

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report for August / September 2021

Elected Members:

Liz Holmes (Chair) (LH)	Anna Clark Kennedy (ACK)	Matt Hickman (Secretary) (MH)
Simon Holmes (SH)	Andrew Metcalf (AM)	Darren Challis (Treasurer) (DC)
Christine Whipp (CW)	Ben Ade (BA)	Clare Duggleby (CD)
Richard Duggleby (RD)	Sylvia Sinclair (Vice Chair) (SS)	

Associate Members:

Katch Holmes (Provisional) (KH)	Melissa Ade(Provisional) (MA)	Ian Saunders (Provisional) (IS)
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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).

This report has been compiled to cover activities for August and September 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 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 AGMs, 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) New Associate Member (new)

- CCC is pleased to welcome Ian Saunders who has kindly agreed to become a provisional associate member and has taken on the responsibility of looking after the two defibrillators on behalf of the community. (Full associate membership will be approved at the next CCC meeting.)

b) War Memorial

- **Centenary Project:**
 - MH has had discussions with the Heritage Initiative are ongoing and enthusiasm has been expressed in progressing some form of recognition of the 100 year anniversary.
- **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.

c) Glenkens and District Trust (updated)

- GDT launched a new website - www.glenkenstrust.org.uk
- GDT, via Foundation Scotland, sent out acceptance requests for the 2021-22 Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund. The grant is for £2000 per Community Council to fund small community projects of around £500. CCC have sent in their email of acceptance and the funds are expected soon.
- GDT provided a meeting update for their September Trustees meeting.

d) Removal of Redundant Pylons and Access Tracks (updated)

- Access track removal: Although no start date confirmed as yet, SPEN are planning to start the outstanding reinstatement around the SWS Project in the near future and held a virtual meeting to provide / update information on this process on 13th September. Minutes are expected from SPEN and will be distributed via email list.

e) Produce Market (updated)

- LH has been working on the possibility of running a regular Produce Market and has consulted with local food networks. At present this is on hold, however a regular produce market will remain an aspiration to be progressed in the future.
- Carsphairn Community Council organised a community market in Lagwyne Hall on the 26th of September.
 - Approximately 80 people attended the 3 hour event which was enjoyed by all.
 - The stalls included a 'Carsphairn Community' stall with items and produce generously donated, all of which raised money for a local cause. Items donated included home grown vegetables, preserves and chutneys, plants and expertly made handicrafts.
 - There were also a variety of individual stalls selling toys and games, fresh farm produce, greetings cards, plants and home baking.
 - Stalls were free to book, giving locals a welcome opportunity to support their income or fund raise for specific charities.
 - Teas, coffee and donated cakes/bakes were also sold from the kitchen and lounge room, funds from this were added to the community market funds. A total of £127 were raised from these combined efforts and after open discussions it was decided that the funds should help support 'Bairn Banter', the volunteer run Carsphairn community children's group.
 - Bairn Banter set up in the hall for the duration of the market, giving children a place to play whilst parents walked the colourful stalls and chatted over a cuppa.
 - The Carsphairn Heritage Centre also opened its doors for the day, giving visitors a fascinating glimpse into past village life.
 - Many thanks go out to all the volunteers and members of the community who came along to support this fun and busy day.

f) New Recycling Bins (updated)

- Despite CCC indicating multiple good reasons for us to have one, D&G Council refused to provide Carsphairn with a glass recycling bin. D&G Council advised that the extent of their remit was being met and that resources would not allow Carsphairn to have a bin. Adrian Pringle, Project Manager with the Waste Services Development Programme indicated that if people were unable to take their glass to their nearest recycling point they could place it in their black bins where it would be recovered at the Ecodeco plant for use as an aggregate.

g) Community Garden Notice Board

- CCC are examining the possibility of installing a notice board in the Community Garden as their current notice board is no longer fit for purpose and is not large enough for all statutory notices to be displayed.
- No further updates

h) Village Planters

- Troughs at the north end of the village had been removed by the Council a few months ago but have not been re-instated.
- LH contacted Cllr Pauline Drysdale has followed up with D&G Council and advised that the Assets team were looking into it and would action ASAP (25/06/21).
- No further updates.

i) Bairn Banter – Family Stay & Play Sessions (updated)

Bairn Banter continues to be a great success for families in and around the Carsphairn as well as the wider Glenkens area.

- The group has now been running for 14 weeks and has facilitated 12 fun and varied sessions.
- Approximately 14 families have attended Bairn Banter, with many of these returning as regulars to the group.
- This weekly meet is proving to be a key for social connections for many younger children and their families.
- We have enjoyed many different activities together so far such as; arts and crafts, sensory play, playdough, group games, den building, stories, baby area and not to forget the much-loved soft play equipment, to name but a few!
- Running costs continue to stay at a low level and parent donations are helping contribute towards weekly running costs such as snacks for the children, tea/coffee and biscuits for adults as well as the resources needed for each session.
- The generous donations from the Carsphairn Community Council's produce market, that was held alongside Bairn Banter on the 26th September, generated a sum of £127.04 that will help meet the group's operating costs.
- MA is continuing to look into any grants available to help with overall expenses and for some much needed children's furniture.

