

# CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Report for December 2020 / January 2021

### Elected Members:

Liz Holmes (Chair)  
Simon Holmes  
Christine Whipp  
Richard Duggleby

Anna Clark Kennedy  
Andrew Metcalf  
Ben Ade  
Sylvia Sinclair (Vice Chair)

Matt Hickman (Secretary)  
Darren Challis (Treasurer)  
Clare Duggleby

### Associate Members:

Trevor Molineux

Katch Holmes (Provisional)

## 1. Introduction

Although Carsphairn Community Council (CCC) has been unable to meet publicly they have continued to operate using email.

Where applicable, all emails relating to the activities of the council have been copied to those who have subscribed to the CCC email distribution list. If you are not currently subscribed and wish to be included please contact the Correspondence Secretary ([carsphairncc@gmail.com](mailto:carsphairncc@gmail.com)).

This report has been compiled to cover activities for December 2020 and January 2021.

If any members of the public have any issues they want to raise to the CCC please email the Secretary at [carsphairncc@gmail.com](mailto:carsphairncc@gmail.com) or telephone the Chair on 01644 460662.

## 2. Meetings

In order to comply with Government Regulations, and following D&G Council advice CCC have not held any public meetings since February 2020. The April AGM, and all ordinary meetings are currently postponed.

CCC considered using electronic meeting tools (zoom/skype etc.) but discounted this option due to the very poor broadband coverage experienced by the majority of the Carsphairn community.

CCC continue to monitor the latest advice / regulations and will hold public meetings as and when it becomes safe to do so.

## 3. Community Council General Business

### a) Broadband

- No further updates

### b) Whitespace

- Following agreement CCC had contacted Whitespace in early 2020 indicating they wished to withdraw from the agreement made by the previous CCC. No response received to date.
- No further updates

### c) War Memorial

- **Centenary Project:**
  - MH progressing on behalf of CCC and working with the Heritage Group.

- **Condition of Site:**
  - Following a CCES enquiry the council tidied up the site during the summer and are planning to plant the rockery late autumn/winter 2020. (CCES enquiry ref: 5012026)
- No further updates.

#### d) Timber Lorries on Ken Road, Warning Signs

- No further updates.

#### e) Glenkens and District Trust – Community Action Plan

- GDT have issued the Community Action Plan.
- LH/SS had a zoom meet with GDT, FS and Douglas Westwater of Community Enterprise on 13 November to do some introductions and talk through potential opportunities: Further meetings will be arranged.
- LH to talk with Grace Cardozo (Sleeping Giants) who is working with Community Enterprise on behalf of GDT. In the first instance this is gathering information about the community activity which happened locally during COVID.
- LH attended a zoom meet in regards to the Glenkens and District CAP Childcare Feasibility Study. The lack of childcare facilities in the Glenkens was an issue highlighted in the GDT CAP report.

#### f) Removal of Redundant Pylons and Access Tracks

- Old pylon line removal: Works ongoing almost all towers removed.
- Access track removal: SP Energy Networks aiming to commence work next year.
- No further updates.

#### g) Glenkens Hogmanay

- The CCC Chair recorded a message for inclusion in the Glenkens Hogmanay celebrations.

#### h) Community Asset Transfer for Community Groups - Online Training

- LH to attend a session of this free training.

## 4. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's reports for December/January were distributed via email
- Discretionary Grant Application forms were completed and submitted and the grant was received.

## 5. Windfarms

#### a) Benbrack

- **Windfarm**
  - **Status: Consented (including variation)** [ [EC00002082](#) , [ECU00001773](#) ]
  - No further updates.
- **Grid Connection**
  - **Status: In planning** [ [ECU00002079](#) ]
  - No further updates.

#### b) Cornharrow

- **Status: Planning - Deemed Refusal (Appeal Submitted)** [ [20/0159/FUL](#) ]
- As all meetings are postponed it has not been possible to invite the developers to a meeting.
- CCC submitted an objection to D&G in May 2020. This included a report compiled by the community council along with the results of a community survey.
- Appeal lodged by Energiekontor to Scottish Government Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) on 28th August.
- No further updates.

