

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY 9 November 2015 AT 7.30 PM**

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[www.wigtowncc.org.uk](http://www.wigtowncc.org.uk)

<b>PRESENT</b>		
Nick Walker	Jock McDowall	Willie McCartney
Robin Richmond	Matt Kitson, <i>Convenor</i>	Ann Gray
Joe McKeown	David McAdam	Robert Harford
Kerr Inger		

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>		
Cllr Jim McColm	Andrew Plunkett	Gail Plunkett
<i>Galloway Gazette</i> Louise Kerr	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	

<b>APOLOGIES</b>		
Cllr Graham Nichol	Jak Kane, <i>Secretary</i>	<i>Wigtown Free Press</i> David McKay
Cllr Alistair Geddes		

**1 WELCOME AND CALL FOR ANY URGENT BUSINESS**

Matt Kitson welcomed all to the meeting; especially to Ann as a new Community Councillor, and Kerr as a newly recruited Associate Councillor and noted apologies. In the absence of the Secretary, Matt Kitson undertook to record the minutes of the meeting.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

There has been an incidence of trespass between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October whilst the owners were away on holiday. Nothing was taken. Police advise residents to tell them if they are going away on holiday.

Newton Stewart shops have experienced a scam called “ringing the changes” where they are given a note in payment then told that they haven’t given enough change as a larger denomination note was said to have been handed over. Shop keepers are advised to be vigilant.

**3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (12 October 2015)**

Adopted: prop. Robin Richmond, sec Jock McDowall

**4 Arrangements for Adoption of the Constitution**

Matt advised that an Extraordinary General Meeting was required to adopt the constitution and that this would take place before the December scheduled business meeting at 7:30pm.

**5 Updates & Reports**

### **Consultations WP:**

- a. **Proposals identified from 2-18 Structural Delivery Service Review of Education** - Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 10 November 2015. Wigtown Primary School Parent Council have considered and submitted a response.
- b. **Health and Social Care Integration – Locality Consultation** - Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 11 December 2015 – Robert agreed to try and attend the consultation event at 1.pm - 4pm on 17 November McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart.
- c. **Community Safety Survey** - Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 23 December 2015 - all councillors urged to submit a response online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDLTMM9>
- d. **FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS**  
**Opportunity to Suggest New Development Sites and to Comment on the LDP –** Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 29 January 2016

### **Planning WP:**

Pre-circulated report was presented by Nick Walker. Councillor Jim McColm was present during the planning discussions, but did not take part.

Matt recused himself from discussions relating to planning applications 15/P/1/0226 and 15/P/1/0227 due to potential conflict of interest.

- a. 15/C/1/0048 TELECOM DISH AND ANCILLARY WORKS, STERRATON FARM, KIRKINNER – Decision: Noted
- b. 15/P/1/0226 EXTENSION TO WORKSHOP, UNIT 2A, BLADNOCH BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL, ESTATE, WIGTOWN. – Andrew and Gail Plunkett were present to answer questions from the councillors regarding the application. Decision: Unanimously supported.
- c. 15/P/1/0227 ERECTION OF STEEL FRAMED INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, CAR PARKING, STORAGE AREA, BLADNOCH BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WIGTOWN. – Andrew and Gail Plunkett were present to answer questions from the councillors regarding the application. Decision: Unanimously supported.
- d. 15/P/1/0197 ERECTION OF DISTILLERY AND ASSOC. BUILDINGS, SEPTIC TANK, PARKING (10 spaces), ETC., OFF A714, BY BARRHILL FARM, NEWTON STEWART. – Decision: Noted.

The councillors agreed to lobby Dumfries and Galloway Council and DGFirst to direct heavy goods traffic heading beyond the Royal Burgh along the B7005 rather than through Wigtown and Bladnoch.

