



## **Meeting held on 10 October 2023 at 7 10 pm**

### **Attendees**

**Councillors:** Peter Cailey (PC), Robert Dodds (RD), Ruairidh Hesketh (RH), Helen Keating (HK), Amy McCreath (AM), Fiona Power (FP), Nigel Scott (NS), Francois van der Zee (FZ)

**Dumfries and Galloway Council:** Cllr John Denerly (JD) and signer

**Associate Member:** Susan Miller (SM)

**In Attendance:** Mark Laird (ML)

### **1 Welcome and apologies**

1.1 RH welcomed ML.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

2.1 None

### **3 Public Forum**

3.1 ML expressed disappointment that the GDI had arranged a meeting with DGC officers to discuss the MUGA without inviting the community representative; RH expressed also disappointment and stressed the importance of all parties working together.

3.2 ML said that the plinth by the noticeboard adjoining the Spar car had not been repaired. SM said she would report formally via CCES.

### **4 Minutes of meeting on 19 September 2023**

4.1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 19 September was proposed by FP seconded by RD and agreed unanimously.

### **5 Matters arising from the previous meeting**

5.1 None

### **6 Dumfries and Galloway Council Report**

6.1 JD said that DGC would be supporting people in need during the winter months and would provide funding to voluntary groups to enable them to do so.

### **7 Police Report**

7.1 Police Scotland (PS) submitted a written report as summarised

(a) Attempts made to gain access to a boarded up vacant property on B727 between 1 and 9 September; driver reported for speeding on A75, near to Gatehouse of Fleet on 15 September; driver reported for solid white line overtake on A75 near Twynholm/Gatehouse on 25 September; driver reported for speeding on A75, near to Gatehouse of Fleet on 29 September; driver reported for dangerous driving on A75, near to Gatehouse of Fleet on 30 September

(b) Roads Policing officers tried to stop a White Vauxhall Astra van on the A75 at Gatehouse of Fleet bat 7 30 pm on 12 September ; driver failed to stop, and a pursuit was authorised which ended in Dumfries, where driver was then found to be under the influence of alcohol and arrested. PS are asking if anyone saw the pursuit or has dashcam footage to examine if/how this affected the public. Contact 101 quoting reference PDG0183580923.

(c) Man attempted to deposit counterfeit currency in shop in Gatehouse of Fleet on 4 September; staff member carried out checks on the money and found it was counterfeit and contacted Police who traced two people and reported them to the court

(d) Stewartry Drop In = Monday 30 October from 1 30 to 2 30 at Kirkcudbright Fire Station

(e) In August 2023, 27 people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in Dumfries and Galloway. PS want to emphasise the dangers and impacts

- (f) Link, SaferCash and Crimestoppers have come together to tackle ATM distraction theft which is an increasing problem across rural and urban areas, primarily targeting and affecting vulnerable members within communities. For more information on this and to report any information regarding these incidents contact PS on 101 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111
- (g) A Scottish Health Survey will take place from March 2023 until February 2024. More information is available from Scottish Health Survey - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))
- (h) The priorities for this area which are decided by data from our strategic assessment which details threats and risks, and also from feedback from local authorities, partners, and residents and are
- Violent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
  - Crimes of theft and dishonesty
  - Substance misuse
  - Road safety and road crime
  - Protecting vulnerable people.
- (i) The local Community Policing Team can be contacted at [StewartryCPT@Scotland.police.uk](mailto:StewartryCPT@Scotland.police.uk) or via 101; in an emergency always call 999.

## 8 Review of Planning Applications

FP reported that since the last meeting

8.1 there had been one decision; permission had been granted conditionally for alterations to the north-west elevation of The Gatehouse, Ann Street, Gatehouse, including a new door opening, reinstatement of two first-floor openings and the installation of two rooflights; also the formation of a new window opening within the north-east elevation and internal alterations including insertion of staircase.

8.2 there had been two new planning applications:

(a) for the erection of a dwellinghouse with roof-mounted solar panels, installation of an air-source heat pump and formation of access at Plot 2, former Church of the Resurrection site, Riverbank, Gatehouse; and

(b) for the erection of an extension to the south-west elevation of the dwellinghouse at Marchfield, 14 Garden Street, Gatehouse

## 9 Treasurer's Report

9.1 PC reported that the Admin Account stood at £565, the Common Good Fund at £598 and the Legacy Fund at £19,414

## 10 Report from Gatehouse Development Initiative

10.1 FZ reported that

(a) **Cardoness Lights** – the site visit with the electrician HES and SPEN was still awaited; the costs had increased due to inflation but there was sufficient budget to meet them

(b) **Community Housing at Woodside** – the flood risk assessment had been carried out

(c) **A75 Cycle Route** – 2 landlords had objected to the proposals and discussions were ongoing.

(d) **Defibrillators** – there were problems sourcing new batteries for 2 of the units requiring the purchase of new units at a cost of £1k plus installation; there were insufficient funds in the existing budget held by the GDI on behalf of the former defibrillator group to meet costs of purchase of new units, a further cabinet and ongoing maintenance; the GDI were unwilling to meet these costs as the provision of defibrillators sat outside their development remit. RH suggested a meeting with the GDI to try and resolve immediate problems and put in place long term arrangements. It was noted that funding might be available from eg BHF.

## 11 Correspondence

11.1 RH said that an enquiry had been received about the Council's position on Lairdmannoch Energy Park and he had confirmed that this was that it was not appropriate to comment on the proposals at this stage.

## 12 Developing Gatehouse identity as a Bike Town

12.1 Members agreed that there was merit in exploring this further through discussions with eg DGC, Sustrans, SOSE, Wheels of Fleet and consultation with the local community. RH said he would progress on that basis.

### **13 Recycling Area**

13.1 Following concerns about recycling raised by a resident, a request was made to DGC to site red/blue bins in the recycling area; this was initially refused but DGC have now indicated further investigations are taking place. In the meantime DGC have stated they will look at placing additional signage to direct people to dispose of their non-recycling waste in their holiday accommodation bins or take it to the local Household waste Recycling Centre and ask Streetscene operatives checking the area when they are there to empty litter bins. In addition the former Smiling Sweepers had said they're willing to help keep the area clean and tidy. It was agreed to await the outcome of DGC consideration before asking the Smiling Sweepers to take this on.

### **14 AOB**

14.1 RH placed on record the Council's thanks to NS for his years of service to the community both as the local postman and in his various community roles and wished him a long and happy retirement.

14.2 AM reported that there was a shortage of on call firefighters in Gatehouse. Information was available at [irefightershttps://www.firescotland.gov.uk/careers/on-call-firefighter/](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/careers/on-call-firefighter/)

14.3 HK asked who made decisions about award of Legacy Fund grants. SM confirmed that RD and AM and RD assessed applications and made a recommendation to the Council which made the final decision.

14.4 NS said that ML had expressed interest in joining the Council as a co-opted member. SM said she would put arrangements in place to effect this at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7 58 pm

Next meetings: 14 November, 12 December, 9 January 2024