

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report for October/November 2020

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).

This report has been compiled to cover activities for October and November 2020.

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 meeting. 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.

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.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's reports for October/November were distributed via email
- Discretionary Grant Application forms received. To be completed and returned before deadline.

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) Euchanhead

- **Status: Pre planning**
- S36 application submitted to Energy Consents Unit [[ECU00002141](#) , <http://www.scottishpower.com/EuchanheadRED>]
- A request from CCC for an extension to reponse closing date until 31 January 2021 was granted.

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) Lamford Hill – Anemometer Mast

- **Status: Consented** (19/10/20) [[20/0158/FUL](#)]

h) Lorg

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

i) Margree

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

j) 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.

k) 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>
- No further updates.

l) Sanquhar II

- **Status: In planning** [[19/0490/S36](#) , [ECU00001801](#)]
- Community Survey undertaken, results to date: For: 1, Against: 5, Undecided: 0
- No further updates.

m) 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: In planing** [[18/1498/FUL](#) , 18/1499/FUL]

n) South Kyle

- **Status: Consented** [[13/C/2/0014](#) , [EC00003109](#)]
- The survey was completed and Vattenfal ran a number of 'Inform and Inspire' sessions. LH/SS attended a zoom presentation run by Vattenfal.
- Foundation Scotland will arrange a meet focussing on Carsphairn's compiled list of suggestions relating to suitable projects that could be considered.

o) Troston Loch

- **Status: In planning** [[19/0344/S36](#) , [ECU00001785](#)]
- Application submitted to Energy Consents Unit.
- Community Survey undertaken – For: 0, Against: 15, Undecided: 3
- Community Council submitted objection (14/10/20).

p) 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
 - 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. Stakraft 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 / 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 turbine trial run has been planned for Thursday 10th December and disruption is expected.

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) 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).

b) Daltallochan Hill

- **Status: Application submitted to Scottish Forestry**
- An application has been submitted to Scottish Forestry and is currently undergoing initial assessment. The developers have advised that they will send CCC all the information so that have as much time as possible to formulate a response.

c) 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.

d) 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).

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) Defibrillators

- CCC working with Sue Vest at NHS in regards to registering village defibrillators.

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](#)]
- Carsphairn Community Woodland application for a general purpose forestry building – Prior Approval Not Required - [[20/1633/DPA](#)]

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.

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).

b) 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>

13. Community Garden

- A local resident has very kindly donated a Christmas tree for the community garden.
- CCC are purchasing new lights to help decorate the garden during the festive season.

14. LED Scheme

- CREFL approved funding for the Local Energy Discount Scheme to run once again in 2020. The payment will be for £300 per full time household who submitted a valid application.
- Application forms and scheme guidelines were posted to all Community Council area addresses and the scheme was advertised on the community website, notice boards, facebook and via the email distributions lists.
- The scheme is now closed to applications and all valid applicants should receive their money during December.

15. COVID-19 Resilience

- The carsphairn.org website has been kept up to date with update to local initiatives and links to the latest advice.

16. Community Update Leaflet

- The Community Council included a 'Community Update Leaflet' with the LED Scheme letters. This leaflet included an entry for all local groups who responded to the request to take part.

17. Armistice Day 2020

- The Remembrance Sunday Service in Carsphairn Church was conducted by Rev J Burns. A two minute silence was observed at 11am. No formal service was conducted at the War Memorial (this was not permitted because of covid-19 restrictions) but many of those present for the church service made their way to the War Memorial where three poppy wreaths were laid.

18. Seniors' Dinner 2020

- Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions the Community Council have had to cancel the Seniors' Dinner this year. It is hoped that a dinner and evening entertainment will be able to run again in 2021.