

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report for August/September 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

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 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

- The Scottish Government is introducing a voucher scheme that residents may be eligible to receive which may help them access superfast broadband. More details available at: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/news-events/voucher-scheme-to-ensure-superfast-broadband-access-for-all.html>

b) Whitespace

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

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)

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.
- GDT have written an ITT to get support to move into the next phase and are asking for input from Carsphairn.

f) Removal of Redundant Pylons and Access Tracks

- **Old pylon line removal:** Works ongoing.
- **Access track removal:** CCC are not aware when works will commence.

g) Damage to High Bridge of Ken

- Works have been undertaken by the Council.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's reports for August/September were distributed via email
- Grant for £2000 received from Foundation Scotland on behalf of Temporis Capital Blackcraig Windfarm for 2020/21.

5. Windfarms

a) Shepherds Rig

- **Status: In planning** [[18/1939/S36](#), ECU00000735]
- With ECU - D&G Council have raised objections to the proposal.
- CCC submitted an objection in March 2020.

b) Eucharhead

- **Status: Pre planning**
- Preparing S36 application.

c) 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
 - 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](#)]

d) EON / RWE Developments Community Benefits

- The EON renewables business was transferred to RWE in October 2019.
- SS has followed up, awaiting a response.

e) Lorg

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

f) 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.

g) Enoch Hill 2

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

h) Lamford Hill – Anemometer Mast

- **Status: In planning** [[20/0158/FUL](#)]
- No further updates.

i) South Kyle

- **Status: Consented** [13/C/2/0014 , [EC00003109](#)]
- The new Vattenfall Liaison Officer (Carol Kane) has been trying to arrange a virtual meeting with the impacted community councils and distributed an interim update.
- There is an online survey available to complete in regards to the Community Benefit fund: <https://www.givemyview.com/southkyle>
- SS and LH had a group call with Foundation Scotland in regard to Community Benefits. Foundation Scotland are seeking shared aims and projects amongst the 4 CCs who will be the recipients of the community benefit from S Kyle. Current issues such as the current status of the school and the lack of affordable family housing in Carsphairn were also discussed.

j) Benbrack

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

k) 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.

l) 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>

m) Pencloe

- **Status: Consented, variation submitted** [[ECU00001865](#)]
- When asked, CCC advised New Cumnock CC that they wanted to be included in the Community Benefit area. Subsequently NCCC Chair asked for representation at a meeting with developers held on 13/08/20 however no CCC representative was available to attend.
- Jerry Mulders as Chair of the 9cc group has now asked for us to clarify our position in regards to community benefit. CCC will request that Carsphairn be beneficiaries from the Pencloe community benefit fund as we are eligible with regard to Carsphairn's location

n) Margree

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

o) Sanquhar II

- **Status: In planning** [[19/0490/S36](#) , [ECU00001801](#)]
- Community Survey undertaken, results to date: For: 1, Against: 5, Undecided: 0

p) Troston Loch

- **Status: In planning** [[19/0344/S36](#) , [ECU00001785](#)]
- Application submitted to Energy Consents Unit (representations accepted until ministerial decision made)
- Community Survey undertaken – For: 0, Against: 15, Undecided: 3

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.

a) Marbrack

- Forest creation plans were submitted to Scottish Forestry.
- CCC conducted a community survey – For: 2, Against: 7, Undecided: 2
- Final submission made by CCC with objection to Forestry Scotland (14/08/20).

b) Daltallochan Hill

- A number of members of the CC and other local representatives met with the developers. A summary of discussions was distributed via email.
- A meeting was had between CC representatives, Holm of Daltallochan developers and Scottish Forestry following CC's formal objection to the first draft of the plans. The developers are preparing a second draft. This is expected to show further attention to detail including faded out tree lines, scalloped edges, better access and tree spacing, further species diversity, less planting on Craig of Knockgray and acknowledgement of the view points and proximity of conifer plantation along the Cairnsmore core path. CC representatives were also assured that the Green Well of Scotland and other archaeological areas of significance would be preserved.

c) Carminnows

- 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.
- Nothing heard from consultants, CCC followed up by email asking for update 15/9.

d) Furmiston

- 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.

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.

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](#)]
- Formation of Forest Track – Waterhead Hill, Carsphairn Forest: Prior Approval Not Required [[20/1385/DPA](#)]
- Carsphairn Community Woodland have applied for a general purpose forestry building under a Prior Notification/Approval application [[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

- CCC were informed by the Council's School Manager John Thin of a Skills, Learning and Education meeting on 17 March this year to agree to start a consultation for the closure of Carsphairn school [CCCS].
- John Thin replied advising that due to significant restriction at the Council presently the closure consultation has not been started. He would inform us of dates and timescales when the information was available.
- LH had a call with Emma Harper MSP who will write to D&G Council seeking clarification on community concerns and also make the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education aware of the situation.
- LH preparing a response to latest email from John Thin.

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. An inadequate repair on the potholes has been undertaken. CCC will request that the repair work be completed properly before the onset of winter.

b) Resurfacing on B729

- Phase 2 (Secure Chip) of Surface Dressing Works were carried out under a short period road closure between Monday 31st August and Friday 4th September 2020. This work involved the cover spraying of the recently laid surface dressing to securely embed any still loose chippings and provide an extra layer of waterproofing to the road surface. These works were weather dependant.

13. NPF4 – Planning Consultation

- No update.

14. Community Garden

- CREFL approved the grant application to fund the Garden Maintenance for the next year.

15. 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 that submit a valid application.
- Details and application forms will be made available during October.

16. COVID-19 Resilience

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

17. Glenkens Food Month

- CCC ran a very successful event showcasing local produce on Saturday 5th September as part of the Glenkens Food Month. Many thanks go to all who were involved and supported this event.

18. Community Update Leaflet

- In order to help local Community Groups to keep residents up to date with activities, the Community Council will be putting together a leaflet to be included with the LEDS mailshot this year.
- Community Groups have been contacted by email and asked if they wish to submit content. Deadline for responses is 15th October.

19. Armistice Day 2020

- Advice was received from D&G Council in regards to calls from Legion Scotland regarding undertaking a limited wreath laying ceremony this year.

20. New Scheme of Establishment

- Following a meeting of D&G Councillors the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils has been updated to allow for meeting rules to be relaxed to accommodate pandemics including the current coronavirus situation.