On behalf of all the parents, volunteers and children of Bairn Banter, MA would like to say thank you for helping us to set up and continue running our much loved stay and play group.

j) SEPA Flood Risk Management Consultation(updated)

- SEPA are consulting about Scotland's draft flood risk management plans. In phase two, that opened on 30th July 2021, draft information on the flood risk management plans and local flood risk management plans have been made available with consultation questions.
- As Carsphairn is considered a Potentially Vulnerable Area the village is included in the Solway Local Plan District document. More details available from SEPA.
 - <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmplans/>
 - <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/flood-risk-management-plan-solway>
- D&G Flood Management Team ran drop in sessions during September and will be hosting an online/telephone session on 6th October for interested parties who can book slots online - <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/FloodRiskManagement@dgccouncil.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>.

k) Village Flood Defences (new)

- CCC requested information from D&G Council about the temporary flood defences for the village (02/09/21)
- CCES Case 5233362 opened.

l) Social Care Reform Consultation (new)

- Emma Harper MSP announced that the Scottish Government was launching a Consultation on Social Care Reform, to run until 18th October - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-care-service-scotland-consultation> .

m) D&G Council Renewal and Recovery Plan, and Council Budget (new)

- D&G Council will be consulting with communities in regards to their Renewal and Recovery Plan, and Council Budget during September/October. Further information and links to a questionnaire were sent via email distribution list.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Monthly treasurer's reports were distributed via email

5. Windfarms

a) Benbrack (updated)

- Ownership
 - Ownership has changed from RWE to Red Rock Power Limited (RRPL) <https://www.redrockpower.co.uk/benbrack>
- Windfarm
 - **Status: Consented (including variation)** [[EC00002082](#) , [ECU00001773](#)]
 - No further updates.
- Grid Connection
 - **Status: Screening Opinion determined (23/03/21)** [[ECU00002079](#)]
- A transportation trial run took place on 24th August which caused delays and disruption to traffic on the A713. CCC were provided notice only one day before the event. RRPL advised they would make an effort to pull together a more extensive plan to update CCC / the community ahead of the real thing.
- Red Rock Power are arranging a meeting with CCC to take place in early November.

b) Cornharrow

- **Status: Planning - Consented (appeal allowed)** [[20/0159/FUL](#) , [PPA-170-2145](#)]
- 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 2020.
- DPEA allowed the appeal on 1st June 2021, subject to 36 conditions.
- 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: Application with ECU**
- S36 application submitted to Energy Consents Unit [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.
- No further updates.

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: Conditionally Granted** [[20/2061/FUL](#)]
 - Application granted for 3 year extension to existing permission
- **Wind Farm**
 - **Status: Planning Permission Appeal with DPEA** [[PPA-170-2149](#) , [20/0446/S42 \(20/0861/FUL\)](#)]
 - Original planning application was disputed / withdrawn with D&G Council
 - EIA Report submitted to DPEA on which consultation was sought.
 - CCC undertook a community survey and submitted this along with their objection to DPEA (29/06/21).
 - No further updates.

h) Lamford Hill – Anemometer Mast

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

i) Lorg

- **Status: New pre-application scoping submitted to ECU** [[ECU00003283](#)]
 - Windfarm was previously consented with fewer, smaller turbines [[15/0935/PP](#)]
- Community Survey undertaken, results to be submitted with the response that will be put together for the full planning application at later date.
- CCC asked for an extension to the scoping consultation and this was allowed until 26th September 2021.
- No further updates.

j) Margree

- **Status: Planning Application submitted** [[20/0176/SCO](#) , [20/2085/FUL](#)]
 - Supporting documents added to planning application for 9 turbines.
 - No further updates.

k) Mochrum Fell (updated)

- **Status: In Planning - with DPEA on Appeal for Non-determination** [[20/1683/FUL](#) , [PPA-170-2152](#)]
- CCC submitted an objection to the Mochrum Fell windfarm variation (located near Parton).
- The developers, Quatro, had lodged an Appeal for Non-Determination (REF:PPA-170-2152)

l) Pencloe (updated)

- **Status: Consented, variation granted** [[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 2020 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.
- The variation was granted on 31/08/21.

m) Quantan's Hill (updated)

