywood School
- **Keir** installed defibrillators
- **Kirkmahoe** produced a regular village newsletter
- **Locharbriggs** have put on a long list of activities for their senior citizens
- **Penpont** created a website and newspaper for the local area
- **Thornhill** have put on an annual community fireworks display

Some dates for the calendar

- Next deadline for ANCBC main fund 3rd December (Annandale & Nithsdale)
- Next deadline for Kilgallioch Fund 7th February 2022 (West of region)
- Next deadline for Ewe Hill Fund 31st January 2022 (Annandale & Eskdale)
- D&G Regionwide Community Fund next opens in January 2022 (Regionwide)

Sharing Good Practice across the Region

Santa Claus came to town – click on the Facebook posts below to find out more on communities working together to celebrate the festive season.

[Stranraer Community Council - Posts | Facebook](#)

A big thank you must go to the Stranraer Community Council who trusted us (Stranraer Millennium Centre) to lead on the light switch on and events for them, for the support given by them to bring this magical weekend, without which, the day may not have happened

[Cree Valley Community Council - Posts | Facebook](#)

Great day supporting CVADT (Cree Valley Area Development Trust) on their 1st Winter Wonderland, here's to doing it all again next year

[Gretna Community Council - Home | Facebook](#)

What another amazing night. Thank you so much to everyone that came out to see us last night. Santa & his little helpers gave out nearly 600 selection boxes to local children, that were kindly donated by Gretna & Rigg Community Council.

Gentle Reminders



86 Community Councils are now established across the 12 Wards within Dumfries and Galloway.

Emailing Community Council contacts is the communication method used by DGC and we would appreciate each Community Council ensuring their main contact details are up to date and correct. Please check out the list of main contacts on the dumgal.gov website and if any changes are required, we would be grateful if you could notify us on Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk as soon as possible

Ward Officers can provide support with community engagement, community empowerment, community development and community planning. Click [here](#) to access more information about Ward Working across Dumfries and Galloway.

Has your Community Council registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) yet? Signed up for the free newsletter? Need more information on this? Visit the Information Commissioners Office [here](#)

Additional Information for Community Councillors on dumgal.gov website including Insurance, Discretionary Grants and Data Protection Registration is available [here](#)

The Voluntary Sector



TSDG Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

Community Councils are eligible to become Associate Members of Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Interface. The detailed website provides regular updates on Funding Opportunities, free subscription to the funding newsletter, training opportunities, volunteering opportunities and a great deal of useful information which is updated on a regular basis. Find the website [here](#)

Where can you find more Information?



www.communitycouncils.scot

Scottish Government Community Council website. This website is for anyone interested in community councils. The site has up to date information on news, events, guidance and grants as well as advice on how to be a Community Councillor. Check out the help and support section [here](#)

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Information based Dumfries and Galloway Council website features the services and functions of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Keep up to date on current consultations by going to the Get Involved page [here](#)

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils

Community Council Webpage – Useful information for Community Councils including Find my Community Council. In particular, check out the Information for Community Councils section [here](#) Keep your Community Council information on the webpage up to date. Send DGC any changes to membership or individual contact details to ensure all information sent out by DGC is being received correctly.

CCESCommunities@dumgal.gov.uk

A Dumfries and Galloway Council operated enquiry service. Send your request for support or any other topic of Community Council business. Need more information on CCES, click [here](#)

Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

The Community Council mailbox administered by Dumfries and Galloway personnel.

Send in your Agendas and Minutes to comply with the scheme – Role of Secretary, section 6.5 of the scheme [here](#)