



Community Council December 2022 www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils **NEWS**

Gentle Reminder to claim your Community Council Annual Discretionary Grant 2022 – 2023

Thank you to all the Community Councils who have already submitted the monitoring form and relevant documentation to receive the 2022 – 2023 Community Council Annual Discretionary Grant.

A gentle reminder that the closing date for all applications is 31 December 2022. Copies of the forms can be found at [Information for community councillors - Dumfries and Galloway Council \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/information-for-community-councillors)

As detailed at Paragraph 11.6.3 in the Scheme of Establishment, claims will be considered on receipt of the following:

- Evidence of a minimum of 6 meetings having been held throughout the previous financial year, including an AGM, for the avoidance of doubt an EGM would be in addition to this.
- Satisfactory accounts for the previous financial year which have been certified by an Independent Examiner of Accounts and countersigned by the Chair and Treasurer.
- Annual Monitoring Form
- BACS Form, if applicable

Subject to eligibility and criteria having been met, the discretionary grant payment will be made by BACS transfer directly into the Community Council's bank account as soon as possible upon receipt of all the necessary paperwork.

Community Council Casual Vacancy Election Results

Over the past months, a number of Casual Vacancy Elections have taken place across the region, which has resulted in an increase to the overall elected membership of a number of Community Councils from across the region as follows:

Hoddam and Ecclefechan - 4 members (Uncontested)

Port William - 4 members (Contested)

Loreburn – 6 members (Uncontested)

Moffat and District – 2 members (Uncontested)

Mouswald – 4 members (Uncontested)

Tynron – 4 members (Uncontested)

Colvend and Southwick – 3 members (Uncontested).

New Social Media Guide for Community Councils published by the Improvement Service – find out more [here](#).

Places for Everyone Funding open for applications – Sustrans have reopened applications for funding through their Places for Everyone programme for new and continuing active travel – find out more [here](#).

My Place Awards - The Scottish Civic Trust's My Place Awards are now open for entries for 2023 – find out more [here](#).

Stewartry Community Council Network (SCCN)

Meetings of the SCCN recommenced on the 15 November 2022. The SCCN is a collective of Community Councils with membership open to all established Community Councils in the Stewartry area.

Community Council By-Election Results

A new Community Council has been established to represent the Kingholm Quay area within Nithsdale with 7 New Community Councillors assuming office on 20 October 2022.

Support to Communities with the Cost of Living

You may be aware that we have recently launched a new NEW Cost of Living DG Website - costofliving.dumgal.gov.uk

The Cost of Living DG website is a one-stop shop detailing help with money and benefits, household bills, finding work, health and wellbeing, as well as support for families, young people, the elderly and disabled.

Cost-of-living increases are now affecting everyone living and working in Dumfries and Galloway, but many residents remain unaware of what help is available to them.



Warm Hubs

Colleagues at Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway are currently gathering information on 'warm hubs' across the region and are looking for your help to where these are happening. This mapping is critical information to partners to enable a region wide approach to the cost-of-living crisis.

The proposal is that where community facilities are offering this service to residents, this will be recorded on the DG Locator App (<https://dglocator.org.uk/>)

We would therefore be grateful if you could consider the following, either directly linked to a community facility you are involved in or with your knowledge of your local community:

Are there any existing buildings/community groups/ organisations that currently have a warm hub/centre or are planning to do so in the next 3 months (if so, please give details)

Are there any existing buildings/community groups/ organisations that are not thinking about it but could with financial support? (if so, please give details, including levels of financial support and what this would cover ie energy, refreshments, activities etc)

Are you aware of any public/suitable properties that could be used within your community for a warm hub?

A 'Warm Hub' aims to support local people who may be at risk of fuel poverty or may be feeling lonely or isolated. A Warm Hub can be any community building and will provide a warm and friendly environment for people to socialise, often over refreshments and can be as part of activities – with no barriers to participation.

Any queries and / or your response should be sent to gail.mcphillips@dumgal.gov.uk



Dumfries and Galloway Christmas Food Providers Appeal

Due to the Cost of Living Crisis, Food Providers throughout our region are under more pressure than ever before to help those in need and would welcome any additional donations in the lead up to Christmas.

