

CARSPHAIRN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report for October/ November 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 October and November 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) Remembrance Sunday (new)

- The CCC and Commemorative British Legion wreaths were laid at the War Memorial site as part of the Remembrance Sunday service held on 14th November.

b) War Memorial

- **Centenary Project:**
 - MH has had discussions with the Heritage Initiative which 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)

- CCC received the Temporis Capital Blackcraig windfarm Small Grants Fund of £2000.
- CCC returned the monitoring report for the 2020/21 Temporis Capital Blackcraig windfarm Small Grants Fund
- GDT ran a Community Fund Drop in on 6th November in Dalry.
- GDT ran a COVID resilience learning summit on Monday 8th November.
- South of Scotland Community Housing Trust using Blackcraig Fund monies and commissioned by GDT are examining the issue of affordable housing in the region. CCC have requested that Carsphairn be included in this process.
- A copy of the notes from the November GDT meeting were distributed.

d) Energy Networks - SWS CLG (Removal of Redundant Pylons and Access Tracks) (updated)

- Access track removal: SPEN have started the outstanding reinstatement around the SWS Project. A virtual meeting of the Community Liaison Group was held on 13th September and attended by ACK on behalf of CCC. Minutes were distributed.

e) Produce Market

- 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.

f) Seniors' Dinner (new)

- CCC are to hold a Senior's Dinner once again this year on Sunday 19th December. Invitations to the Dinner have been sent out.
- Following the dinner, at around 8pm, there will be live music that is open to all members of the Carsphairn community, their families and friends.

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 (updated)

- Troughs at the north end of the village had been removed by the Council a few months ago but have not been re-instated.
- Cllr Pauline Drysdale once again followed up with D&G Council the council advised that the planters were not in a fit state to be re-attached. The planters were left outside the Heritage Centre and they are currently in the Centre for safekeeping.
- CCC are investigating if replacements could be installed.

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

- Bairn Banter has had an exciting couple of months for families attending the group.
 - In October, Bairn Banter hosted a spooktacular Halloween party for children, supported by the funds raised from the previous Community Council's Producers Market held in September, with many fun activities enjoyed by all.

- Early November, secured Bairn Banter with the next year's running costs with thanks to a CREFL grant.
- In recent weeks, the group facilitated the community Deep Dive and Young Decider's project with support from Foundation Scotland, Carsphairn Community Trust and Carsphairn Community Council to help the young people of Carsphairn decide how to spend funds of £1000 provided from South Kyle Windfarm.

j) SEPA Flood Risk Management Consultation

- 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@dgCouncil.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>.

k) Village Flood Defences (updated)

- CCC requested information from D&G Council about the temporary flood defences for the village (02/09/21)
- CCES Case 5233362 was opened and a response was received from D&G Council outlining the reasons for the current design.
- CCC contacted Drax to confirm the procedures for the Drumjohn needle valve during severe weather where warnings are issued. Drax provided details that were distributed via email.

l) Tree in Front of School (new)

- Following a report from a resident, CCC contacted D&G Council to request they resolve the issue of the tree in front of the school making the footpath dangerously dark. CCES ref 5255771 and the enquiry was passed to the Grounds Team who have cut back the tree to allow light to reach the pavement.

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

- 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.
- No further updates

n) Greystone's Pub (new)

- Greystones Pub was placed on the market once again. CCC applied to CREFL for a grant to fund a feasibility study which would work with the Community, residents and expert advisers to examine if this was desirable / possible. CREFL approved the grant and funds have been ring-fenced in case this project, currently on hold, is to be re-visited.

o) Bus Service (new)

- Following a report from a resident CCC contacted D&G Council about the Bus Service connection for morning and evening services in Dalry. The buses were not waiting for connecting services, making it impossible for passengers and students studying in Dumfries to complete their journey to Dumfries.

With the help of Pauline Drysdale, South West of Scotland Transport Partnership have advised that the service providers will keep to their timetables and ensure this does not happen in the future.

p) Litter Bins (new)

- Following a report from a resident CCC contacted D&G Council about the litter bin, outside the Heritage Centre, that was overflowing. The resident had tried contacting the Council using the telephone number displayed on the bin however it was not answered. CCES case Case 5268631 was raised and the bin was promptly emptied on 29 November.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Monthly treasurer's reports were distributed via email
- The D&G Council Discretionary Grant Application Forms were submitted to D&G Council.

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.
- RRPL held a meeting with LH/SS on 3rd November. Minutes have been distributed.

b) Cornharrow(updated)

- **Status: Following consent, now in planning with variation** [[20/0159/FUL](#), [PPA-170-2145](#), [21/1766/S42](#)]
- 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.
- The developers have submitted a variation to reduce the turbine numbers from 8 to 7, and increase tip heights to 180m.

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 (updated)

- **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.
- 132 kV Overhead Line Grid Connection Proposal is under consultation until 17th December. Further details available at http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eucharhead_windfarm_grid_connection.aspx

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(updated)

- **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).
 - The DPEA application requested further written submissions.

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 (updated)

- **Status: Planning Application submitted** [[20/0176/SCO](#) , [20/2085/FUL](#) , [PPA-170-2153](#)]
 - Supporting documents added to planning application for 9 turbines.
 - The DPEA application requested further written submissions.

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)

- The DPEA application has written information requests still outstanding.

l) Pencloe

- **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.
- No further updates.

