



DALBEATTIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dalbeattie Community Council Annual General Meeting 2026

On 11th May 2026 at 7pm in the lower chambers in Dalbeattie Town Hall

Community Council Elected Members Present: May Donaldson (MD), Linda Ashton (LA), Edward Palmer (EP), Ron Smith (RS), David Reid(DR)

In Attendance Willie Watson (WW), Shirley McKee (SM), Margaret Copp (MC), John White(JW), John Thompson (JT)

1. Chair's opening remarks and welcome

2. Apologies

Pauline Patterson

3. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

Review and approve minutes from the previous AGM on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7 pm at

Venue - Birchvale Theatre, Maxwell St, Dalbeattie, DG5 4AG

Approved by Linda and seconded by May Donaldson

4. Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Dalbeattie Community Council over the past year. The report reflected on the Council's activities, challenges, and achievements, and acknowledged the commitment of Community Councillors, partners, and residents who continue to support the Council's work on behalf of the community.

It was noted that this had been a busy and productive year for the Council, with regular meetings, good attendance, and continued representation of local residents on issues affecting the area. Key themes during the year included community safety, local infrastructure, planning applications, and strengthening communication with statutory partners.

Council members represented residents' views at meetings with Dumfries & Galloway Council and local organisations, responding to consultations on:



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Traffic management and road safety

Environmental and public space concerns

Local service changes

The Chair reported improved engagement with elected members and officers and thanked them for their constructive approach and ongoing communication.

Key achievements during the year included:

Supporting initiatives such as the Local Clean-up Group, consultation meetings, and local events.

Completion of the Local Place Plan, which was forwarded to the Council. This will give the community a voice in planning decisions, ensuring suggestions are considered and the Place Plan referenced in future decisions.

Ongoing restoration of the pond in Colliston Park, with work having started and expected to continue following a site meeting, though communication with the contractor remains a challenge.

Recognition of the Local Clean-up Group for their significant contribution to improving the town.

Bandstand completed, still no markings on the steps for the visually impaired.

Continued fundraising through Race Night and a raffle, both raising money for pond restoration.

The chair stated that as with many volunteer groups, Dalbeattie Community Council faces challenges including recruiting and retaining members, increasing public participation and awareness of our role.

Despite these challenges, the commitment of members ensured continuity and progress.

The chair reported that unfortunately, over the last year members have been lost from the Community Council, and the chair thanked them for their commitment. Dalbeattie Community Council is always looking to recruit new members.

Dalbeattie Community Council has been improving communication through newsletters, notice boards, and social media remains a priority.



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Thanks were extended to:

- Fellow Community Council members for their time, dedication, and teamwork.
- Our Secretary and Treasurer for their hard work behind the scenes.
- Local authority officers, elected members, and partner organisations.
- Most importantly, the residents of Dalbeattie whose views guide Dalbeattie Community Council work.

Looking ahead, the Dalbeattie Community Council aims to increase community engagement, encourage new members to stand for election, continue to represent residents on key local issues, and build stronger partnerships to support community-led action.

In closing the chair expressed the opinion that they are proud of what the Dalbeattie Community Council I has achieved this past year and looks forward to building on this work in the coming year and continuing to represent our community in a positive, transparent, and effective manner.

The Chair Thanked everyone.

5. Treasurer's Report

Accounts were checked Venessa Whalen – retired accountant

Presentation of financial accounts and annual statement

FISCAL YEAR 2025 Additional Details

OPENING BALANCE £0.00

Income (£38,099.18 ring-fenced for pond)

Virgin Money £314.05

RBS £13,876.44

TOTAL INCOME £14,190.49

Expenditure



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Virgin Money Expenditures £0.00

RBS Expenditures £10,439.85

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £10,439.85

Opening Balance £40,583.15

Income £14,190.49

Opening Balance plus Income £54,773.64

Expenditure £10,439.85

Closing Balance £44,333.79

The Treasurer reported that

6. Election of Office Bearers

Linda Ashton was appointed Chair

May Dondaldson appointed deputy Chair

Pauline Patterson was appointed Secretary

Ron Smith was appointed Treasurer,

7. Confirmation of Community Council membership

May Donaldson (MD),

Linda Ashton (LA),

Edward Palmer (EP),

Robert Widdowson (RW)(left at 7.25),

David Reid(DR)

