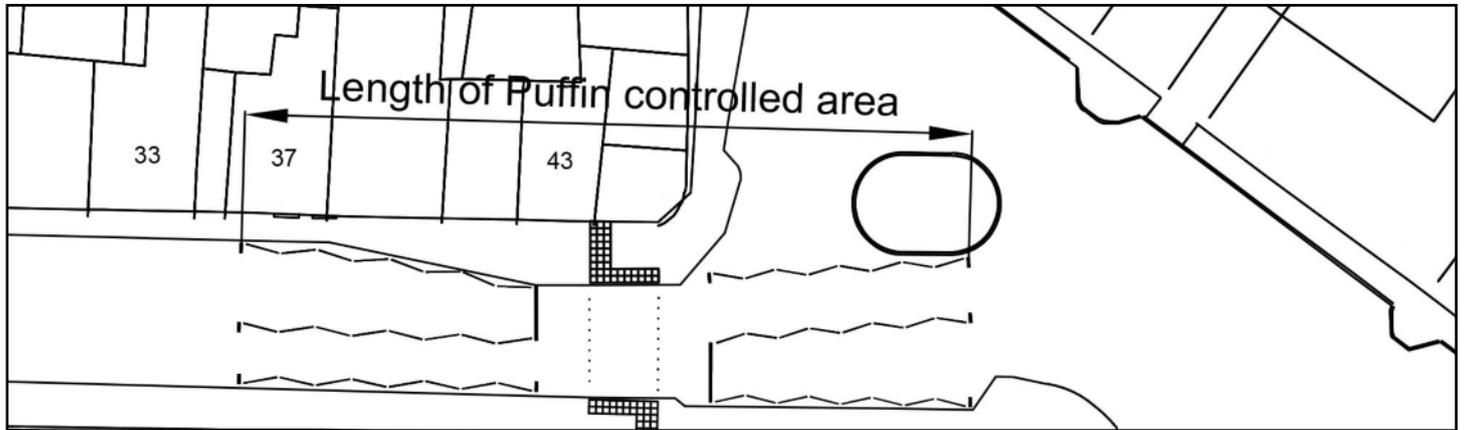


# DBT NEWS

## Dalbeattie Community Council Objects to High Street Puffin Crossing Proposal



Dumfries and Galloway Council's proposal to introduce a forty-three metre Puffin controlled area on Dalbeattie High Street has prompted a formal objection from Dalbeattie Community Council, which argues that the scheme conflicts with the community's agreed vision for the town centre and would have a serious impact on local businesses. The proposal would replace the existing Pelican crossing with a modern Puffin crossing and introduce zig zag white lines along a substantial stretch of the High Street. These markings carry the strongest stopping restrictions in UK road law, making it a criminal offence to stop within the controlled area at any time. Loading, unloading and brief drop offs are prohibited, and the restrictions apply to all vehicles including delivery vans, taxis and Blue Badge holders. Drivers who breach the restriction face a fine and three penalty points on their licence.

It was unanimously agreed at its February meeting, the Community Council states that the proposal is at odds with the Dalbeattie Place Plan, a document developed through extensive public engagement and endorsed by the community. The Place Plan sets out a vision for a more accessible and people-centred High Street, including partial pedestrianisation without changing traffic flow through the reclaiming of road space for civic use. The Community Council argues that imposing a forty-three metre controlled area would severely restrict the ability to deliver these improvements and would lock the High Street into a vehicle-dominated layout for years to come.

The objection also highlights the Place Plan's proposal to redesign the Alpine Street and High Street junction into a T junction and to create a central civic space around the War Memorial. The Community Council believes the controlled area would obstruct this redesign and undermine the community's ambition

for a more vibrant and pedestrian-friendly town centre. It further notes that the Place Plan reflects strong public support for improved accessibility, safer pedestrian infrastructure, a slower High Street and the preservation of Dalbeattie's rural character, aims which the proposed controlled area does not support.

