



Community Council NEWS

April 2023

www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils

Federations are moving forward across the region

There are now two Community Council Federations established in the region, with another two in the early stages of interest. The Stewartry Community Council Network (SCNN) continue to operate a collective of Community Councils with membership open to all established Community Councils in the Stewartry area. This could potentially bring the total of five independent groups across the region, providing additional support for Community Councils – operated by Community Councils for Community Councils.

CVE - Casual Vacancy Election - Update

Under the terms of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Dumfries and Galloway, a Casual Vacancy Election is a method whereby Community Councils can fill vacancies between Ordinary Elections. Community Councillors elected through this process will be Elected Community Councillors and are required to meet all the eligibility criteria.

Crossmichael and District Community Council (Ward 4)

A CVE is underway for the return of seven vacancies including the three current Co-opted Community Councillors. The closing date for nominations is Monday, 20 March 2023 at 5pm. Should the return of valid nominations received exceed the number of vacancies, a Poll will take place on Wednesday, 19 April 2023.

Auldgirth and District Community Council (Ward 8)

A CVE is underway for the return of six vacancies. The closing date for nominations is Monday, 17 April 2023 at 5pm. Should the return of valid nominations received exceed the number of vacancies, a Poll will take place on Thursday, 11 May 2023.

Social Media

New Social Media Guide for Community Councils has been published by



the Improvement Service – find out more [New social media guide for community councils published by IS | Community Council](#)

time to talk

RIGHT CARE
RIGHT PLACE

DUMFRIES AND
GALLOWAY
Health and
Social Care
Partnership

Consultation on the future of bed-based intermediate care in Dumfries and Galloway

Inviting responses on proposed approaches to bed-based intermediate care – defined as the help people access between an acute hospital setting and what they are able to manage at home, either independently or with support.

This takes in everything from care homes to cottage hospitals, extra care housing and short breaks providing respite, and recognises the importance of care and support at home.

Consultation runs from 14 April 2023 until 7 July 2023.

Public in-person events take place between 21 April and 3 July. If you require any assistance to attend, please email dg.spcp@nhs.scot

Full details of all opportunities including the online consultation will be made available by visiting the website www.dghscp.co.uk/rcrp-consultation

TSDG Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

are offering FREE training – click on the link to the right to sign up for this exciting opportunity.

2023

FREE TRAINING

Click for more or to book

- Business Development
- Governance
- Volunteering
- Funding

Support to Communities with the Cost of Living

You may be aware that we have recently launched a new Cost of Living DG website –

www.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.



Emergency Energy Payment Assistance Programme for Vulnerable & Older People



Dumfries and Galloway Council have allocated £200,000,00 to deliver our new Emergency Energy Payment Assistance Programme for Vulnerable and Older People throughout our Region.

This programme offers help to older and vulnerable people within our region who may be struggling to cover the costs of their home energy payments. We are completing this project in conjunction with all of our following project partners and we can offer up to three separate payments of up to £49 each time you need assistance. Anyone who is in receipt of at least one form of benefit payment can access this support through our project partners who are all detailed below.

Please check through our list of project partners before calling any of the organisations to make sure that you are calling the correct one for you (e.g. if you are a Loreburn Tenant, you would phone Loreburn, and if you are a Private Rented Sector Tenant, you should call DAGCAS).

Private Rented Sector Tenants

Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service

Tel: 0300 303 4321

info@dagcas.org

www.dagcas.org

DGHP / The Wheatley Group Tenants

Lemon Aid Fuel Poverty Project

Tel: Freephone 0800 221 8089

jhouston@chaltd.org

www.cunninghame-housing.org

Loreburn Housing Association Tenants

Loreburn Housing Association

Tel: 01387 321 300

customerservice@loreburn.org.uk

www.loreburn.org.uk

Home Group Housing Tenants

Home Group Tenants

Tel: 0345 141 4663

contactus@homegroup.org.uk

www.homegroup.org.uk

Irvine Housing Association Tenants

Tel: 0345 111 0000

www.riverside.org.uk

Cunningham Housing Association Tenants

Lemonaid Fuel Poverty Project

Tel: 0800 221 8089

www.cunninghame-housing.org/lemon-aid-project/

For further information on this project, please contact our Poverty and Inequalities Team on either challenge. poverty@dumgal.gov.uk or by phone on 0791 743 2059.

