



# Community Council NEWS

July 2022

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

## Community Council Resilience is recognised and shared nationally

We are delighted to share that The Royal Burgh of Lochmaben and District Community Council are now firmly on the 'resilience map' in Scotland. Having provided a huge support to its citizens over the Covid pandemic, they were included in the COSLA Excellence Award Presentation – 'Stronger Communities in light of Covid-19', an Award which was subsequently won by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Furthermore, they were recently approached to share their experiences and practices as part of the Scottish Government Safer Scotland Programme, which has resulted in them being included in the newly launched [Scottish Government Ready Scotland LEARN open access e-learning hub](#).

The Royal Burgh of Lochmaben and District Community Council's Resilience Team and the Lochmaben Covid-19 Group (a social media group) worked together during the pandemic to provide a collaborative support network which was able to reach much further across the community and engage in innovative ways. Through these two groups working together, an experienced resilience group and a newer online network, it allowed information to be shared physically and via social media to ensure that no one was excluded. The collaborative work has continued with the establishment of a helpline to support all age groups, coordinating local volunteers and arranging amongst other things, a letter writing project from local school children to elderly residents, a step towards reducing loneliness and isolation.

In recognition of their work, Community Councillor Carol Rogerson recently represented the Community Council at Her Majesty's Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, where she had the privilege of speaking with His Royal Highness The Duke of Rothesay about the vital role that is played by so many Community Councillors and volunteers not only during the Covid-19 pandemic but on an ongoing basis.



Steven Wylie, Ward Officer Annandale North recently caught up with Colin Davidson, Chairperson and Carol Rogerson, Community Councillor about this work and we are pleased to share with you what they had to say <https://youtu.be/sALZ-V3Xcws>

## #SupportDG

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

### COVID #supportdg

Scottish Government guidelines for COVID-19 testing have changed.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests are no longer freely available, and PCR testing for everyone came to an end on 30th April 2022. Those who need LFD tests for visiting hospital and care homes can obtain them by logging onto the NHS Inform website at [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot), or by telephoning 0800 0282816.

Everyone else should follow the guidance to self isolate if have any symptoms of COVID-19, and have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or do normal activities. Anyone able to wear a mask is expected to do so whilst in a healthcare (including hospitals, clinics, or GP surgeries) or care home setting.



## Memorial/Headstone Safety Project

A bulletin was recently circulated to all community councils to inform them about the current memorial safety project being undertaken across the region.

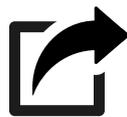
As work progresses, Officers will be in direct contact with Community Councils and other organisations within Communities where we are due to start an inspection of Memorials/Headstones within one of your cemeteries. As you may be aware, Lair holders are responsible for the maintenance



and repair of Lairs which includes Memorials and Headstones and Dumfries and Galloway Council as the Burial Authority, are responsible for the safety of our communities, visitors and staff within cemeteries/burial grounds. Dumfries and Galloway Council are therefore progressing an inspection regime across all 215 cemeteries throughout the region and where required, making unstable Memorials/Headstones safe to ensure the safety of our communities. For further information regarding this project please visit our webpage at [Headstone Safety - Dumfries and Galloway Council \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/headstone-safety) If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us by email on [headstonesafety@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:headstonesafety@dumgal.gov.uk) or by telephone on 0303 333 3000.

### 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)



Dumfries and Galloway Council now have dedicated webpages detailing information on support to Ukraine. Find out what DGC are doing and how you can help [here](#)

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

We are delighted to learn that Community Councils have now resumed face to face and/ or a hybrid of both face to face and online meetings. As we know covid cases are still rising so we would urge everyone to follow the latest guidelines to ensure all precautions are in place to keep yourselves and members of your communities as safe as possible.



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](https://www.clearyourhead.scot) signposts to various helplines for those who might need to talk to someone.



## Planning Update

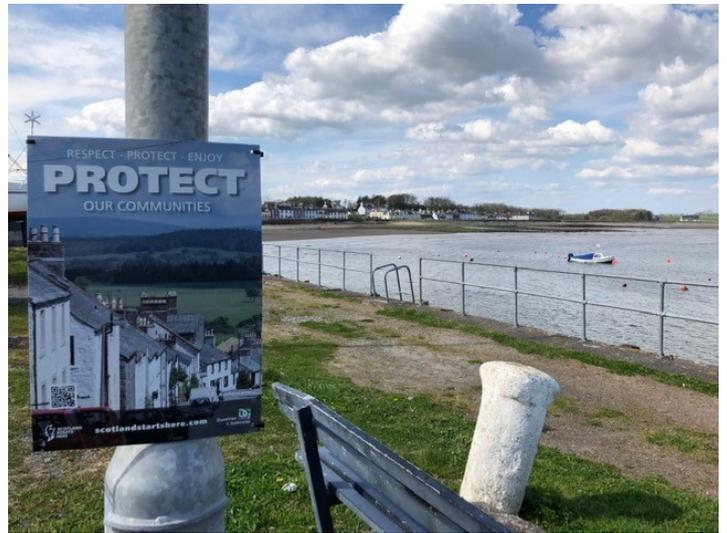
Increase in planning costs implemented from 1st April 2022 - The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 were recently published on the Scottish Government's website. The fee for a new build house will increase from £401 to £600 per house for the first 10 houses from April, with the rate dropping to £450 per house for houses 11-49 and to £250 for each house over 50 up to the maximum fee of £150,000. For more planning reform information, click [here](#)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Request for Training several Community Councils have been in contact recently requesting training sessions on the roles and responsibilities of a Community Council. These sessions are delivered by DGC staff and the training is focused on the scheme as a working document and this approach has received very encouraging feedback from participants. Contact the mailbox, [Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk) if your Community Council would benefit from a refresher session on the scheme.

Missed this Open University Learning Opportunity? Additional Support for Community Councillors is 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 re-skill using OU courses. In addition to digital skills learning, there are courses on a range of other topics that Community Councillors have suggested including finance, fundraising, community and business skills. These courses are totally free - all community councillors have to do is register for a free account and then you can begin your learning journey with the OU. So what are you waiting for? Brush up on your skills or learn some brand new ones with the OU, just click on the link below to begin your journey:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-supporto>



## Visitor Management

With Ward Assistants in place right across the region, preparations continue in a number of areas to ensure our high-profile welcome is in place for the influx of visitors. All of the principal towns across Dumfries and Galloway have seen signs erected, as have tourist attractions as varied as footpaths, campsites, museums and viewpoints. For more information, check out our Visit Dumfries and Galloway webpage [here](#)

## Find your Community Council

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/communitycouncils](http://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](mailto:Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk) and we will make the necessary changes.



## Consultations and Engagements

For the latest information on current consultations check out our webpage [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



**85** 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](http://dumgal.gov) website and if any changes are required, we would be grateful if you could notify us on [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.

### [CCESMailbox@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:CCESMailbox@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](#)