Members also expressed unanimous agreement that a light-controlled crossing is not the right solution for the scale and character of Dalbeattie's High Street. The Community Council states that pedestrian-priority measures such as zebra crossings, combined with a twenty mile per hour speed limit, would be more appropriate and more consistent with the Place Plan's objectives.

The objection raises particular concern about the impact on Gowan's and other long-established High Street businesses. The proposed controlled area would fall directly outside the premises, and the restrictions would prevent loading and unloading, effectively removing the business's ability to trade. The Community Council describes this as a serious and unacceptable consequence for both the business and the economic health of the High Street.

The Council also argues that crossing locations should be considered as part of a wider and coherent plan for the High Street rather than in isolation. It states that the current proposal appears to have been developed without reference to the Place Plan or to the operational needs of High Street businesses.

In its conclusion, the Community Council urges Dumfries and Galloway Council to withdraw the proposal, work collaboratively with the community, ensure alignment with the Place Plan and explore alternative traffic calming and pedestrian-priority measures that better support safety, accessibility and the long-term vision for the town.

## A Letter from China: A Young Admirer of William Murdoch Writes to Dalbeattie



Dalbeattie Community Council recently received a heartfelt letter from Baoyu Duan, a 17-year-old high school student from Yunnan Province in China, who reached out to express his deep admiration for William Murdoch, the First

Officer of the RMS Titanic and one of Dalbeattie's most notable sons.

Baoyu first learned about Murdoch at the age of ten after watching the film Titanic. Although disappointed by the inaccuracies in the movie's portrayal of Murdoch's final moments, he went on to research Murdoch's real actions during the disaster. He writes with great respect about Murdoch's professionalism, integrity and courage, describing him as a personal inspiration.

In his letter, Baoyu explains how Murdoch's example helped him overcome challenges at school, including giving a presentation on the Titanic that boosted his confidence. He even wrote a novel imagining himself as an officer on the ship, a project that strengthened his

admiration for Murdoch's character and leadership.

Baoyu hopes one day to visit Dalbeattie to pay his respects at Murdoch's memorial. For now, he simply wishes to feel a connection to Murdoch's hometown. He kindly asked the Community Council if they might send a postcard, photograph or brochure about Dalbeattie and Murdoch's legacy. He enclosed a self-addressed envelope with UK postage and requested that the reply be sent via International Tracked and Signed. He also included this hand-drawn portrait of Murdoch, offered with great sincerity.

This letter is a touching reminder of how far Dalbeattie's history reaches, and how the legacy of William Murdoch continues to inspire people around the world.

If anyone in the community would like to include a personal card, postcard or message in the town's reply to Baoyu, please pass it on to Dalbeattie Community Council.

## Concerns Raised Over Delays to Footbridge and Speed Limit Rollout

Dalbeattie Community Council has been advised that work on the long-promised accessible footbridge at Church Crescent is expected to begin imminently, following concerns raised by residents with mobility difficulties who are currently unable to use the stepped bridge. Plans for the accessible bridge were first developed in 2024, with completion originally expected in 2025, but no construction has yet taken place. The Community Council noted that residents have been waiting a considerable time for an accessible route and that the lack of progress is causing frustration. After raising the issue, members were told that the works are now due to start shortly.

The Community Council also sought an update on the twenty mile per hour speed limit programme, which Dalbeattie had been told it would be next in line to receive as part of the national trial originally scheduled for 2025. In response, members were informed that the rollout will now take place this year, but at the same time as Castle Douglas rather than ahead of it. The Community Council welcomed the clarification but emphasised that residents will expect to see both projects finally moving forward after repeated delays.

Pond Restoration Fundraiser

**ST PATRICK'S DAY  
DINNER**

LIVE MUSIC till late!

14<sup>th</sup> March 2026

6.30pm for 7pm at

Dalbeattie Bowling Club

ticket only

£25 for 3 courses

Available from

Granite Kitchen or

Linda Ashton or

May Donaldson

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