Match-funding offer for Winter Warm Spaces

The Co-op and Crowdfunder have teamed up to help community organisations provide vital services this winter.

The £1m match fund has been launched by Co-op to support local organisations who are raising money to help their communities this winter, by bringing people together into warm spaces. Further information is available [here](#).

Research on Digital Exclusion in Dumfries and Galloway

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway has now launched the report Digital Exclusion in Dumfries and Galloway. This report is the first outcome of a 12-month research project which investigated the extent of digital exclusion in Dumfries and Galloway and the reasons for this. The full and summary versions of the report can be accessed at the links below:

[Report – Digital Exclusion in Dumfries and Galloway, September 2022](#)

[Summary Report – Digital Exclusion in Dumfries and Galloway, September 2022](#)

If you have any enquiries regarding the report or the project, or would like to receive a copy of the report in a different format please contact Natalie Anderson, Projects Manager at Natalie.anderson@tsdg.org.uk or by telephone on 0300 3038558”

Community Council Training Opportunities

Additional Support for Community Councillors is still available and it is FREE The Improvement Service and the Open University (OU) in Scotland are working together to offer all community council volunteers the opportunity to upskill and reskill using OU courses, just click on the link to begin your journey <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-support>

The OU has many courses to choose from but if you would like to suggest additional topics for training not covered that would benefit Community Councils in Scotland please let us know by e-mail scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk

We continue to offer free training, guidance and support to all Community Council throughout the region. Many Community Councils are now taking the opportunity to refresh and this can be an online session or in person, whatever meets the needs of the Community Council. To ensure you have the necessary resources available to undertake the important roles and responsibilities of a Community Council, please contact us at the Community Council mailbox Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk



COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS access the **webpage for all things Community Council** [here](#)

RESILIENCE TEAMS UPDATE HERE

Any community Council who would like support with their resilience plan or update their existing plan can contact the Resilience Officer who will be able to assist.

Thanks to those who have recently updated their Community Resilience Plans. The Resilience Team and Ward Officers are happy to help. If you haven't already done so, please take time to revise and send through to us at Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk/resilience

Highways and Byways Information

Preparations continue for the commencement of the Winter Service on 24 October 2022. At our five depots across the region, the fleet of gritters have arrived and refilling of salt bins is underway. The gritters can be followed on our Track My Gritter portal, where salt bin re-fills can also be requested [Track My Gritter](#)

Report It Service

(Located at WWW.DUMGAL.GOV.UK opening screen) Road Defects including potholes can be sent direct to the Report it system, located on the opening page of the Dumgal.gov webpage. The REPORT IT system allows the defect to be plotted on a map to ensure that the correct location is identified, 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.

Road Service Programme details of the Roads Service programme of works activity happening in your Ward is regularly posted out on Gov.Delivery and also available on the Council's Facebook and Twitter site. (Please note that delivery of the intended programme may be subject to change). www.dumgal.gov.uk



Planning News Update

www.eplanning.scot

What is ePlanning?

If you're looking to build, extend your home, cut down a large tree, or even put up a new boundary fence, you may need to get permission from your Planning Authority first. ePlanning is a free to use online service that is managed by the Scottish Government in partnership with all Scottish local authorities.

This portal allows you to complete and submit planning applications, notice of reviews, appeals, and other permissions under planning law, all online from the comfort of your own home or office. You are also able to upload documentation you have to support your application, buy and mark up a location plan, and you also have the option to make an online payment for your application on the council's payment engine.

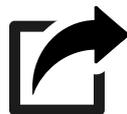
Local Place Plans continue to be a feature in planning across the region and if you require any information or support, please contact the Community Council mailbox, Community.Councils@dumgl.gov.uk

The Scottish Government has prepared a Circular to accompany the legislation on place planning and this can be found at www.gov.scot/publications/circular-1-2022-local-place-plans

The **Our Place Website** was launched on 20 January 2022 and includes information, tools and resources to help support the development of places and services. Find the information at www.ourplace.scot

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

Licensing News Update

The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill passed following a Scottish Parliament debate and introduces a fireworks licensing system. It also introduces powers for local authorities to designate firework control zones, restrictions on the supply and use of fireworks, and a new offence to criminalise the supply of fireworks and pyrotechnics to under-18s. For more information www.dumgal.gov.uk/licencing

www.scotland.police.uk www.gov.scot

Short Term Lets – Legislation Approved

All short-term let properties will require a licence to ensure they are safe and the people providing them are suitable, under legislation approved by the Scottish Parliament. <https://www.gov.scot/news/licensing-scheme-opens-for-short-term-lets/>

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.