The Planning report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

**Louis McGuffie Memorial:**

- A. Nick presented outline sketch of the arch over the gate. It was agreed to commence pre-planning with Dumfries and Galloway Council and request a more detailed design sketch from Steve Dowling. The question of ongoing maintenance of the new metal work was raised. Dumfries and Galloway Council would be approached.  
**Wigtown parking & bus stop** - Matt re-raised on CCES with no response after 1 month. Cllr McColm to pursue on our behalf

**6 Public Toilets – Plans:**

Matt presented the new plans for improving the Public Toilets at High Vennel. All three toilets will now be unisex and provide for disabled access. There was concern raised about storm water ingress and contamination with sewage. It was agreed that Matt would contact Wendy Jesson to ensure that the plans included provision for dealing with this problem.

**7. Tasks from previous meeting:**

- A. **Education issue;**  
Gail Plunkett thanked Nick and the councilors for support in progressing discussions with Dumfries and Galloway Council Education on Additional Support for Learning staff reductions. The Area meeting arranged by Dumfries and Galloway Council took place on 5<sup>th</sup> Nov and was attended by 5 members of the public including the Chairs of three Parent Councils. It was felt that the choice of date by Dumfries and Galloway Council – being Bonfire Night – and mis-publication of the start time – advertised as 7:30pm when it was 6:30pm – had a significant impact on attendance. This item will be removed from the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr McColm advised the meeting that the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number of ASL posts would reduce from 51 to 49.5 this year and then by a further 4.5 over the next 2 years.
- B. **Community Resilience (Matt);** Matt to advertise for Community Resilience team members and emergency contacts. The Council would like to use the matched funding to provide a secure storage container for resilience equipment in the Lorry Park. Nick advised that a planning application would be required and that any permission would be temporary for a period of 5 years. It was agreed that a pre-planning engagement would be undertaken (Nick). Jock will establish the likely cost of a container.
- C. **Derelict properties (Robin/Cllr Geddes);** Cllr Geddes provided an update prior to the meeting. 24 High Street – Dumfries and Galloway have identified the work that needs to be done to the property and have communicated with the owner’s son to establish a timescale for completion. No update on 26 North Main Street.
- D. **Machars Federation;** Nick has scheduled a new meeting for 24/11 and invited the newly reformed CCs via Wendy Jesson.

**6. Wigtown Fairtrade**

Update will be at next meeting.

## **7. Christmas 2015**

The town gardens lights will be put up on the weekend of the 28/29 Nov. The Tree and lights will be put up the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. The Tree lights will be switched on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7pm. A procession from the Primary School led by the Round Table Santa will start at 6:30pm. The Creebridge Silver Band has been booked to play for the carols at the tree and in the County Buildings after. Matt to confirm Overhead Projector to enable Carol words to be displayed on the side of a building in South Main Street. Nick will ask the Community Shop to run the mince pies, teas and non-alcoholic mulled beverages at the County Buildings. Renita Boyle will find some entertainers to cover when the Silver Band are having their break. It was agreed that the council would provide solar powered lights to the school as a test of the light's capability.

## **8. Wigtown First Responders**

Matt advised that a member of the community had expressed an interest in establishing a First Responders Team in Wigtown to provide support at medical emergencies. The Port William First Responders team had volunteered to come and talk to the council. Matt to arrange a talk for the January meeting.

## **9. Communications, correspondence, etc.**

Briefing Note on Mobile Phone Coverage – attached to the minutes

## **10. Councillors' Issues**

Cllr McColm highlighted the consultation meeting in Stranraer on 10<sup>th</sup> December for the Second Phase of Draft Strategic Plan and Locality Plans. The closing date for responses is on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The 2-18 Structural Delivery Service Review of Education is due to save £3.4million over the next 3 years.

Sunday bus services are to change with the Newton Stewart to Whithorn service no longer being directed along the B7005, bypassing Wigtown. Councillors were concerned at the lack of consultation from Dumfries and Galloway council on the impact of the changes.

