



# Community Council NEWS

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils)



## Coronavirus Update on Vaccination and Testing

Vaccination Drop in Clinics provide a quick, free and convenient opportunity to get vaccinated, so to find out when these are taking place please click [HERE](#).

Appointments can be made by visiting NHS Inform [HERE](#), by calling the local helpline on 01387 403090, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, or by emailing NHS D&G on [dg.covidenquiries@nhs.scot](mailto:dg.covidenquiries@nhs.scot).

NHS Dumfries and Galloway are rolling out Coronavirus testing for everyone across the region. Please click on the link [HERE](#) to find out more about this service, follow the onscreen options and find out where the nearest testing site to you is located. Source up-to-date and accurate information about what is happening in the region in relation to the Coronavirus on the NHS website [HERE](#). If you have no Covid symptoms it's easy to get your free twice-weekly rapid Covid test. It's easy to use and results are confirmed within 30 minutes.

- **Order** online for home delivery at [gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- **Order** by phone for home delivery on 119. Lines are open 7am to 11pm and calls are free.
- **Collect** from a local pharmacy. Check [nhsdg.co.uk/testing](http://nhsdg.co.uk/testing) for participating pharmacies
- **Collect** from test centre and collection point. Check [nhsdg.co.uk/testing](http://nhsdg.co.uk/testing) for a location near you

## #SupportDG

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

## Community Council Survey Results 2020/2021

As a Council we are always looking for ways to improve the service that we deliver, so we carry out an Annual Survey to ask about the different aspects of our support to you. The results of this survey focus on the work of the Community Planning and Engagement Service and show an increased response rate of 21% to that of the previous survey. This is an excellent performance given the additional demands on Community Councils and on Council staff over the past 18 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For further information and to see a summary of the feedback please click [HERE](#).

## Community Council Meetings - update

**Our Council is now considering opening buildings** up for community use as part of our restart planning. We are aware that a number of Community Councils who typically meet in Council buildings are keen to get back to in person meetings in their usual venues as soon as possible and whilst our advice continues to be to meet virtually in the short term, please be assured that we are looking into the opening of buildings to accommodate our staff and community partners in a safe and responsible manner.

We will continue to keep you up to date with plans as they develop and in the meantime if you have any queries please email the Community Council Enquiry Service at [CCESmailbox@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:CCESmailbox@dumgal.gov.uk).

Meantime, should your Community Council have taken the decision to resume in person meetings, please make sure that you are familiar with and adhering to all the necessary Scottish Government guidelines which can be found [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.

## Community Council Webpage Hits

Visitor numbers to the main Community Council and Information for Community Councillors [webpages](#) are up with records showing a total of 3,982 visits over the past 3 month period May to July, this is three times more than for the same period in 2020.

Page	Visits	Unique Users	Time Period
Community Councils	3,982	1,880	May – July
Information for Community Councillors	167	142	May – July

## 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](mailto:Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk)

## FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions from the Mailbox

### Hosting a Community Council Remote Meeting

We are aware that a number of Community Councils have taken the decision to meet remotely and are using various ways to ensure that the public are being given access to these remote meetings through the use of virtual platforms. Please find a guide on various methods of hosting virtual meetings that you may find useful whilst appreciating that Community Councils may wish to use other remote means that may not already be listed. [COVID CC Meetings Methods of Remote Platforms](#)

### Casual Vacancy Elections

Interested in holding a casual vacancy election? Section 7 of the scheme covers the process and procedure. Check out the details [HERE](#).

### Co-option of Members

Section 5.5, Process of Appointment in the scheme, covers the procedure for appointing Co-opted Community Council members. Find the Scheme [HERE](#).

In all instances, please notify us of your intentions and we will be happy to provide guidance and support. Contact the Community Council mailbox at [Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk)

### Consultations

We welcome your feedback and hold public consultations and information days so that you can take part in decisions that affect you. Please check out our consultation page [HERE](#).

### The Solway FRM Strategy and the Local Flood Risk Management Plan

are being updated to identify target areas, objectives, and actions for Cycle 2, from 2022 to 2028. Draft documents are available to public consultation [HERE](#). View SEPA's video about this consultation [HERE](#).

