

DUNEATON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2022

Roberton Hall + Zoom Input

AGENDA

1 Present

- 1.1 Malcolm Muir, Alison Mitchell, Liz Steele, Robin Craig, Cllr R Barker, Cllr A Allison

Zoom Attendees

- 1.2 Gordon Wilson

Apologies

- 1.3 Mark Sykes. Clare Symonds, Irene Riddell, Anne Jefferies, Cllr McAllan

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting – 7 June 2022

- 2.1 No amendments for the minutes were suggested. The minutes were agreed unanimously.

3 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

3.1 101/102 Bus Route

AM advised that she had contacted Support Our Buses regarding its ongoing campaign but not had a reply. She asked if there was any further consideration of a transport hub, a suggestion raised some time ago.

3.2 Garden Waste Collections

AM asked if there was any update regarding garden waste collections being reintroduced. Cllr Barker advised he had spoken to Council staff but that it was unlikely to restart in the short term. He was told that while rural areas tended to get these uplifts most in South Lanarkshire do not. It may be that communal composters could be made available. RC stated that there is the issue of what can and cannot be put into composters, while MM agreed that they are only as good as they are used. Cllr Barker stated that it was not economic for the Council to cover the distances needed to provide such a service and that composters would be ok if used correctly. RC thought that there may be the potential for a few vehicles to cover the area. Cllr Barker advised he would follow up on the issue.

4 Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 MM advised that there was no Treasurer's report available.

5. Grants

5.1 There were two grant applications to consider at the meeting:

Crawfordjohn Children's Party – Crawfordjohn Development Group - £500 requested to cover hall hire food and other expenses.

Unanimously approved

Coulter Halloween Party – Coulter Primarty Parent Council - £250 to run a Halloween Disco – covering refreshment and DJ costs.

Unanimously approved.

6 Planning Issues

6.1 GW advised there were no planning issues for discussion.

7 Wind Farm Update

7.1 Grayside

MM advised there was no movement on the application and that we await developments. MM wished to pass his thanks to CS for her input to the DCC reply.

7.2 Bodinglee

MM advised there was no progress and again we await developments.

7.3 Andershaw West

GW advised he had attended the public consultation event in Crawfordjohn Hall on 27th Statkraft do not expect to go live before 2028 and there is a lot of things to be resolved before then. GW had raised the issue of the management of the community funding with the staff there and they were willing to consider options going forward. They had also offered to attend another DCC meeting to update on their progress

7.4 Kennoxhead

No update.

7.5 Little Gala

RC raised the concern about the landscape impact the scheme would have. MM again thanked CS for her response as part of the Planning process. MM stated that while DCC may not be against wind farms without local support, we should not necessarily just accept each application just because it falls within the Scottish Government targets.

7.6 Priestgill

MM advised there was no progress to report.

8 **Community Development Worker DCC monthly report September 2022**

Thanks to everyone for giving up your time and energy to deliver the newsletters. Very much appreciated to have such a good 'team' to cover our vast area.

Funding Update:

Covid Recovery Funding:

SLC £900. Full amount paid to DCC. **£450 remains** and will be used for print of the next newsletter and venue bookings for drop-in sessions in Oct for all 6 villages.

Scottish Government 'Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund': £4,725.

£2,500 salary and £2,225 project funding. The fund has been paid into the DCC account to be used to fund the community café project and volunteer mileage for the CCI 'Handy Folk' project. The community café's start next week. I'll have a better idea of costs for next month's report.

Community café

As publicised in the new newsletter, the café project starts next Thursday, taking place every Thursday using 4 venues spread throughout the month with the last one on the 22nd Dec. If successful I will run the project again in the New Year until the funding is spent.

CCI 'Handy Folk' initiative

This initiative has started with CCI and Healthy Valleys providing suitable volunteers who on request will visit homes to undertake simple tasks. The Duneaton area is now included, with the additional funding being used to pay volunteer mileage for any visits within Duneaton. This project feels like it is having a slow start but having advertised in the newsletter, hopefully responses may start to come in. The additional funding is paying for volunteer mileage within Duneaton.

Funding Meetings:

Through my management of the Crawfordjohn Solar project I have for the 1st time experience of the process required for a large fund bid which includes 3 funders. Due to my frustrations related particularly with SLC's windfarm community benefit funding system, I organised meeting with Gareth Shield's from SSE Clyde Extension and Kenny Lean from SLC's Clyde and REF. The meeting with Gareth helped with questions on SSE's management of the fund and also to understand his thoughts on how SLC manages their Clyde fund. My 2-hour meeting with Kenny was helpful for me to outline issues with the online application/claim system and timescale for release of funds. A reminder to

Kenny that he doesn't know how things are as an application. We also discussed the potential for funds to be used for other purposes. I pushed the addition for availability of revenue funding and he talked about the possibility of 'gifting' an annual sum to community owned and managed venues.

Clydesdale Community Partnership:

Gordon attended the last monthly zoom meeting. I attempted but kept being disconnected as our broadband is so bad.

CDW Village Project Updates: my actions and outcomes

Abington

Abington Hall

I met with Simon Liddel from Abington as he's keen to manage a project to save the hall. In all reality, unless the community find a use for the hall to increase bookings alongside The Old School House, realistically I don't think SLC will repair and re-open the venue. I said I would contact Joanne Forbes for an update. As she's now been promoted and no longer in charge of SLC properties, she has though offered to speak with me. If there's time, I'll make the call next week when I'm at the drop-in sessions.