## **11. Other Urgent Business**

None

## **10 NEXT MEETING**

**Extraordinary General Meeting - Monday 14 December 2015 at 7.30 pm in County Buildings, Wigtown, to be followed by the normal business meeting.**

And then Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
PLANNING WORKING PARTY REPORT FOR FULL COMM. COUNCIL 9.11.2015**

**Members** - Willie McCartney, Robin Richmond, Nick Walker, plus Jak Kane this month.

**Current applications**

**15/C/1/0048 TELECOM DISH AND ANCILLARY WORKS, STERRATON FARM, KIRKINNER.** Utility development so for notice rather than consultation.

RECOMMEND – note.

**15/P/1/0226 EXTENSION TO WORKSHOP, UNIT 2A, BLADNOCH BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WIGTOWN.** Not in Bladnoch conservation area, which skirts around some buildings in the industrial estate. There is already planning permission for a small extension to Plunkett's workshop to allow improved, covered HGV access. This proposal expands beyond that to provide greater storage capacity and better cover for materials moving between processes and in/out of storage. It will mean outdoor storage ceases which will make the area look tidier and reduces risk of theft, etc. Expectation is of slight reduction in HGV traffic, but possibly larger vehicles carrying larger loads, hence need for better space for access and manoeuvring, and increased storage capacity. There should be general health & safety improvements as a result. There is no expectation of change in light or noise from currently. The Building design will be similar to existing units in the area. The site is designated as mixed use industrial, and the application is to extend an existing industrial unit. Flood risk not considered significant. No biodiversity issues are identified. Development Plan emphasis on economically positive developments is of clear relevance. There are few submissions from the public and neighbours, split between objection and support.

RECOMMEND – discuss and decide on CC submission. Working Party opinion is that CC should support the application, but note potential for HGV traffic which tends to pass through Wigtown and Bladnoch; this could be addressed by a notice directing delivery traffic (esp. HGVs) along the B7005 bypass from Culquhirk (likely of benefit irrespective of this application).

**15/P/1/0227 ERECTION OF STEEL FRAMED INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, CAR PARKING, STORAGE AREA, BLADNOCH BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WIGTOWN.** In Bladnoch conservation area and in part replacing former fish factory (which already has permission for demolition). Signature Gifts Ltd (Historic Newspapers) as proposed tenant, enabling expansion and centralisation of that business and likely to lead to significant increase in employment locally (already employs 40 people locally). Their storage archive would remain at Baldoon but the North Main Street premises which are no longer adequate would close. Building and carpark design will cut back into hillside a little, and will have some masking by trees from Bladnoch village. Traffic will increase a little, but most traffic is relatively small delivery vehicles. Alternative sites have been considered, including Baldoon (not internet), North Main Street (too small and no option to expand) and Duncan Park (redevelopment unlikely allowed due to close proximity of residences). Building design will be similar to existing units in the area. This may be an issue in the Conservation Area. The site is designated as mixed use industrial however. Noise at current location is not an issue and proposed building designed to reduce sound transmission, so unlikely at issue in proposal site; fewer residences nearby (one only) close by than at current location. Flood risk not considered significant. No

biodiversity issues are identified; there is no evidence of bat roosts for example. Development Plan emphasis on economically positive developments is of clear relevance. There are few submissions from the public and neighbours, split between objection and support.

RECOMMEND – discuss and decide on CC submission. Working Party opinion is that CC should support the application, but note potential for increased traffic which tends to pass through Wigtown and Bladnoch; this could be addressed by a notice directing delivery traffic (esp. HGVs) along the B7005 bypass from Culquhirk (likely of benefit irrespective of this application).

### **Update on general applications**

#### **15/P/1/0197 ERECTION OF DISTILLERY AND ASSOC. BUILDINGS, SEPTIC TANK, PARKING (10 spaces), ETC., OFF A714, BY BARHILL FARM, NEWTON STEWART.**

UPDATE: Roads submission for clarification of vehicle volume, changes to parking, changes to lane to improve access in and out especially for HGVs.

### **Renewable energy proposals**

#### **15/P/1/0031 SHENNANTON WINDFARM, NEWTON STEWART.**

12 turbines, 100m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc.

UPDATE: Nil.

#### **15/P/2/0053 CALIFORNIA WINDFARM, CARSLUITH.**

7 turbines, 110m to blade tip, structures, etc.