### c) Enoch Hill

- **Status: In planning with variation** [ [ECU00002102](#) ]
- After being consented there is an application submitted to the ECU to increase the height, diameter and operational period.
- No further updates.

### d) Enoch Hill 2

- **Status: Pre Planning**  
No further updates.

### e) Eucharhead

- **Status: Pre planning**
- S36 application submitted to Energy Consents Unit [ [www.scottishpower.com/EucharheadRED](http://www.scottishpower.com/EucharheadRED) [ECU00002141](#) ]
- Community Survey undertaken – For: 1, Against: 15, Undecided: 0
- CCC submitted an objection on 28/01/21 including the Community Survey results.

### f) EON / RWE Developments Community Benefits

- The EON renewables business was transferred to RWE in October 2019
- SS has followed up, awaiting a response.
- No further updates.

### g) Glenshimmeroch – Anemometer Mast

- **Status: In planning** [ [20/2061/FUL](#) ]
- Application submitted for 3 year extension to existing permission

### h) Lamford Hill – Anemometer Mast

- **Status: Consented** (19/10/20) [ [20/0158/FUL](#) ]
- No further updates.

### i) Lorg

- **Status: Consented** [ [15/0935/PP](#) ]
- No further updates.

### j) Margree

- **Status: Scoping Decision made** [ [20/0176/SCO](#) ]
- No further updates

### k) Mochram Fell

- **Status: In Planning** [ [20/1683/FUL](#) ]
- CCC submitted an objection to the Mochram Fell windfarm variation (located near Parton).

### l) Pencloe

- **Status: Consented, variation submitted, new amendments made (11/20)** [ [ECU00001865](#) ]
  - (CCC objected to original application in 2015, development was subsequently approved.)
- 9cc group was set up to work with Invenergy on Community benefit but is only made up solely of Ayrshire community councils.
- A meeting was arranged to discuss community benefits to which CCC were not invited. CCC corresponded with Stuart Winter (SW) at Invenergy indicating our concerns as the windfarm abuts our community council boundary. SW advised that CCC should ask 9cc for invitation to meeting and 9ccg advised we needed invite from Invenergy. CCC replied to SW's question and provided examples of Wind Farms on the county border that provide cross border community benefits (29/10). No response received to date.
- LH and SS had a zoom meet with SW on 6 November when it was made clear to Invenergy that Carsphairn should be part beneficiaries of the Pencloe community benefit fund. We await an update from SW.

#### m) Quantan's Hill

- **Status: In Scoping** [ [ECU00002097](#) ]
- Vattenfall ran an online survey – now ended.
- Website with more information and a contact form: <https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/south-west-scotland/quantans-hill-wind-farm>
- Vattenfall set up a virtual exhibition and survey at <https://3dwtech.co.uk/dashboard/vattenfall/quantanshill/exhibition>.

#### n) Sanquhar II

- **Status: Transferred to DPEA** [ [19/0490/S36](#) , [ECU00001801](#) , [WIN-170-2006](#) ]
- CCC submitted an objection to this application (05/12/20) including the results of the community survey.
- DPEA undertaking a public enquiry.

#### o) Shepherds Rig

- **Status: In planning – Public Inquiry** [ [18/1939/S36](#) , [ECU00000735](#) ]
  - With ECU - D&G Council have raised objections to the proposal.
  - CCC submitted an objection in March 2020.
  - Public Inquiry to take place.
- Meteorological Mast – Application to extend siting for an addition year -
  - **Status: Consented** (31/01/21) [ [20/1685/S42](#) , [20/1687/S42](#) ]
- No further updates.

#### p) South Kyle

- **Status: Consented** [ [13/C/2/0014](#) , [EC00003109](#) ]
- Vattenfall are planning to publish a report on the Give My View online poll.
- Foundation Scotland will arrange a meet focussing on Carsphairn's compiled list of suggestions relating to suitable projects that could be considered.

#### q) Troston Loch

- **Status: Consented** [ [19/0344/S36](#) , [ECU00001785](#) ]
- Energy Consents Unit consented the application.
- Community Council had submitted an objection (14/10/20).