Circulation List/ Newsletter Editions

The circulation continues to expand with new subscribers in 2022 and back editions of the Community Council newsletter available on the Community Council webpage www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils



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](#)

Gentle Reminders



88 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, www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils 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 on www.dumgal.gov.uk/wardworking to access more information about Ward Working across Dumfries and Galloway. You can also use our find my nearest tool to find out which ward you live in and contact the relevant ward worker - enter your address or postcode then find your ward under 'Council and democracy'.

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 www.ico.org.uk

Additional Information for Community Councillors on dumgal.gov website including Insurance, Discretionary Grants and Data Protection Registration is available on www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils/information

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

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils Community Council Webpages – 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, investigate on the website www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils

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 or just get in touch with us and we will ensure a prompt response.



Coast to Coast New Cycle Route Stranraer to Eyemouth

An exciting new 250 mile on-road cycle route covering the length of the South of Scotland is to be launched next year, in time for 2023 UCI Cycling Worlds in Glasgow and across Scotland. Further engagement with local businesses and communities will follow in the coming months to discuss the opportunities and gather opinions on this exciting new route.

Find out more: <http://ow.ly/CYjt50LcaJs>

[Scottish Borders Council Dumfries and Galloway Council VisitScotland South of Scotland Destination Alliance Sustrans Scotland 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships](#)

Annandale and Eskdale Federation of Community Council (The Federation)

Meeting of The Federation recommenced on 28 November 2022. The Federation is a collective of Community Councils with membership open to all established Community Councils in the Annandale and Eskdale area.

The main aims and objectives of these groups include to encourage and support joint working between Community Councils on common issues and to provide a forum for discussions on these issues; to facilitate the flow of information between Community Councils and represent the shared views of member Community Councils; to increase the collective influence for Community Councils in the locality and to strengthen their identity; and to engage strategically with statutory authorities and other organisations on issues of relevance to Community Councils.

If you would like further information or are interested in finding out about setting up a similar group within your area, please email Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk in the first instance.

COVID UPDATE

[SupportDG - Dumfries and Galloway Council - #supportDG \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#)

Go onto the website to find out all the latest news in connection with Covid 19

To find out about winter vaccinations in Scotland, click on the link below

[More than 1.3 million winter vaccines delivered](#)

Still available RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC New Report Published on Community Empowerment If you want to read the report in full, you can find it on the Audit Scotland website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk

Consultations and Engagements



Your Police 2022-2023 Survey : Police Scotland

Police Scotland continues to meet the needs of our communities during a demanding and difficult period. Understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities is fundamental to how Police Scotland responds to the needs of the public.

Public engagement activities help them improve how they deliver policing services in local communities, ensuring they are accessible for everyone.

Please complete the survey at Your Police 2022-2023. Your feedback will help them to address the needs in our local community.

For the latest information on current consultations check out our webpage www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations

YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

Working with young people in Dumfries and Galloway

Why not take the opportunity to invite your Youth Councillors along to your Community Council meeting to find out how you can work in partnership. Click on the link below and make that connection with your Youth Councillors. To view a list of Youth Councillors visit: [YouthWork - Dumfries and Galloway Council - Find My Youth Councillor \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#)

FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions from the Mailbox

Got a question and need an answer? You may find that answer is literally at your fingertips.

'The Scheme'

The document that supports the rules, regulations and responsibilities of a Community Council is called the 'Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway', usually referred to as 'the scheme'. This document should be referred to at every opportunity, by every member of the Community Council.

Scheme 9.5 public attending meetings

All meetings, including sub-group meetings are open to the public and the press. When does the rule not apply – if the Community Council can clearly evidence there is a real and substantial risk to public health or public safety.

Scheme 11.6 Discretionary Grant

The annual grant provided by DGC can be used by the Community Council for whatever purpose they have agreed upon, providing it meets with the statutory role and responsibility of the Community Council.

