

# DBT NEWS

## Dalbeattie is preparing for an Emergency



Many people have observed that the weather has changed over the years; winters have become wetter and summers drier. This is leading to a greater risk of flooding and drought in the coming decades. Extreme weather events that could affect people's lives are becoming more regular occurrences. In the future, most climate projections indicate that winter windstorms will increase in number and intensity over the UK. More winter storms, including disproportionately severe storms, are projected to cross the UK, such as Storm Arwen in December 2021. Storm Arwen brought 100 mph winds, flattening trees and leaving

many Dalbeattie residents without power for a short period. At one point, all routes in and out of Dalbeattie were shut off, blocked by fallen trees. Dalbeattie fared better compared to some parts of Scotland where thousands of homes were without power for over a week.

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted mankind's vulnerability to the devastating effects of the spread of infectious diseases. In these extreme events, it has become ever more apparent that the emergency services and our infrastructures would be overwhelmed, which may result in communities having to fend for themselves for a period of time. Preparing for such scenarios is essential, and towns and villages across Dumfries and Galloway have formulated and are updating Resilience Plans. These plans set out what resources and volunteers are available and how they may be deployed to withstand and recover from such incidents while maintaining essential services and supporting the well-being of residents.

The resilience plans are registered with Dumfries and Galloway Council. Currently, Dalbeattie is the only town of its size not to have a plan lodged. To address this, Dalbeattie Community Council is producing an up-to-date resilience plan, but help is needed to do so. If you would like to get involved and help protect those most vulnerable in Dalbeattie, or if you have resources or facilities that can be used in an emergency or would be willing to volunteer, please email [dbtcc1@gmail.com](mailto:dbtcc1@gmail.com) or let a community council member know.

## Two Community Council Elections this year

The upcoming Community Council elections in Dumfries and Galloway, scheduled for October 2024, present a crucial opportunity for Dalbeattie residents to actively engage in shaping their community. Regrettably, Dalbeattie Community Council is in crisis as the number of elected members is only five, which is the minimum number needed to convene a meeting, making it very difficult for the Community Council to function. As a result, a Casual Vacancy Election (CVE) has been called. This means there will be two opportunities to receive nominations for candidates and hold an election if the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies (the full council comprises 14 members) over the coming months.

Nominating candidates ensures diverse representation, strengthens local democracy, and empowers elected members to advocate for community needs. Your involvement matters—consider stepping up or encouraging others to run!

The date for the CVE has been set for 11 July 2024, and nominations need to be returned by 5pm on Tuesday, 18 June 2024, to [Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk).

## **BANKING HUB SHOCK**

Dalbeattie Community Council were shocked that their application for a banking hub was turned down, and Councillor Kim Lowe is preparing an appeal against the decision. The Dalbeattie Community Council has written to Alister Jack MP, who is raising this case with the Financial Conduct Authority and the relevant UK Government Minister. Finlay Carson MSP was also written to on this matter, and he has taken up the case, challenging whether the criteria used by LINK when assessing potential locations for hubs in rural areas are appropriate or not.

LINK informed DBT News that Kirkcudbright does not meet the criteria for a banking hub, but one was set up there purely to meet a quota when banking hubs were first established. This was not what was communicated to the Community Council by LINK initially, when they told Dalbeattie to apply because Kirkcudbright had been successful.

# FLOOD RISK DALBEATTIE:

Dalbeattie has a long history of flooding. The most significant floods occurred on October 31, 1977. When flooding caused major disruption to gas supplies for two days and significant damage to a footbridge. Areas at risk within Dalbeattie include High Street, the port area, and along the Mill Burn and Little Burn. The Dalbeattie and District Flood Prevention Scheme, implemented in the early 1980s, aimed to address this ongoing issue by introducing flood defences in the area. Dalbeattie Community Council has requested that Dumfries and Galloway Council maintain the defences by removing vegetation. Dumfries and Galloway Council has committed to doing this when the water levels are low, so Dalbeattie Community Council has now sought a date as the levels have dropped.

The national flood mapping for Dalbeattie (see below) does not fully represent the impact of the flood defences in Dalbeattie but does highlight the areas that are vulnerable to floods. Annual maximum flows and rainfall data suggest that while Dalbeattie has witnessed several flood issues in the recent past, such as in the port area, none of these have been a result of direct overtopping of the defences. If this were to happen, the scale of the flooding would be quite substantial, dividing Dalbeattie, with amenities in the High Street around the town centre flooded and the doctor's surgery isolated.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has classified Dalbeattie as a "Potentially Vulnerable Area" (PVA), meaning it has been highlighted as an area where flood risk is significant, and thus the need for Dalbeattie to plan and prepare for the worst-case scenario through resilience planning.

## WHAT'S ON

### MAKERS MARKET

**1st June 2024 10am-2pm**  
Dalbeattie Parish Church Hall

### FILMS

At the Birchvale Theatre:

**07th June 2024**  
Anatomy of a Fall (15)

**21st June 2024**  
Poor Things (18)

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**29th June 2024**  
Birchvale Quiz Night  
Fundraiser at the Birchvale Theatre

### FAMILY EVENTS

**30th June, 2pm**  
Bug and Minibeast Hunt  
Dalbeattie Town Wood meet at the car park.  
Dalbeattie Forest Community Partnership

### COMMEMORATION

**6th June, 5.45pm for 6pm**  
80th anniversary of D-Day  
The War Memorial in Colliston Park  
and at 9:15pm, a beacon will be lit at the quarry.