James Carnochan (JC),

Ron Smith (RS),

John Neilson (JN),



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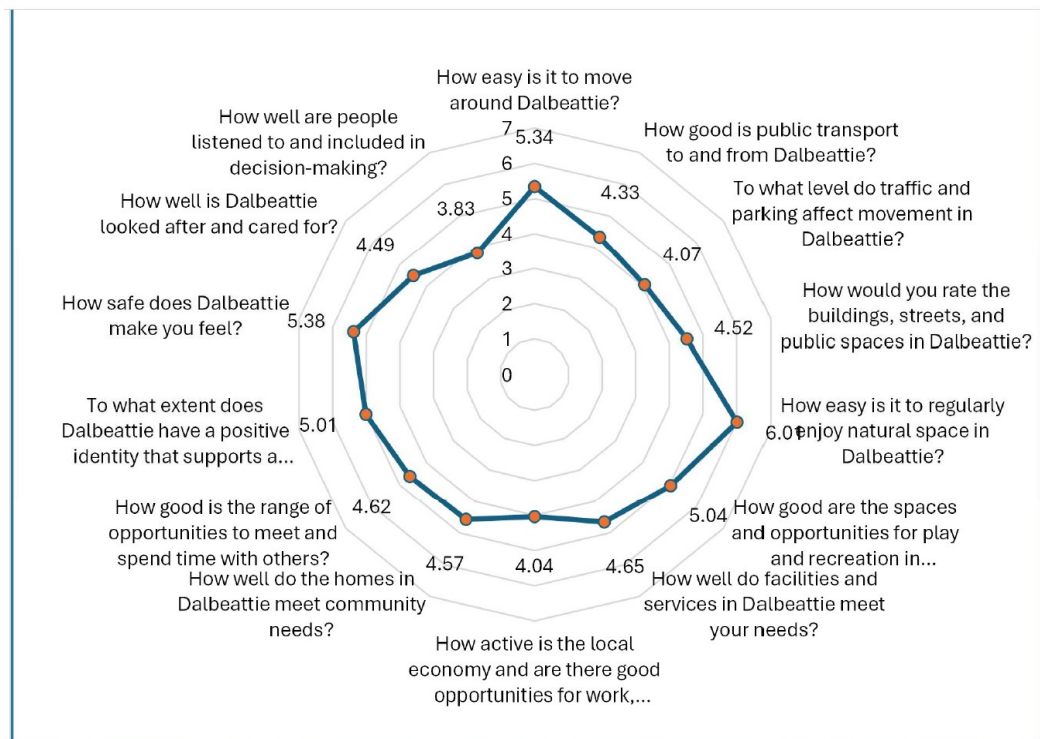
8. Priorities for the coming year the Community Action Plan

Community Feedback – Non Planning – For Community Action Plan (CAP) was presented:

The Dalbeattie Community Council Residents' survey was an online consultation launched on 26 February 2025 using Microsoft Forms. and completed by about 150 residents.

The results showed a geographical spread across the town, with a gender breakdown of 39% male, 60% female, and under 1% preferring not to say or identifying as other. All age groups were represented, with the following distribution:

- **Under 16** – 10%
- **16-24** – 7%
- **25-44** – 14%
- **45-64** – 36%
- **65-74** – 23%
- **75 and over** – 10%



The free text responses for the following non planning related themes were analysed,:

Public Transport, Social Interaction, Identity and Belonging, Feeling Safe, Care and Maintenance, Influence and Sense of Control.

It is usual in community-planning analysis to consider all themes with a confidence level of 80% or greater, with those at 90% or above representing the strongest and most consistent priorities that should definitely be taken forward.

CAP Priorities (Confidence above 80%)

1. Public Toilets – 47% mentioned, 94% confidence
2. Youth Provision – 42% mentioned, 92% confidence
3. Colliston Park Improvements – 29% mentioned, 89% confidence
4. Traffic Safety – 31% mentioned, 88% confidence
5. Colliston Park Toilets – 14% mentioned, 84% confidence
6. Litter and General Maintenance – 18% mentioned, 81% confidence



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9. Public questions on AGM reports (Chair and Treasurer)

There were none

10. Date of next Annual General Meeting

Monday 10th May 2027