#### r) Windy Rig

- **Status: Consented, in construction**
- **Community Benefits:**
  - No further progress reported (CLG meetings have not been able to be held)
- **Construction:**
  - Construction ongoing.
  - Statkraft have a website to keep the public informed [Windy Rig Webpage](#)
  - If you wish to be kept up to date about traffic and site activities there is a text service being operated. Contact: [doug.wilson@statkraft.com](mailto:doug.wilson@statkraft.com)
  - Road improvements still underway -
  - Passing bays constructed but not completed
  - Localised widening under construction
  - C35s was closed for roadworks for 2 days.
  - Construction of Laydown Area began on 14th September. Works are expected to take 20 weeks. Statkraft have advised they will issue updates as work progresses.
- Planning application submitted to widen the C35s for Windy Rig wind farm access [ [20/0145/FUL](#) ]
- A number of complaints have been received from the public with regards to poor driving, lack of courtesy, littering and damage to verges as a result of windfarm traffic. These have been passed onto Statkraft who advise RJM are including these reports in their weekly safety 'toolbox talks'. Members of the public impacted by windfarm traffic should report incidents via email/phone to [doug.wilson@statkraft.com](mailto:doug.wilson@statkraft.com) / 07542754642, and if appropriate also report to the police. CCC have asked if a contact number can be included on road signs to allow quicker incident reporting, this has been passed onto RJM.

- A number of transport 'trial runs' were undertaken in December. Residents made complaints about the inconvenience caused and the lack of notice provided leaving them unable to ensure that deliveries and appointments could be adequately planned for.
- Complaints have been received from the public in regard to the condition of the C35s, RJM are checking this.
- Another road closure was notified at very short notice. CCC once again made representation to Statkraft about the inconvenience caused by these activities. RJM advised that they would try and accommodate access if required for deliveries etc.
- Statkraft advised that they have had confirmation from Colletts, Vestas and Police Scotland that they will be making their first deliveries over the week commencing Monday 8 February 2021. They advise they will be letter dropping and providing updates via the text service along with information about plans to minimise disruption.

## 6. Forestry Developments

- Katch Holmes (KH) is investigating the costs and benefits related to commissioning a report on the potential impacts of forestry on the area and community.
- KH and representatives from other CCs had a meeting with Doug Howieson of Scottish Forestry. Minutes were distributed.
- For those interested there is a 'Communities for Diverse Forestry' facebook page available - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/581843619140972>

### a) Blackmark

- Status: In design phase – no application submitted to Scottish Forestry
- A new 120ha woodland creation scheme is being planned by Tilhill.
- CCC submitted a response with initial comments and questions (18/12/20) and Tilhill responded along with a new plan. Original and updated plans are available at [www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning](http://www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning).

### b) Carminnows

- **Status: In design phase – no application submitted to Scottish Forestry**
- CCC submitted an initial response to the consultants indicating concerns about the diversity of planting and potential impacts to biodiversity and habitats. When the application is submitted to Scottish Forestry CCC will undertake a community survey and submit a formal response.
- CCC followed up by email asking for update in September and received a response indicating a revised draft design (available to view at [www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning](http://www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning)).
- No further updates.

### c) Daltallochan Hill

- **Status: Application submitted to Scottish Forestry**
- An application has been submitted to Scottish Forestry and is currently undergoing initial assessment. It is not yet available on their website.
- The developer supplied the new design ((available to view at [www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning](http://www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning)) which included many improvements in terms of some of the points raised by CCC. There are a couple of further questions that KH will follow up to with the developer.
- CCC sent a response thanking the developer for the improvements and seeking clarification on a few points. The developer provided response covering all questions answered.

### d) Furmiston

- **Status: In design phase – no application submitted to Scottish Forestry**
- CCC submitted an initial response to the consultants indicating concerns about the diversity of planting and potential impacts to biodiversity and habitats. When the application is submitted to Scottish Forestry CCC will undertake a community survey and submit a formal response.
- No further updates.

## **e) Marbrack –**

- **Status: Approved by Scottish Forestry (23/10/20)**
  - CCC conducted a community survey – For: 2, Against: 7, Undecided: 2
  - Final submission made by CCC with objection to Forestry Scotland (14/08/20).
  - Contractors undertook blasting on 11/12. As there was no notice provided to neighbours or CCC this caused a good deal of concern and alarm. CCC sent email to land owner, agent and contractors requesting explanation. Owner apologised, blasting contractor sent a response which outlined that they had acted within the law and guidelines.

