



Community Councils and Resilience Teams Information Bulletin and Updates

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Every member of your community can be a valuable member of society with something to contribute. Community Councils should attempt to engage with a wide range of people to create a large diversity of perspectives and insights which can help the Community Council to achieve more. Engaging community members in making decisions is also likely to make them more pro-active about their community's needs.

Community engagement is about building open and honest relationships between citizens and the Community Councils, based on mutual trust.

Engagement can range from providing information about current work or projects, to consulting on particular issues and some of the engagement needs to be ongoing and some of it might be short-term or one-off events.

For further advice and for some useful tips on ways to engage with your community and to read more on how other Community Councils across Scotland are engaging with their communities, please visit the Scottish Community Councils website [Ideas section](#).

Other useful tips and sources of information can be found [here](#).

SKILLS SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Improvement Service and the Open University (OU) in Scotland are working together to offer all community council volunteers the opportunity to upskill and reskill using OU courses.

Throughout the pandemic the Improvement Service's Community Councils (CCs) project supported by Scottish Government has been trying to find ways to support CCs as they adapt to new ways of working and the OU was one of the organisations they reached out to and asked how they could help.

Many Community Councils have fully embraced the digital journey during the pandemic and there are courses here to help you continue that journey such as using Microsoft Teams and succeeding in a digital world. In addition to digital skills there are also courses on a range of other topics including finance, fundraising, community and business skills. These courses are totally free - all Community Councillors have to do is register for a free account and then they can begin their learning journey with the OU.

To find out more about how you can brush up on your skills or learn some brand new ones please click [here](#).

SOURCES OF FUNDING

Working Our Way Out of Poverty Participatory Budgeting Funding

Dumfries and Galloway Council are once again launching another round of Participatory Budgeting Funding which is specifically designed to give people the opportunity to make decisions on funding for anti-poverty projects within their local area. We want to ensure that local people and communities are at the heart of our decision making. Together we will be able to achieve more and better outcomes for our local communities through Participatory Budgeting.

How it works

We are delivering Participatory Budgeting for 1% of our budget to let local communities directly influence spending decisions in their areas.

We will do this by:

- working with people in your community to identify local priorities;
- generating solutions to meet local priorities;
- choosing the most popular solutions.

For further information including the key project timescales, the amount of funding available and on how you can apply please visit our Participatory Budget funding [website](#).

The Voluntary Sector – TSDG Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

A detailed website providing regular updates on Funding Opportunities. Subscription to their funding newsletter is free and provides a great deal of useful information on the various funds that are available to community groups and organisations. Please click [here](#) to find out more.

Community Council Annual Discretionary Grant – Reminder to apply!

A large number of Community Councils across our region have already completed and returned their paperwork with all funding applied for to date paid having been paid out.

However, we are keen to ensure that for any Community Council who has not returned their paperwork to date that you do not miss out on claiming this grant funding before the deadline of 26 February 2021. The process and paperwork have been streamlined and simplified.

To find out more or to request another copy of your Community Council paperwork to enable you to apply before the deadline please email us at Community.Councils@dumgal.gov.uk

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING

SupportDG website: Please [click here](#) to find out the latest up to date Covid-19 guidance and information on:

- Support for Communities including community resilience and the emergency food helpline.
- Schools and Childcare including delivering remote learning and top tips for parents.
- Support for Local Businesses including grants and funding for businesses and business rates relief.

- Support for Employment including employment support for parents and carers, support for secondary pupils and school leavers and support to develop skills and find work.
- The latest information available on Facebook and Twitter in relation to all of the above.

LOCAL AREA DATA

Details of the most up to date information on the number of cases in your local area as well as trends for Local Authorities and NHS Boards can be found on Public Health Scotland's [interactive dashboard](#). In addition, you can access data for your community by accessing the '[Cases by neighbourhood](#)' tab that you may want to share this information with your contacts and across your local community.

KEEP INFORMED

As Community Councils, Resilience Teams and Local Volunteers continue in their response Partners remain ready to assist and support you in whatever way we can.

Key Partner contact details and further information can be found as follows:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council <https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/>
- Third Sector D&G <http://thirdsectordumgal.org.uk/>
- Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- NHS <https://www.nhsinform.scot>