### Garden Waste Collection Service – have your say.

We're looking into ways we could assist you in getting rid of garden waste like grass cuttings and prunings. Please take 5 mins to complete the survey [HERE](#) to allow us to take on board your feedback as we look to make recycling and waste disposal easier for you and us.

**BT Home Essentials Low-Cost Phone and Broadband Initiative** – stay connected with BT's low cost broadband and phone plans. Available for applicants in receipt of specific benefits such as pension credits, universal credit, employment allowance, jobseeker's allowance and income support. New or existing BT customers can apply. Find out more [HERE](#).



## Windfarm Community Funds

deadline dates for the calendar

- ANCBC main fund 3 December 2021 (Annandale & Nithsdale)
- Kilgallioch Fund 18 October 2021 (West of region)
- Ewe Hill Fund 31 January 2022 (Annandale & Eskdale)
- D&G Regionwide Community Fund will open in January 2022 (Regionwide fund)

Look out for forthcoming newsletter editions which will feature projects funded through Windfarm Community funds. For further information please contact James Parker at [james.parker@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:james.parker@dumgal.gov.uk).

## War Memorial Competition



2021/22 marks an important year for our Armed Forces with the 100th Anniversary of The Royal British Legion Scotland (Legion Scotland). In recognition of this, Members of the Communities Committee agreed at their meeting of 6 April 2021, Dumfries and Galloway's contribution to the Centenary included a project to provide funding to community groups to improve their War Memorial and have a Dumfries and Galloway Competition. Applications for funding closed on 26 July 2021 and the competition closes at **5pm on Wednesday 1 September 2021**. Further information on the competition can be found [HERE](#).

## Young Peoples Voices in Dumfries and Galloway

Dumfries & Galloway's Youth Council is the democratically elected voice of young people aged 12-25 in the region. The organisation includes 35 Members including Ward Youth Councillors, Nominated Youth Councillors and Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

**To extend an invitation to attend your Community Council meeting**, find out more about Youth Councillors in your area [HERE](#).

## 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](mailto:community.councils@dumgal.gov.uk)



# Sharing Good Practice across the Region

## Colvend and Southwick Community Council

have undertaken the renovation of all the bus shelters in its area. Simon Pain, Vice Chair of Colvend and Southwick Community Council, provided information on the project. He reported that, there are 3 shelters located at Portling Road-end, Sandyhills and Southwick. The Portling Road-end Shelter had timbers replaced, renewal of the roofing felt and re-staining inside and out. The Sandyhills bus shelter was also re-stained inside. The Southwick Shelter was in a poor and unsafe state and was completely rebuilt to a similar design to the original. This project was done with the approval of Swestrans, managed by the Community Council and completed with financial assistance from the Robin Rigg Community Fund. All work was carried out by volunteers and the materials were provided by DGC Roads Department.



## Balmaghie Community Council

informed the local community planters are now in place in Laurieston, Bridge of Dee and Glenlochar. Check out the pictures on Balmaghie Community Council facebook page [HERE](#).



In the west of the region, **Cree Valley Community Council** have received positive comments on the floral displays in their community. See more colourful displays on their Facebook page [HERE](#).



A valiant effort was undertaken recently by **Kirkpatrick Fleming Community Council** when traffic came to a standstill following a tragic accident on the northbound carriageway of the M74. Word soon spread to the local community that traffic was at a standstill, with motorists facing unusually high temperatures. Community Council Chairman Stephen Muir, 38, said: "I delivered about 100 ice lollies, about 150 bottles of water, juice, apples, crisps donated by people within the village and local businesses. We are a close community, we like to help each other. I work all over the country and have been stuck in many accidents with no food or anything to drink. From my house I could see a few children standing outside the vehicles with parents. It was 26C outside so felt it's only right to go and offer help."

## Funding opportunities

Information about financial support for local community groups and organisations can be found on the funding and grants page of the Council's webpage [HERE](#).

## Planning an event in your local area?

Looking for some information and guidance? We've published a Community Events Toolkit to support community organisers who are planning or considering planning an event in D&G. The toolkit is available [here](#)



**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



**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 contact details are up to date and correct.

Please check out the list of secretaries/contacts on the [dumgal.gov](http://dumgal.gov) website and if any changes are required, we would be grateful if you could notify us via email to [Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)