Scheme 7 Elections and Casual Vacancy Elections

The next scheduled Community Council Ordinary Election will take place in October 2024. Every Community Councillor will stand down and apply for re-election. Requests to implement a Casual vacancy election is becoming very frequent and this should be sent to the Community Council mailbox, together with a copy of the minutes agreeing the request for DGC to proceed. Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

Funding Available for Community Councils, Local Charities and Community Groups

Funding Support - Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (tsdg.org.uk)

Our council has a range of funding available from our area committees' discretionary fund and tackling poverty and inequalities fund. For more information, application, and deadlines check out <https://crowd.in/WDFuJv>

DGCAS

Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service new Web Pages which have been specifically designed to offer detailed help and support on the cost of living increases.

[COST OF LIVING HELP | Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service \(dagcas.org\)](https://www.dagcas.org)

Hosting a Community Council Virtual / Hybrid Meetings

Please find a guide on various methods of hosting virtual / hybrid meetings should they be of interest to you as we move into the winter months.

[COVID CC Meetings Methods of Remote Platforms \[PDF - 136.13KB\]](#)

[Scottish Tech Army Training Materials](#)

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

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

RESILIENCE TEAMS UPDATE

Thanks to those who have recently updated their Community Resilience Plans. If you haven't already done so, please take time to revise and send through to us at Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk. The Resilience Team and Ward Officers are happy to help.

Would you like to speak to someone about local issues?

You can contact your local Councillor to speak about any Council matter.



[Click here for details of how to contact your local Councillor and a list of forthcoming surgeries.](#)

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 delivered by local groups in receipt of these funds. James.Parker@dumgal.gov.uk



Windfarm Fund Profile – Ewe Hill

Ewe Hill Windfarm is located on Ewe Hill (445m) approximately halfway between Lockerbie and Lochmaben, overlooking Winterhope Reservoir. The windfarm includes the remains of one of the region's ancient settlements, clearly visible beside one of the turbines in the attached picture.

Technical info:

- Number of turbines: 22
- Installed capacity: 51MW
- Community fund: over £180k per year

Some projects previously supported by the Ewe Hill Fund:

- Illuminated speed signs for Eaglesfield
- Wild Eskdale project
- RH Youth Organisation equipment
- Waterbeck Public Hall refurbishments
- Canonbie & District Bowling Club clubhouse improvements
- Ecclefechan Village Hall repairs
- Gretna Tennis Club court restoration
- Kirkpatrick Fleming Play Park
- Burgh of Langholm Pipe Band Uniforms
- Food Train delivery van
- D&G Hard of Hearing Group
- Lockerbie Scout Hall improvements
- Langholm Youth Rugby Trust training

Application deadlines to be aware of:

- ANCBC main fund 2nd December 2022 (Annandale & Nithsdale)
- Clyde Windfarm 14th January 2023 (North-East of Region)
- Kilgallioch Fund 6th February 2023 (West of region)
- Ewe Hill Fund 31st January 2023 (Annandale & Eskdale)
- D&G Regionwide Community Fund – opens January 2023 (Regionwide)

Sharing Good Practice across the Region

Lockerbie and District Community Council - getting the information out to their community online
"As you are all aware our Light switch on is Saturday 19th November. We can't wait to see you there. This year we are working in partnership with Lockerbie Salvation Army to provide a food and toiletries drop off. No item is too small to help support our community"

Royal Burgh of Lochmaben and District Community Council provided an update on their involvement in the recent War Memorial competition
"Following our entry to the Royal British Legion Scotland Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2022. Lochmaben War Memorial was Highly Commended in the National All Category of the Glasgow, Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway Area RBLs Competition 2022."

Presentation of the award was made on September 20th by DGC's Forces Champion Cllr Archie Dryburgh"
www.facebook.com/people/Lochmaben-Community-Council

Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council are aiming to keep the home fires burning by providing kindling for elderly and vulnerable people in the area to help keep their homes heated through the winter months ahead. Joyce Wylie, Community Councillor commented, "with Covid, we were not able to go door to door as much as we would have wanted last year but hopefully this scheme will help this winter".
www.annan.org.uk/community-council