The Old School House

Nicci has started up a number of classes and activities at the new venue. I have booked to run a café there. SLC has given a loan of the Hall's tables and chairs and the WRI a loan of the crockery and cutlery etc they bought for the hall. The Old School House has a large Clyde extension application for other equipment. I think the next panel meeting is November.

Abington Primary School

The school stained glass project Clyde fund enquiry has been accepted and a full application submitted to fund the project which is hoped to start before the end of the year. The head teacher now has quotes to apply for funding in Crawford. I know Jill Kennedy is also keen for the project to run at Coulter and Lamington, so good use of the community fund.

Warm space with addition of soup and hot drinks

I met with David and Grace Lyndsey who want to offer a room at the back of their house as a warm space during the winter. Based on a 3-month trial period, the aim is to help those who can't afford to heat their own living spaces. David and Grace will provide soup, hot drinks and wifi. David will submit a microgrant application next month to buy soup kettles and provisions. If the idea fails due to lack of response, I suggested he donate the funded equipment to the School House.

Coulter

Defibrillator

After almost 3 years since I 1st met with SLC education to discuss the potential to install defibrillators at Coulter and Lamington Primary Schools, today, on behalf of the Coulter

Village Group, I was finally able to make the application to buy the defibrillator and 10-year management package from CHT for the unit to be installed at Coulter Primary.

Crawfordjohn

Crawfordjohn Hall solar/boiler replacement project

The project is due to be completed in the next 2 weeks. Perfect timing to create a better outcome for the hall related to the rise in energy costs, as well of course for the sustainability of the project, both environmentally and for the future of the hall.

I'm keen for the initiative linked to the funding process to be replicated throughout our area.

Lamington

Sheena Edgar has asked about the possibility of renewing the idea to have a defibrillator installed at Lamington Primary School. She is going to seek out possible volunteers to undertake the weekly cabinet reading and if successful, I'll assist her to submit a Clyde application.

Roberton

Nothing to report for Roberton

Wiston

Nothing to report for Wiston except that I'm going to encourage a member of the Hall committee to attend the Wiston drop-in session to discuss refurbishment of Wiston Hall.

9 Discussion/Updates on report

Coulter Group

- 9.1** MM stated that he has the cheque book but cannot yet pay for the defibrillator as he does not have the account log in. He would pursue the matter.

9.2 Abington Hall

Cllr Barker asked what the wind farm monies helped pay for in the Roberton hall refurbishment. AM advised that it covered internal décor, furnishings and ramp but not the building's structure. MM advised that the wind farm monies do not cover the structure of buildings in public ownership, although Biggar Exchange did get some monies to assist in those repairs. It was agreed that there had been a poor level of capital investment in public buildings for some 20 years. In addition, it has been difficult to access revenue funding while communities are unwilling to take on the management of these properties as they require a significant investment in time and resources.

10 Clydesdale Planning Partnership

- 10.1 GW advised he had attended three meetings to date and that local transport was an issue high up the groups list of priorities. However, at the last meeting, the cost of living crisis was discussed and one of the groups represented was undertaking a project which other groups may be able to replicate in their areas. There is a meeting next week at which the matter will be discussed further. GW also drew attention to the email circulated relating to funding for 'frozen' banks which offered grants to CC's to help with the cost of living issues.

11 Community Council Elections

- 11.1 There was discussion of the outcome of the nomination/election process. The current DCC members cease to be Councillors on 27th October and it was agreed that LS will be the Independent Interim Chair at the November meeting. LS advised that there were six unopposed nominations received by the Council which means that six of the eight positions can be filled. It was agreed that the December meeting would then be DCC's AGM.

12 MM Attendance at Meetings

- 12.1 MM advised he had two useful meetings to report back on that he had attended recently on behalf of DCC.
1. 20 Sept – Meeting with Banks Group regarding Community Fund
Banks was looking for options regarding the fund. Problem before in not funding individual benefit from the fund so money off electricity bills unable to progress. However, insulation of stone-built properties a possible project. Representatives from CC's, Energy Savings Trust, SLC and others agreed that this may be possible. In addition to providing useful guidance to vulnerable people we could potentially provide direct grants to people and get this started before winter. The next stage would be to set up a board that would include CC members and employ a full time professional with admin support.
 - 2 Last night MM attended a Clydesdale Way meeting which intended to apply for levelling up funding to provide walking links through the Council area and between the major walks in Dumfries and Galloway and Tweeddale. Currently the major routes come to SLC but then stop. They are looking to see if their windfarm application is successful. Cllr Barker stated that there may be the question of landowner compensation and this could be substantial. MM said that the intention was to provide walkers with guide paths to reduce disruption to a minimum.

13 AOCB

- 13.1 Bus Questionnaire – AM asked if DCC was going to promote the questionnaire through Facebook and distributing it locally. She felt we could afford to do it and that it could be targeted. LS advised that this was on her to-do list. There followed a general discussion about the bus service itself.

13.2 Newsletter Effectiveness – there was general discussion about how effective the newsletter in its current shape was. It was agreed that this should be on the agenda for a future meeting.

13.3 Vote of thanks – MM moved a vote of thanks to RC who had previously advised he was attending his last meeting and intended to step down from DCC. This was supported by the other members present.

14 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1st November 2022 – LS to be Independent Interim Chair