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 reduced 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>.
- Stantec have written a Community Development Strategies Interim Report which was distributed by email and is available at www.vattenfall.co.uk/quantanshillwindfarm. This report included feedback from CCC and GDT.
- Following the update to the scheme design this summer, and subsequent consultation period, Vattenfall have finalised their layout. Details were distributed via email and Vattenfall have updated their online exhibition to reflect the changes.

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 took place in October, including representation from Stop Sanquhar II action group's appointed QC. The representation included the precognition document agreed by CCC and other local community councils.
- The DPEA application requested further written submissions.

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](#)]
- 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 held a hearing on 9th November which was attended by BA on behalf of CCC.

p) South Kyle (updated)

- **Status: Consented** [[13/C/2/0014](#) , [EC00003109](#)]
- South Kyle is currently under construction.
- Vattenfall are running Consultation Surgeries at 6.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month with the first meeting having taken place on Monday 8th November.
- CLG meeting took place on 8th November and was attended by LH/SS. Minutes were distributed via email. The next CLG meeting will take place on the 8th December.
- Vattenfall held a 'Deep Dive and Young Deciders meeting in Lagwyne Hall on 27th November.
- A transport route test run was undertaken on 25th November. Notice was given at 16:30 on 23rd November, Vattenfall apologised for the late notice.

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 were undertaken on C35s commencing Monday 4th October for 5 days.
- Following the previous report CCC were advised that Carsphairn Community Trust have been working with Statkraft in regards to possible re-use of the Laydown Area.
- A Community Liaison Group meeting is to take place via zoom on 1st December. CCC representatives will attend.

s) Windy Standard (Brockloch Rig) (updated)

- **Status:**
 - **Windy Standard I Re-Powering - Scoping Pre Application** [[ECU00003324](#)]
 - **Windy Standard III Consented** [[ECU00003335](#)]
 - Windy Standard I and II - Operational
- Windy Standard III, a development of 20 turbines extending the existing Windy Standard I and II windfarms was consented on 23/03/2021.
- FOR set up a Windy Standard 1 – Re-powering Proposal online exhibition available at www.windystandardwindfarm.co.uk
- Exhibitions were held during November, including Lagwyne Hall on 15th.
- CCC sent in a response to the WS1 Re-powering scoping pre application with the ECU (15/11/21)
- For further information on the Windy Standard 1- Re-powering Proposal:
 - view the materials online from the website;
 - set up a discussion: text/call 07435 763 900 [the team can be on hand to discuss the plans, and this includes after 5pm];
 - submit questions via communities@fredolsen.co.uk;
 - request additional information on memory stick by emailing communities@fredolsen.co.uk or text/calling 07435 763 900.

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 Approved by Scottish Forestry [[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 (updated)

- **Status: Application Approved by Scottish Forestry [[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.
- Ground preparations have been taking place on-site.

c) Daltallochan Hill forest creation

- **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 have been on-site making preparations for planting.

d) Furmiston forest creation

- **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).
- Deer fencing and spraying off the bracken has taken place.
- No further updates.

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 (updated)

- Felling plans were approved by Scottish Forestry (24.09 Ha) [[FPA-8229](#)]
- Felling has been taking place.

g) Muirdrochwood - Felling plan (updated)

- Felling plans were approved by Scottish Forestry (7.4 Ha) [[FPA-8157](#)]
- Felling has been taking place.

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 (updated)

- IS added the defibrillators to the register of 'The Circuit' (the national defibrillator network) so that the Ambulance Service is aware of their location and access times.

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 - Polquhanity to Glenlee [[ECU00002124](#)]
- Scottish Power S37 Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement (KTR) Project - Overhead Power Line Application registered with ECU - Carsfad to Kendoon [[ECU00002125](#)]
- Alterations and Erection of Extensions to Dwelling House - Approved [[21/2094/FUL](#)]
- Installation of Telecommunications Cabinets - D&G Raised No Objections - [[21/2078/UTL](#) & [21/2079/UTL](#)]
- Discharge of existing Section 50 Planning Obligation - [[21/1992/S75](#)]
- Erection of Kinpar Enclosure for Electricity Network Switchgear - Deemed Prior Approval Not Required [[21/1989/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 (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. LH sent an email to John Thin to request revised schedules for the consultation. The response indicated that these will not be available till January next year.
- 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 (updated)

a) Road Repairs on C35s

- 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 were undertaken commencing Monday 4th October for 5 days.
- No further updates.

b) Potholes on the B729

- No further updates.

c) Potholes on A713

- No further updates.

d) Potholes on B7000 (new)

- A resident reported potholes on the B7000 near the High Bridge of Ken. CCC raised a CCES (Ref: 5256218) with D&G Council and forwarded pictures of the damage. The Council have picked up the delaminated surface and added to their forward maintenance register for future surface treatment. The potholes will be attended to when resources permit.

13. Community Garden (updated)

- The Community Garden continues to be maintained.

- A successful application was made to CREFL for £1500 to help fund the Garden Maintenance for the next year (23/10/21).
- CCC are examining the possibility of planting some fruit trees in the Garden to coincide with the 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' scheme.

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 is currently underway and deadline for applications is 6th December.

16. National Planning Framework 4 (updated)

- The government are progressing this, further information available at :
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-fourth-national-planning-framework-position-statement/>.
- An update was sent by Graham Robinson of the Scottish Government and further details are available at www.transformingplanning.scot