- **Status: In Scoping (pre-application)** [[ECU00002097](#)]
- Vattenfall have published refined plans and updated their website and virtual exhibition (21 turbines refused to 14, and max. tip height set at 200m rather than 250m)
 - www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm
 - <https://3dwtech.co.uk/dashboard/vattenfall/quantans-hill/exhibition>.
- Vattenfall held a live webinar on 26th August.
- Stantec have written a Community Development Strategies Interim Report which has been distributed by email and is available at www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm. This report included feedback from CCC and GDT, however Vattenfall are now running a community benefit survey to invite feedback on the report findings from others - <https://www.netigate.se/ra/s.aspx?s=1010852X300433398X99884> (closing date 8/10/21).

n) Sanquhar II (updated)

- **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 public enquiry to take place in October, including representation from Stop Sanquhar II action group's appointed QC. The representation will include the precognition document agreed by CCC and other local community councils.

o) Shepherds Rig (updated)

- **Status: In planning – Public Inquiry** [[18/1939/S36](#), [ECU00000735](#), [WIN-170-2005](#)]
 - With ECU - D&G Council have raised objections to the proposal.
 - CCC submitted an objection in March 2020.
 - DPEA are undertaking a public enquiry.
- Meteorological Masts – Applications consented to extend siting for an additional year -
 - **Status: Consented** (31/01/21) [[20/1685/S42](#), [20/1687/S42](#)]
- Additional environmental information was provided and is included on the DPEA website ([WIN-170-2005](#))
 - CCC sent in additional comments with particular regard to the assertions regarding the impact of traffic movements (25/5/21).
- CCC have raised concerns and are reviewing forestry related activities included in this development to see if any response is required.
- DPEA were to hold a hearing in August but this has been postponed. BA to attend on behalf o CCC.

p) South Kyle (updated)

- **Status: Consented** [[13/C/2/0014](#) , [EC00003109](#)]
- South Kyle is currently under construction.
- Vattenfall, via the Kyle Community Investment Fund Working Group (SKCIF), donated a grant of £1000 to the community to spend on educational benefit. The process would encourage the children to get involved in the decision making process. CCT hosted a meeting of the SKCIF on 8th September attended by all CCT trustees and representatives of the CC and CREFL relating to the grant. The SKCIF is comprised of a representative of CCC, CREFL and CCT. At the meeting, parents and children resident in Carsphairn were invited to put forward ideas as to how to spend the grant.

q) Troston Loch

- **Status: Consented** [[19/0344/S36](#) , [ECU00001785](#)]
 - Energy Consents Unit consented the application.
 - Community Council had submitted an objection (14/10/20).
 - No further updates.

r) Windy Rig (updated)

- **Status: Consented, in construction** [[15/P/2/0155](#)]
- Community Benefits:
 - No further progress reported (CLG meetings have not been held)
- Construction:
 - Statkraft have a website to keep the public informed [Windy Rig Webpage](#)
- Road repairs will be undertaken on C35s commencing Monday 4th October for 5 days.
- CCC will work with local residents and Statkraft to propose a continuation of use of the Windy Rig windfarm yard within the village on behalf of our community. Any new use would require a planning condition change with D&G Council.

s) Windy Standard (Brockloch Rig) (updated)

- **Status:**
 - **Windy Standard I Re-Powering - Scoping Pre Application** [[ECU00003324](#)]
 - **Windy Standard III Consented** [[ECU00000335](#)]
 - Windy Standard I and II - Operational
- Windy Standard III, a development of 20 turbines extending the existing Windy Standard I and II windarms was consented on 23/03/2021.
- FOR set up a Windy Standard 1 – Repowering Proposal exhibition including live and interactive chat events on 21st/23rd June and an online exhibition at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk
- Miles McConville held a drop-in in Lagwyne Hall for some invited community representatives.
- CCC have requested an extension for the WS1 Re-powering scoping pre application with the ECU to the end of November.

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.
 - No further update.
- For those interested there is a 'Communities for Diverse Forestry' facebook page available - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/581843619140972>

a) Blackmark forest creation (updated)

- **Status: Application submitted to Scottish Forestry - in consultation** [[21FGS56423](#)]
- A new 120ha woodland creation scheme is being planned by Tilhill.

- The application documents with finalised plans are available at www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning.
- CCC submitted an objection to Scottish Forestry (12/08/21).

b) Carminnows forest creation

- **Status: Application submitted to Scottish Forestry - under consideration [[20FGS54083](#)]**
- Application was submitted to Scottish Forestry and CCC undertook a community survey and submitted a formal response to SF and the developer on 22/06/21.
- No further updates.

c) Daltallochan Hill forest creation (updated)

- **Status: Application Approved by Scottish Forestry [[20FGS54063](#)]**
 - As SF do not include documents these are available from the community website (www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning)
 - CCC submitted a response to SF (14/04/21).
- The Ken Cairn EAG are continuing to work with developers and research possible paths, a project that is fully supported by CCC.
- Planning application for formation of 5926 metres of forest road was deemed 'prior approval not required' (16/06/21) [[21/1110/DPA](#)]
- Diggers are onsite making preparations for planting.

