

Royal Burgh of Wigtown and District Community Council
Annual General Meeting Monday 8 June 2020

Convener's Report

We have come to the end of another productive year and, as we can no longer meet physically and probably won't be able to do so for some time, we have subscribed to Zoom so that we can meet virtually to deal with routine business. We had an election in October that saw some new members elected on to Community Council and, since then, have launched a Newsletter, keeping the community updated on issues discussed at our meetings and inviting feedback; it has been very well received.

Thanks to the hard work of everyone on the Working Party and the many volunteers who helped run the events, another very successful Community Festival was held in July. Thanks too, to those who erected the Christmas lights and to those who helped make the Switch-On such a successful community event. The Town Square Development Working Party is making some progress towards a new more flexible lighting scheme in the Square but the planned work to underground cables in North Main Street has been delayed. SPEN do not have a start date as yet but have agreed to provide us with a 3-phase supply which, coupled with the proposed new lighting scheme, should make it easier in the future.

We had no success in our efforts to get Dumfries and Galloway Council to reconsider their planned alterations to Wigtown Primary School. Work went ahead to provide a larger nursery space and reduce the size and number of the classrooms, capping the school at 100. Unfortunately, no work was done at the time to improve accessibility.

During the year, we submitted responses to various consultations, including the Council's Budget Options, 2020/21 and the Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore wind Energy. Many thanks to our Secretary, Jak Kane, for submitting responses on our behalf and for keeping such detailed records of our financial position. Thanks, too, to the Convener of the Planning Working Party, Nick Walker, who continues to provide us with monthly reports to enable us to comment on individual applications and to our representatives on the WBLNR and the Federation of Community Councils for keeping us apprised of their meetings.

When the consequences of lockdown became apparent a Resilience Group was formed, consisting of Sandra McDowall, Jak Kane, Cora Sharp and Anne Barclay. A Facebook page was launched and almost 100 volunteers were recruited to offer assistance where necessary. The volunteers now shop for 100 residents and deliver over 40 prescriptions on a weekly basis in the Community Council area of Wigtown, Bladnoch, Kirkinner and Whauphill. As it is Volunteers' Week from 1-8 June, a Community Council thank-you card has been designed and sent to all the volunteers, expressing the gratitude of the residents at this time.

In conclusion, thanks are due to the Community Police for their monthly reports, to our Dumfries and Galloway Councillors for their input at our meetings and to all Community Councillors for their support during my 3rd year as Convener.