Support to Communities with the Cost of Living

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)

Warm Hubs

Our colleagues at Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway have mapped out warm hubs across the region. Click on the link below and enter 'warm hubs' in the search box to locate the nearest free warm space near you <https://dglocator.org.uk/>



the hub - your community action centre

Help with Heating Scheme

Dumfries and Galloway Council are also supporting The Hub in Dumfries to help them to provide older households in fuel poverty from across the region with free briquettes and kindling during the winter months if their main source of heating is an open fire / multi-fuel stove. To be eligible you need to be:

- over 60 years of age
- in receipt of a means-tested benefit

To find out more phone **01387 269161** or email info@thehubdg.org.uk or visit <https://www.thehubdg.org.uk/help-with-heating-costs>

Other ways the scheme can help

The scheme can also assist all households, not just older households, with any form of heating costs who may also be struggling with the rising costs of home energy at this time. This is aimed at tenants of private rented sector homes and home owners who receive means tested benefits.

The Hub is a referring partner for Home Heating Advice Scotland and provides financial assistance for any form of heating i.e. electricity, gas, oil, LPG/calor gas, coal and whether you pay by pre-payment meters, by monthly direct debits, by quarterly bills or by supplier invoices.

How to apply

You will need to supply The Hub with the following information:

- Your name, address, date of birth, NI number, phone number, email address.
- Proof of your means tested benefits.
- Number of child dependents, adult dependents and number of adults over 75yrs in your household.
- Supply a recent energy bill or paid invoice which shows your name, address and customer reference number.
- If your home has an energy performance certificate rating E, F or G.
- If you are in fuel debt evidence of the debt.

Applications and the information documents required above need to be in the same name of the householder / utility account holder.

Financial awards are paid direct to your fuel supplier who will credit the payment to your fuel/utility company account and/or send you an email with pre-payment meter vouchers codes to use when purchasing top-ups.

Please submit your application by email with all the information required to info@thehubdg.org.uk. For more information, please phone **01387 269161** or visit <https://www.thehubdg.org.uk/help-with-heating-costs>



FREE Sakura Cherry Tree Project

Donating beautiful Japanese trees across the Nation

To celebrate the 150-year anniversary of Japan-UK friendship and co-operation, the Sakura Cherry Tree project are donating young Sakura cherry trees throughout the United Kingdom, with a particular focus on Scotland. Schools, local authorities, organisations, companies and voluntary groups can all make an application to the project for their desired number of trees, providing that the planting site is accessible to the public for the trees to be enjoyed. If you are interested in making an application, contact

info@japanuksakura.org

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 to scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk



We continue to offer free training, guidance and support to all Community Councils throughout the region. Many Community Councils are now taking the opportunity to refresh, and we can provide support with this through 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

Sharing Good Practice across the Region

Community Champion for Gretna and Rigg



Gretna and Rigg Community Council recently awarded its first annual Community Champion Award. The award is a recognition for achievement and commitment within the local community.

GRCC is happy to announce that its Community Champion of 2022 is Gordon Davidson. Gordon has been living in Gretna all his life

and is well-known and respected in the community for his volunteering, his many acts of kindness and his care for the people of Gretna and Rigg.

Gordon received an engraved trophy and a voucher and commented said: "I am extremely grateful for my award and proud to serve Gretna and Rigg communities."

Consultation Time in Sanquhar

Sanquhar and District Community Council provided a helpful insight into how they consulted with their community recently. Using online technology and having paper copies available ensured all members of the community could take part. Check out their [Facebook page](#) where you can find out more information including an incentive for the community to take part.

Facebook or not to Facebook, this is the question?

Heathhall Community Council have a 1.3k following on their Facebook page. By utilising this easily accessed, free technology they are able to communicate on a wider platform, get information out to the community in real time and receive feedback too. Would having a Community Council Facebook page benefit your Community Council? Why not check out [Heathhall Community Council](#) and see how they do it.



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.

Planning Reform: Recruitment of National Planning Improvement Champion

Scottish Government are continuing to make progress in implementing the reforms of Scotland's planning system, including those in relation to improving performance, resources and skills. They are now recruiting a National Planning Improvement Champion to support improvement within the Scottish planning system by supporting authorities with making improvements or efficiencies and, where appropriate, providing tailored advice to organisations within the sector including authorities, Scottish Government, agencies, community groups and developer interests. Click on the [Transforming Planning](#) to find out more.

Licencing News Update

For more information www.dumgal.gov.uk/licencing

Dumfries and Galloway Divisional Licensing Boards are seeking views on their current Licensing Policy Statement. A Statement of Licensing Policy sets out the terms by which each Divisional Licensing Board will consider applications for premises (alcohol) licences in their area and other alcohol related matters. A new Statement of Licensing Policy must be agreed and published by November 2023. Click on the link to find out more [Consultation - Review of the Licensing Boards' Policy Statement - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

Development Planning Regulations

Regulations have been laid in the Scottish Parliament to support the new approach to Local Development Plans (LDPs) in Scotland.

[The Town and Country Planning \(Development Planning\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#)

[The Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(Commencement No. 12 and Saving and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2023](#)

The regulations are subject to [Parliamentary scrutiny](#) and are due to come into force on 19 May 2023.

The new provisions support a new way of preparing LDPs that will result in new style plans that manage the use of land in the long term public interest. Guidance will be published by the Scottish Government to support the regulations.

The regulations have been developed following the [public consultation on Local Development Planning](#), which included draft regulations and guidance, and the separate consultation on the definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' for local development plan evidence reports (see below).

See the policy notes for more information.

[The Town and Country Planning \(Development Planning\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 - Policy Note](#)

[The Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(Commencement No. 12 and Saving and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2023 - Policy Note](#)

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 or [Local Place Plans - Dumfries and Galloway Council \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#) Check out the link below to find out more about populations in your locale [Population around a point \(tomforth.co.uk\)](#)

How to keep up to date

Follow Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division

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

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

Online application service: [eDevelopment.scot](#)

Legion Scotland Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2023

On behalf of Legion Scotland, we are pleased to share with you the relevant documents should you wish to submit an entry to the Legion Scotland Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2023. The key dates are as follows:

Completed entry deadline	28 April 2023
Area Judging	12 May - 14 July 2023
National Judging	21 July - 18 August 2023
Trophy Presentation at New Haig House, Edinburgh	8 September 2023

Completed entry forms should be submitted to the Legion Scotland Area Secretary areasecgadg@legionscotland.org.uk and to Head Office BKWM@legionscotland.org.uk. Further information can also be found at [Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2023 | Royal British Legion Scotland](#).



Report It Service

(Located at www.dumgal.gov.uk homepage)

Road Defects including potholes can be sent direct to the Report it system, located on the homepage of the dumgal.gov.uk 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 GovDelivery. (Please note that delivery of the intended programme may be subject to change).

Find out more helpful tips on how to get the most out of the enquiry systems available with DGC [here](#)

Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III - Useful Information and Guidance

The Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III and his wife Camilla, Her Majesty, The Queen Consort, as King and Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023, at Westminster Abbey.



A three-day Coronation Weekend is being promoted, encouraging individuals, businesses, and community organisations across Scotland to celebrate the Coronation, the first for seventy years.

Dumfries and Galloway Council has launched a dedicated webpage that will be continuously updated as further details are announced and arrangements made. It signposts to all the national celebrations including the Coronation Ceremony, the Coronation Big Lunch and the Big Help Out – as well as other useful resources and signposts to funding for those looking to organise their very own Coronation Big Lunch or street party.

The dedicated webpage can be found at: [Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III - Useful Information and Guidance](#)

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.

Dumfries and Galloway Council also have Facebook and Twitter pages which are updated regularly with news, information and contact details. Click on the link at the foot of the screen to access Facebook and Twitter



Useful Information



87 Community Councils are now established across the 12 Wards within Dumfries and Galloway. We would appreciate each Community Council ensuring their main contact details are up to date. Please check out the list of main contacts on the dumgal.gov.uk 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’.

Information Commissioner’s Office

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.uk 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 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. www.tdsg.org.uk



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 www.communitycouncils.scot

LOCAL – 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. 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 to the CCES mailbox direct. Need more information on CCES, investigate on the website www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils

Find out more helpful tips on how to get the most out of the enquiry systems available with DGC [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 or just get in touch with us and we will ensure a prompt response.

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. We rely on you to inform us about any changes to the webpage. Send any updates to the Community Council mailbox on Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

Scottish Community Council Newsletter

Access the free subscription newsletter from the Scottish Government Improvement service. Packed with information, news and funding opportunities [Scottish Community Councils Website](http://Community.Councils@improvementservice.org.uk)



Scottishccs@improvementservice.org.uk

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 more information. www.dumgal.gov.uk

Community Activators

coming to a town near you!

Over the past year Dumfries and Galloway Council's Active Communities team have been working in collaboration with the Health and Social Care Partnership to increase the delivery of region-wide older adult physical activity opportunities.

The Community Activator classes will be delivered in a fun and inclusive manner and aim to improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of participants. The programmes also aim to prevent de-conditioning and contribute to Health and Social Care priorities including healthy ageing.

Thanks to funding from the Health and Social Care Partnership, Community Activator staff have undertaken a range of training in evidenced based physical activity delivery to ensure programmes are age and stage specific while being delivered in a safe and inclusive environment.

Participants can enjoy a range of activities including bocchia (similar to French boules), indoor curling, chi-me (based on tai-chi), seated exercises and quizzes/games. A hot cuppa is also offered at most classes. The feedback has been really good so far and will hopefully lead to participants increasing their physical activity and joining more activities in their local area. Email Active.Communities@dumgal.gov.uk to find out what is happening in your area.

Funding Available for Community Councils, Local Charities and Community Groups

Funding Support – Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (tsdg.org.uk) Our council also 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 Funding from [Area Committees - Dumfries and Galloway Council \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](http://Area Committees - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk))

Scottish Community Councils Website [Community Council \(communitycouncils.scot\)](http://Community.Councils@communitycouncils.scot)

Circulation List/Newsletter Editions

The circulation list continues to expand with new subscribers in 2023 and back editions of the Community Council newsletter available on the Community Council webpage. If you are reading back editions from the webpage, why not send your email address to the mailbox and receive a copy to your mailbox Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk Check out back editions on www.dumgal.gov.uk

COVID UPDATE

Contact NHS Dumfries and Galloway for the latest information on Covid 19 COVID-19 - NHS Dumfries & Galloway

Consultations and Engagements

Consultations and Engagement - Dumfries and Galloway Council Click

on the link to find out more about all things consultation, including the active consultations taking place across the region.



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: <https://youthwork.dumgal.gov.uk/article/21194/Find-My-Youth-Councillor>

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 Profile – Robin Rigg

Robin Rigg Wind Farm, Scotland's first offshore wind farm, sits on Robin Rigg in the Solway Firth, a sandbank between the Galloway and Cumbrian coasts. The windfarm was completed in April 2010.

The windfarm is made up on 60 turbines, with a total capacity of 174MW – enough to power over 100,000 homes. This is connected to land via a 12.5km underwater cable.

Robin Rigg's community fund has supported the upkeep of local facilities and funded a range of local activities from Tai Chi classes to tree surgery.

Funding is available to the following Community Council areas in D&G:

- Caerlaverock
- New Abbey
- Kirkbean
- Southernness
- Colvend and Southwick
- Palnackie
- Auchencairn
- Dundrennan
- Kirkcudbright
- Borgue

Application deadlines to be aware of:

- ANCBC main fund
4 August 2023
(Annandale & Nithsdale)
- Clyde Windfarm 7
July 2023 (North-East of Region)
- Kilgallioch Fund
12 June 2023
(West of region)
- Ewe Hill Fund
31 July 2023
(Annandale & Eskdale)
- D&G Regionwide
Community Fund
– 21 April 2023
(Regionwide)

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](#)