d) Furmiston forest creation (updated)

- **Status: Application with Scottish Forestry Approved [[20FGS55105](#)]**
- Documents are available from the community website (www.carsphairn.org/CCPlanning)
- CCC had submitted a response along with community survey results (10/03/21).
- Developers have been installing deer fencing and spraying off the bracken.

e) Marbrack forest creation

- **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).
 - No further updates.

f) Carminnows - Felling plan

- Felling plans were submitted to Scottish Forestry for approval (24.09 Ha) [[FPA-8229](#)]
 - Consultation end date 3rd August.
- No further updates

g) Muirdrochwood - Felling plan (updated)

- Felling plans were approved to Scottish Forestry for approval (7.4 Ha) [[FPA-8157](#)]

7. Community and Covid-19 Resilience and Support, Traffic Calming (updated)

Carsphairn Community Council are available for help and advice. Please contact us as below:

- Correspondence Secretary: carsphairncc@gmail.com
- Chair: Liz Holmes on 01644 460662 / lizholmes21@gmail.com
- Secretary: Matt Hickman on 07531 035824 / hickmantrail@gmail.com

a) D&G Council Hardship Grant

- D&G Council have provided a new hardship grant of £916.90. CCC have purchased 100 sandbags to ensure adequate supplies if needed. The expected cost of £240 has been reduced by 50% through DGC's flooding subsidy. CCC are examining possible ways to spend the balance.
- CCC submitted the monitoring form to the council (31/03/21)
- No further updates.

b) Speed signs

- 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

c) First Aid Course

- CCC are organising free first aid courses for Carsphairn residents in the hall when safe to do so.
- No further updates

d) Defibrillators (new)

- IS has taken responsibility for checking the defibrillators and replaced the battery and pads for the Hall defibrillator and will see to the maintenance of both community defibrillators.

8. Planning (updated)

- CCC contacted the planning department in regards to start of works on a withdrawn application (Erection of Hut). No response received to date.
- Scottish Power S37 Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement (KTR) Project - Overhead Power Line Application registered with ECU - Polquharity to Glenlee [[ECU00002124](#)]
- Scottish Power S37 Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement (KTR) Project - Overhead Power Line Application registered with ECU - Carsfad to Kendoon [[ECU00002125](#)]
- Application for 'FORMATION OF 1KM OF FOREST ROADS - Carsphairn Forest Carsphairn' was determined Prior Approval Not Required.

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 (updated)

- The D&G Education Committee considered a proposal, at their May meeting, to start the closure consultation process for Carsphairn School. CCC were not notified by the D&G Council Education Dept.
 - CCC submitted a response to the report and aimed to clarify the issues and correct errors it was felt were included in the report. This was distributed to all the Education Committee Councillors ahead of the meeting.
 - The meeting concluded to delay the process for one month owing to CCC's response to the report which was compiled by John Thin, Schools' Manager.
- D&G Council have postponed the Consultation Timeline and intend to bring a further paper to the Education and Learning Committee in January 2022.
- The consultation process for closure should include public meetings with opportunities for Carsphairn residents to have their say.

11. Polmaddy Settlement

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

12. Roads

a) Road Repairs on C35s (new)

- CCC contacted D&G Council in regards to the repairs needed to the C35s following Windy Rig construction traffic. CCES 5220714 was opened.
- Road repairs will be undertaken commencing Monday 4th October for 5 days.

b) Potholes on the B729

- CCC contacted D&G Council following complaints of potholes (18/03/21)
- Case ref [5133822](#) was opened (25/03/21), marked as duplicates and marked to be inspected by 26/04/21.
- No further updates.

c) Potholes on A713

- CCC once again contacted D&G Council following complaints of potholes (18/03/21)
- Case ref [5133819](#) was opened and inspected. A repair was identified and has been added to the schedule of works planned from the start of the financial year (the original case ref is marked as closed).
- Further emails sent to the council in regards to pot holes on main road north of the village and in the village (25/5/21 7 15/06/21) [CCES ref 5169623 & 5184365]. D&G Council advised that these had been added to their programme for repair.
- D&G Council advised the A713 would be repaired (09/08/21)

13. Community Garden (updated)

- The Community Garden continues to be maintained.
- New plants were purchased in August.

14. Community Website

- The website is regularly updated with news and events relating to Carsphairn and our community.

15. Local Energy Discount Scheme 2021 (updated)

- CREFL approved our application for funding to run the Local Energy Discount Scheme once again in 2021. The scheme will provide a one off payment of £300 per property with full time residents. Properties used as second homes, rented out for holiday accommodation or not in full time occupation will not be able to receive any payment.
- The scheme will be run this winter.

16. 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 took place in early February.
- No further updates.