

DBT NEWS

Dalbeattie Scouts Eye Former Police Station for New Youth Hub

The long-disused Dalbeattie Police Station could soon be transformed into a new hub for local youth organisations, following a bold proposal by the Dalbeattie Scout Group to acquire the building through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

The Scout Group has been liaising with Police Scotland regarding the site since December 2024, and formally registered its interest at the beginning of June 2025, following an arranged viewing of the premises at the end of May. A formal expression of interest triggers a 12-month protection period under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, preventing an asset from being sold on the open market while the application is developed.

At the June meeting of the Dalbeattie Community Council (DCC), the Scouts' proposal received universal approval and support — a major endorsement from local representatives, and a clear sign of strong community backing for the initiative.

If successful, the plan would see the former police station repurposed into a

dedicated youth facility for the town — with shared use available to any other volunteer-run or council-run youth groups that may wish to use it. Many of these groups currently operate from venues not designed for youth activities.

"This could be a real turning point," said one local volunteer involved in the project. "Currently, leaders have to store Scouting equipment and resources in their homes. This would give Scouting — and other youth activities — a proper home."

Although the building has stood empty for more than a decade and will require significant refurbishment, the Scouts say they have funds available to begin initial renovation work — but only if the transfer can be agreed at a nominal or below-market rate, in recognition of the anticipated public benefit. By taking on full legal, financial, and operational responsibility, the Scout Group would relieve Police Scotland of a dormant

liability, while unlocking long-term social value. Supporters argue this approach reflects the "best value" principle — prioritising lasting public benefit over short-term financial return.

The proposal also supports wider policy goals: reducing demand on public services through improved youth provision, enhancing outcomes for young people, encouraging volunteering, and returning unused public assets to meaningful, sustainable community use.

The Scout Group is now preparing a full business case, as required under the CAT process. At the same time, discussions continue with Police Scotland's estates team to confirm procedural details and next steps.

With strong community support and cross-sector interest, project backers believe the future of this once-vital building could soon be rewritten — by and for the next generation of Dalbeattie.

Founded in 1925, the 1st Dalbeattie Scout Group has provided nearly a century of youth leadership, outdoor adventure, and service to the local community. The Group will mark its 100th anniversary with a Centenary Celebration on Saturday 6 September 2025, offering an opportunity for current members, former Scouts, and the wider community to reflect on its past — and look ahead to a new era.

Colliston Park Pond Cleaning Halted by SEPA

Efforts to clean and maintain the pond at Colliston Park have been brought to an unexpected halt following intervention by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

The Dalbeattie Community Council had been overseeing a project to clear debris and improve water quality in the park's popular pond, aiming to enhance the local environment and provide a better space for residents.

However, SEPA has stepped in, citing environmental regulations designed to protect watercourses and habitats, and requested that the work be paused pending further assessment.

The decision has sparked mixed reactions locally. Some community members expressed disappointment, emphasising the importance of such maintenance for public enjoyment and environmental health. Others understand the need to safeguard delicate ecosystems and ensure any interventions comply fully with legal requirements.

The Community Council is currently liaising with SEPA to address concerns and explore ways to resume the project in a manner that respects environmental protections.

Colliston Park remains a valued green space in Dalbeattie, and residents hope the pond cleaning can continue soon, balancing care for nature with community use.



Dalbeattie Community Pantry

Opening Times

Monday: 10am - 2pm

Wednesday:

10am - 2pm and 6pm - 7pm

Friday:

10am - 12noon and 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Food Shops, Crisis Packages and much more.

Open to all!

Proposed Sale of Rounall Wood Dropped as Common Good Fund Open for Applications

Plans to sell a small section of Rounall Wood have been officially abandoned, following confirmation from Dumfries and Galloway Council that the land will no longer be declared surplus and therefore will not be available for sale.

The proposal, brought forward earlier this year, involved a request from a private individual to purchase a portion of the woodland adjacent to their property. The intention was to manage tree safety and expand a domestic garden area. While the Economy and Infrastructure Committee agreed on June 3 that the land could be considered surplus—pending a further report to the Dalbeattie Common Good Fund Committee—council officers have now confirmed that the disposal will not be progressed. The land will remain part of Dalbeattie's Common Good estate.

Rounall Wood, which was gifted to the people of Dalbeattie, is widely regarded as a valued public asset. It serves not only as a biodiverse woodland and green corridor but also as a symbol of local heritage. News of the proposed sale had prompted strong responses from residents and volunteer groups, many of whom feared it would set a precedent for the gradual loss of public land held in trust for the community.

"This is a welcome outcome," said one local resident. "People care deeply about Rounall Wood—it's part of Dalbeattie's identity and should remain in public hands."

At the same time, Dumfries and Galloway Council has announced that applications to the Dalbeattie Common Good Fund are now open. The fund offers financial support for local projects that benefit the town's residents and improve public amenities or cultural life. Constituted

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*Don't leave it to others!
If you care about
Dalbeattie,
fill out the Survey!*

community groups and individuals living in Dalbeattie Burgh are encouraged to apply. While match funding or evidence of fundraising is desirable to strengthen applications, it is not an absolute requirement. Groups and individuals must clearly demonstrate their financial position and provide monitoring information as requested by the Council.

Applications for constituted groups can be made for grants up to £1,500, while individuals may apply for up to £500. All projects supported by the fund must be completed by 31 December 2025, and applications must be submitted by 31 August 2025. Full application details and eligibility criteria are available on the Dumfries and Galloway Council website.

The outcome over Rounall Wood has underscored the importance of public engagement in decisions affecting Common Good land. With the latest funding round now open, residents and organisations are encouraged to bring forward ideas that reflect the town's needs, values, and ambitions for the future.

20mph Trial Nears as Dalbeattie Gets Traffic Monitors



As Dalbeattie prepares to join the nationwide 20mph speed limit trial, residents may have noticed the installation of roadside traffic monitoring equipment across the town. The black rubber strips—known as pneumatic road tubes—have been laid across several streets to collect key traffic data ahead of the upcoming speed reduction.

These temporary devices monitor vehicle speed, volume, and type, providing essential baseline data to assess how driver behaviour may change once the 20mph limit is introduced. The information gathered will help evaluate the effectiveness of the 18-month trial, which aims to improve road safety and reduce accidents, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

We previously reported in May on the success of similar measures in Annan. Now, Dalbeattie is set to follow suit as part of Scotland's broader £4 million initiative to create safer streets. Dumfries and Galloway Council has received £215,280 to support the local rollout, including signage, road markings, and compliance monitoring.

Transport Scotland and the local council will use the data collected to inform future decisions about whether to make the speed limit permanent. The trial is expected to begin later this year, with ongoing monitoring throughout the period.

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