## **7. Resilience Group Report, Traffic Calming Signs.**

### **a) Speed signs**

- No further updates. Any speed signs would need to be community funded as D&G Council indicate that need does not exist using the statutory criteria.
- No further updates

### **b) Community Resilience Plan**

- CCC are reviewing the Community Resilience Plan to ensure it is up to date.

### **c) Defibrillators**

- CCC have been working with Sue Vest at NHS in regards to registering village defibrillators.
- No further updates.

## **8. Planning**

- CCC contacted the planning department in regards to start of works on an withdrawn application (Erection of Hut). No response received to date.
- Scottish Power S37 Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement (KTR) Project application submitted [ [ECU00002124](#) ]
- Planning Application for extension to dwellinghouse - submitted and granted - [ [20/2103/FUL](#) ]
- Planning Application for erection of agricultural shed and temporary siting of caravan - submitted and granted - [ [20/1697/FUL](#) ]

## **9. Correspondence**

- The Correspondence Secretary provides copies of all relevant correspondence written or received to our email distribution list and issues a monthly Correspondence Report via email to that list.

## **10. Primary School**

- In response to the most recent CCC correspondence John Thin advised that due to Covid-19 pressures the Council do not have the capacity to carry out the school closure consultation. The mothballing will continue, with the intention to commence the consultation process at the start of the next school session depending on the situation, and if the Council are in a position to proceed.
- No further updates.

## **11. Polmaddy Settlement**

- CCC requested a copy of the maintenance plan. To date this has not been received.
- No further updates.

## 12. Roads

### a) Potholes on U712

- CCES raised for multiple potholes along the U712. Ref: 5023503/5069891. An inadequate repair on the potholes has been undertaken. CCC requested that the repair work be completed properly before the onset of winter. D&G Council have advised they include this in their current programme for pothole patching (27/11).
- No further updates.

### b) Flooding on the B729

- A resident reporting road flooding near the Fishing Club entrance. A CCES case was raised on 20/12/20 (ref: 5090912) and the council confirmed that the ditch and cross drain were being cleared on 5/1/21.
- A resident raised concerns regarding no grit lorries being in evidence along the B729. CCC raised a CCES (ref: 5096878) . The council advised that this had been done on 24th Dec, 29th Dec, 3rd Jan and 6th Jan as agreed in the Winter Services Operations Plan.

### c) Potholes on A713

- CCC passed on report of potholes on the A713
- D&G Council has a web page where faults of all kinds can be reported by members of the public (potholes/fly tipping/dog fouling etc) - <https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/faultreporting>
- No further updates.

## 13. Community Garden

- CCC purchased new lights to help decorate the garden.
- The garden, along with the Christmas tree kindly donated by a local resident was decorated with lights to brighten up the garden over the festive period.

## 14. LED Scheme

- The Scheme was completed for 2020 and payments were made in December.
- An application was lost in the post and CCC have applied to CREFL to try and gain funding to pay this resident. This is an exceptional case and new procedures will need to be put in place to stop this from occurring in future years if the scheme is run.

## 15. COVID-19 Resilience

- Carsphairn Community Council are available for help and advice. Please contact us via email at:
  - Correspondence Secretary: [carsphairncc@gmail.com](mailto:carsphairncc@gmail.com)
  - Chair: Liz Holmes on 01644 460662 / [lizholmes21@gmail.com](mailto:lizholmes21@gmail.com)
  - Secretary: Matt Hickman on 07531 035824 / [hickmantrail@gmail.com](mailto:hickmantrail@gmail.com) .
- The carsphairn.org website is kept up to date with update to local initiatives and links to the latest advice.
- CCC will be adding themselves to the Third Sector Resilience website: <http://www.dgresilience.org.uk/>

## 16. Community Website

- The website is regularly updated with news and events relating to Carsphairn and our community.
- The domain name was renewed for another 12 months.

## **17. National Planning Framework 4**

- The government are progressing this, further information available at :  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-fourth-national-planning-framework-position-statement/>.
- Community Discussion Workshops taking place via zoom in early February.