UPDATE: Nil.

#### **13/P/1/0366 AUCHLEAND WINDFARM, WIGTOWN.**

7 turbines, 130 m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc.

UPDATE: Nil.

#### **15/E/1/0008 SOLAR PANEL FARM, BALDOON.**

UPDATE: nil.

### **ACTION**

Note report, consider recommendations on new proposals and agree CC submissions.

Agree to lobby D&GC / DGFirst re HGVs being directed via B7005

## ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Consultations Working Party - November 2015

#### CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

a) **Proposals identified from 2-18 Structural Delivery Service Review of Education - Dumfries & Galloway Council.** Closing date: 10 November 2015

Dumfries and Galloway Council to carry out a Service Review of all the Education Services for children from the age of 2 to 18 across all Dumfries and Galloway in order to identify £3.4M savings by 2017/18. This breaks down to £1.4M in 2016/17 and a further £2M in 2017/18. This saving is 11% of the total amount to be saved by Dumfries and Galloway Council by 2018. By looking at everything from age 2 to 18 the Council will be looking to find ways of "re-arranging services to ensure there is fair access to them and they make the best use of the money that's available". The Scottish Government decided in February 2015 that no local authority was allowed to reduce their teacher numbers. The budget for education services is mostly made up of teacher salaries so this meant that the Review Team had only a small number of budgets to look at to identify potential savings. The Review Team looked at all available remaining budgets and produced a list of potential savings totalling £1,877,215. This list includes proposals for both direct services within schools but also services which support schools from the centre. Some of the proposals identified will not directly affect school staff and pupils as they are part of the support mechanism for schools. You should read the background paper and FAQs before completing the survey. This will give you the details of the areas looked at and the proposed savings from each area:

- Background paper [177kb]
- FAQ's [93kb]

b) **Health and Social Care Integration – Locality Consultation - Dumfries & Galloway Council.** Closing date: 11 December 2015

The consultation for each of Dumfries and Galloway's four locality plans was launched on 19 October. The draft Wigtownshire Health and Social Care Draft Locality Plan outlines "*how services and approaches will develop over the next few years*".

Consultation events have been planned in each of the Localities (*Wigtown 2 events – 6 hours total; Stewartry 5 events - 10 hours; Annandale & Eskdale 5 events - 15 hours; Nithsdale 24 events - 90 hours*). The Wigtownshire events will be/have been held on:

- 10am - 1pm on 29 October Stranraer Library
- 1.pm - 4pm on 17 November McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart

Survey available in full and 'Easy Read' versions of the Locality Plan on – <http://www.dg-change.org.uk/consultation> This is the first draft of this locality plan and the Partnership would like to hear what you think about it before it produces the final plan later this year. They expect responses to help them develop the best plan possible for health and social-care services and support in Wigtownshire. The consultation questionnaire extends to two questions:

Q1. Do you think we have missed anything in the plan that you feel is important? If yes, what is missing?

Q2. How do you think we can all work together better to make sure people receive the support they need to manage their personal health and well-being?

**c) Community Safety Survey - Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 23 December 2015**

Dumfries and Galloway Community Safety Partnership wants the region to be the safest place in which to live, work and visit. The purpose of the consultation is to help direct the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership by telling them what issues affect you and how they can improve their overall service.

Online survey for individual residents. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BDLTMM9>

## **FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS**

**a) Opportunity to Suggest New Development Sites and to Comment on the LDP – Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 29 January 2016**

The Council is preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP2) for adoption in 2019. As part of this process, it will soon be launching a Call for Sites and Comments stage where the Council is inviting all members of the public, landowners, developers and any others with any interest in development in the region to send in details of potential development sites that they would like to see included in LDP2. This could be land for housing or business development and must be within or next to the settlement boundaries that are shown in the current LDP. They will also be asking for any comments you might have on the current LDP or any other planning issues that you think should be discussed during the consultation on the next Plan.

Starting on **27 November 2015**, you will have 9 weeks in which to submit your sites and comments - more details will be available soon at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP).