**Darvel & District Community Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday 30th Apr 2025**

**Darvel Church Hall**

**Chairman to Open Meeting**

Minutes of March Meeting

Proposed by : Lilian Mair\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by : John Oliver\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance, Apologies and Introductions**

**Invited :**

* Robert Curr (RC) DDCC Member - Attended
* Margaret Curr (MC) DDCC Member - Attended
* Richard Hanmer (RH) DDCC Chairman - Attended
* John Oliver (JO) DDCC Member - Attended
* Lilian Lilian Mair(LM) Vice ChairDCC Vice-Chair - Attended
* Pamela Higton(PH) DDCC Member
* Joyce Paterson(JP) DDCC Member - Attended
* Bill Bryden(BB) DDCC Member - Attended
* Max Flemmich (MF) DCC Member - Attended
* Sally Cogley (SC) Councillor - Attended
* David McClernon (DC) DDCC Treasurer
* Beverley Clark(BC) Concillor
* Kevin McGregor (KM) Councillor
* Kieran Wardrop (KW) Vibrant Communities - Attended
* Emma Nuttal (EM) DDCC Member
* Buchanan Grant (BG) Police Scotland - Attended

**Other Attendance:**

**Apologies :**

* Pamela Higton(PH) DDCC Member
* Kevin McGregor (KM) Councillor
* David McClernon (DC) DDCC Treasurer
* Emma Nuttal (EM) DDCC Member

**Meeting Minutes**

**Lottery**

* Lottery video was posted : Wednesday 30 March 2025 6:30pm

Update on the Apri DDCC Darvel Lottery draw

The Lottery report was sent to all the members prior to the meeting, The update below was reviewed win the meeting

* Number of Entries: 355 (3 entries less than Mar)
* Prize fund: £826.00
* Community Fund: £431.25

Prize Money confirmed

* 1st Prize: £690
* 2nd Prize: £86.25
* 3rd Prize: £86.25

DDCC Lottery to be added to the Fenwick Facebook to encourage anyone to join

No table in the corner for April but there was an empty table at the last corner market. Next table in the corner will be May, RH will monitor the table

**Membership Changes**

* None

**Actions from March DDCC Monthly Meeting**

* None

**Meetings Attended**

* Police Scotland 11th Mar 2025 – No further updates, to be removed from the agenda
* Newmilns DDCC 15th Mar 2025 *–* Awaiting confirmation from Maria Lynch that Galston CC can attend the meeting. Meeting to be scheduled this month (May)
  + Remembrance Day 2025
  + Christmas lights
  + East Ayrshire Federation

**Upcoming meetings**

* Millrig Meeting scheduled
  + Teams meeting was scheduled for early May but that has now been postponed for a month
  + Similarly the in person meeting scheduled for June at Muikirk has also been pushed out
  + Revised dates to be confirmed
  + DM and RH to attend the meetings going forward
* (SC) to arrange for Pamela Clifford, who is head of planning, to visit Darvel and discuss the next LDP, have a walkabout and meet members of DDCC.
  + No further update SC to follow up on this.
* (SC) Aneka Friel, who is responsible for Vibrant Communities, to be invited to a DDCC meeting to discuss what the Vibrant Communities role is.
  + No further update, KW to follow up on this
* (KM) Hoping to do a surgery in Darvel with Lillian Jones MP
  + No further update

**Reports**

1. **Police Report** 
   1. Anti Social Behaviour
      1. Emphasized the need for members of the public to report matters to the Police via the 101 Phoneline. Sgt Grant is happy to be cc’ed on any email but members of the public will need to contact 101 first. Use of displacement orders will be used to tackle issues with groups of youths.
      2. Kevin MacGregor mentioned last month that there had been a walk about in John Morton Crescent and by the river at Morton Park. Off the back of that Sgt Grant had been included on an email from the the deputy chief executive of the councilregarding further ideas such as additional fencing by the river.
      3. Sgt Grant commented that the road improvements next to the Loudoun Gowf Club and the 40mph have improved the situation but there are currently no statistics on this. Anecdotely this has been an improvement as there have been no further incidents
      4. LM commented on complaints have been received on the new road furniture at the entrance to Darvel, this have not slowed the traffic down and has made the sitiuateion worse.
      5. Fire service attended the Jaimeson Road factory but did not stay very long, Police Scotland were not aware although they are not always contacted, only if the fire service require Police attendance.
2. **Councillors’ Reports** 
   1. Kevin McGregor
      1. Kevin MacGregor mentioned last month that there had been a walk about in John Morton Crescent and by the river at Morton Park
      2. Liasing with Ayrshire roads alliance on roads issues, no further update on this week
      3. Was at the unveiling of the new Flenming mural and met the artist “Rogue One”, commented on how well attended this was.
      4. Commented on the recent Darvel Football Club complaint with the WOSFL regarding the 6th Substitute used by Johnston Burough during a recent game and how DFC were unfairly treated.
   2. Sally Cogley
      1. Traffic A71 community traffic event, various agencies then park in Newmilns Fire station and do random checks on the vehicles
      2. Anti social behaviour submitted a motion to council regarding ensuring that all possible option sra ebeing utilised. Justice panel, Courts and Police not doing enough so SC has submitted a motion to council for 2 weeks tomorrow. Police do have the dispersal powers for dispersing of large groups of youths that congregate.
      3. Litter picking season, out with the brownies last weekend. Concerns on the level of dog fouling in Morton park on the path by the river.SC requested assistance from an of the Community Coubcil members to assist in identifying those individuals responsible for the dog fouling in John Morton Park. If purpetrattors can be identified by areas and time of day then enforcement officers can be brought in
      4. SC is working with Keith Campbell, based in Cumnock, who has done a terrific amount of litter picking over the last year. Was at Dumfries House where he received an award for Citizen of the year for collecting 6000 bags of litter. Will be doing schemes together. Attended the Parent Steering Council meeting last night and confirmed the go ahead for the relaunch of the litter in schools program.
      5. SC to find out what the latest status is for the Jameson Road Factory site and confirm the scheduled date for demolishen
      6. Loudoun Acadamy has a new head teacher
      7. John Morton crescent TARA, RH unable to make the last meeting. Kevin who manages the TARA to be invited to a DDCC meeting
      8. JO asked about the fly tipping up at Loudoun hill, SC emphasized the request for these incidents to be reported to the council.
   3. Beverly Clark
      1. No report this month
3. **Priestland Report** 
   1. No Further updates on Priestland action
      1. Confirmed that the Action Plan is currently in progress, the local community is currently being canvassed for feedback. The LDP2 is the report that caused issues for the Priestland residents, LDP3 is now in progress.
         1. Engagement is out and the surveys are out for people to completed. Surveys can be completed online and there are paper copies for people to complete.
         2. There is also a separate survey for young people too. KW will be visiting local schools to encourage the young people to complete the surveys
         3. Looking to hit the 40% target by June so that there can be some analysis over the summer months
         4. Local place plan to be align the local place plan within LDP3 . However the current legislation does not mean that the local place plan will not automatically go into the LDP3 due 2028/2029. Its not been produced in the way that the legislation requires it to be. So for Darvel, where there is a new action plan going on, what ever is in the action plan, with the place making plan linked to it will then go into the Local Development Plan, due to launch 2028. Will then go to the planning department for review, it’s a huge undertaking for the planning department. Period between LDP is moving from 5 to 10 years and the LDP3 will last for the full 10 year term. The legislation is now such that the LDP will form part of the spatial plan, which means that local communities have the opportunity to determine where new development is done, or whether there is any new development at all. Any comments on the Action Plan will be plotted on the area map and the local community have the opportunity to move ther. A local organisation can this submit this to the local planning department and the planning department have to accept this. It is reaqlly important that Darbvel makes its voice heard on this.
      2. Housing targets are going down as the population progression is due to decrease. Irvine valley is restricted by lack of transport links and access to motorway and Glasgow. This impacts the number of social housing being built. Ageing population as well, there will be prominently those population that are not economically active, housing will need to be reformatted to accommodate retired people.The council have been given certain funds to try to counter this trend, either keep them there or assist in them moving to where they want to be. Strategic plan to see how to allocate the resources more affectively.
      3. New website has been circulated to all the DDCC members allowing the public to be able to give feedback on the LDP3 .Members encouraged to go on the site and voice concerns regarding development in Priestland.
4. **Secretary’s Report and Correspondence**
   1. No further updates this month
5. **Treasurers Report**
   1. Period 01/04/25 – 30/04/2025
   2. Opening Balance £15,078.24
   3. Payments
      1. Charges £67.10
      2. Expenses £93.00.
      3. Lottery Prizes £880
   4. Total Expenses £1,040.10
   5. Income (Lottery) £1,670
   6. Closing Balance £15,660.65
6. **Funding report**
   1. No update this month
7. **Planning Report**
   1. No planning applications impacting this month
8. **Community Plan Update** 
   1. Community Plan yupdates have been covered earlier in the meeting (Priestland Update)
9. **Correspondence Report**
   1. No further updates this month
10. **Vibrant Communities** 
    1. Planning. The Strategy Group / Action Plan Steering Group are taking forward a refresh to the Local Place Plan alongside the Community Action Plan which will become supplementary guidance to LDP3. I know the DDCC have involvement in the Strategy Group / CAP Steering Group.
       1. Covered as part of the Priestland Update
    2. Visit from Anneke Freel, currently asking people about Vibrant Communities moving into East Ayrshire Leisure and how that gets redesigned in the future
       1. No further update this month
    3. Remodelling of the organization is ongoing and in 2026 will no longer be called East Ayrshire Leisure. An event is being held at Morton Hall in Newmilns between 3pm and 5pm, Anneka Friel will be in attendance. Will be able to view all of the services and also comment on what they should look like. DDCC can bring up any issues regarding the EAC at this event. For anyone unable to attend there is a klink to give feedback.
       1. RC asked the question on the booking of the towhall. KW confirmed that when anyone places the booking it is not automatically confirmed. There is now a caretaker in the townhall and if you rent the hall when they are there you are charged one rate. If they are not due to be there there will be a larger change as the EAC will need to get cover. Only get confirmation on the let once the staffing has been confirmed (2-3 months before the event).
       2. Darvel Townhall is in the EAC Capital plan awaiting funding, each venue on the capital plan will secure funding on an individual basis. No dates on when Darvel Townhall refurbishment will start.

**Other Competent Business.**

* DDCC Container located at the Townhall
  + The other container is leaking and will need to be removed and replaced
  + DDCC Container will also need to replaced and potentially a new site to be found
  + DDCC container currently house the Christmas lights, dinner ladies have requested whether there is enough space for the wheelchair storage.
  + No further update this month, KW to find out further
* SEPA Flood plan Report (Peter Finnie)
  + No further update this month, unable to access the map, will try again
* Local Development Plan 3 (Alison O’Kane)
  + Already covered earlier in the meeting
* Register of Vulnerable residents
  + Pamela Hanmer and Christine Campbell to take this forward
  + Contact details of the Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership have been received
  + No further update this month
* Darvel and District Community Action Plan 2026 – 2031
  + DDCC invited onto the Action plan steering committee. Documentation circulated to the community members
  + No further update this month
* Request from Dinner Ladies Group for £250 to help fund their “Music and Cake“ events as the Masonic club as Masonic Club have increased the fee for these events.
  + Committee agreed to make the payment. Treasurer to add an item in the accounts to record this.
  + Already approved in March meeting, RH to liaise with Christine Campbell regarding arranging payment
* Adhoc Requests
  + The Community Council agreed that any small adhoc funding requests, similar to the above, will need to be brought to the council and considered on an individual basis.
    - The limit of these requests will be £250
    - Only after the council has agreed can any monies be paid.
    - Any monies paid by the council for these requests will come from the DDCC budget and **not from the DDCC Darvel Lottery budget**.
    - Requests for funding from the DDCC lottery can only be made through a formal application at specific times ( such as Spring into Spring, below) when funds are to be released. Any payments from the DDCC lottery needs to have the approval of the paying members.
    - To be confirmed how this will be advertised
* Spring into Spring will distribute £5,000, how this is to be allocated will be confirmed once the applications have been received.
  + Fund allocations were closed 8th Apr 2025
  + Following requests have been received (details sent to the menbers)
    - DIG - Hanging Baskets £585
    - 1st Darvel Brownies - Summer Camp and Other trips £1,000
    - Darvel Primary School – Outdoor Funrniture £5,000
    - Agreed to recommend to the member the following asllocation
      * Dig to be paid in Full (£585)
      * 1st Brownies to be paid in full (£1000)
      * Remaining allocationfrom the released funds to go to the primary school (£3415)
      * Hoping to do another fund allocation at Christmas as currently have a healthy bank balabce
* Approach from Newmilns Community Council (Sammy Truesdale).
  + Rememberance Day – distribution of Poppies, coordination of the parade. Distribution of the poppies was the baker and then this is currently with Newmilnd trust
  + Christmas – Coordination across the valley
  + Further meeting planned with Galston CC (Marie Lynch) – awaiting further scheduling with Maria Lynch who wanted to discuss this with the wider Community Council members, RH to follow this up
* School Buses and Children’s Free Bus Passes
  + No further update this month
  + Children will be going to and from school as this is school exam periods
* Lights Morton Park
  + (EN) to go to the latest meeting of the Morton Park Group
  + No further update this month
* EAC Jamieson Road Factory
  + No further update this month
  + SC to confirm with the EAC the likely timeline for the demolition to start
  + To be confirmed the latest plan for the site once its demolished.
* Christmas Lights
  + Christmas Tree
    - There is no electricity supply into the square, (RH) to update.
    - No further update this month
  + Village Lights
    - (LM) Alternatives for Contractors
    - Following contractors have been contacted to provide a quote
      * Macgeady
      * Centregreat
    - No further updates this month
* John Morton Crescent TARA SC
  + SC Further meeting on TARA
  + Contact details of the coordinator (Kevin Hamilton) from East Ayrshire Federation of Tenants and Residents.
  + Kevin Hamilton to attend a future DDCC meeting and discuss his role
* DDCC Container RH
  + 2 Containers are sitiuated in the back of the Townhall. 1 is used by the townhall and 1 is the DDCC. The Townhall container is leaking and will possibly need to be moved. May require the DDCC container to be moved as well and potentially may need to be replaced.
  + RH to confirm
    - Will the DDCC Container need to be moved
    - When this will be
    - Where can it be moved to
  + The DDCC container contains tapproximately around 28 Christmas Lights
  + Christine Campbell has requested to have the wheelchairs used for the hire service to be located into the DDCC Container from the Townhall container where they are currently located
  + DDCC may need to potentially finance a new container and a new location
  + No further update this month
* Capital projects
  + RH asked the DDCC to consider whether to look at any capital projects, suggested a community hall (Alexander Fleming Memorial Hall) or other community asset on the parcel of land on East Main Street. Ideas include meeting rooms, community kitchen, Small office/Business units. SL66 in Cumnock is an example of a successful community centre.
    - Would need to operate on a commercial basis.
    - Holding events and commercial kitchen that could be hired by local business’
  + Any funding application would require plans and other documentation that would require an initial outlay.
  + (RH) Proposed that the DDCC should seek out any funding that is available so that a feasibility and plans can be drawn up for this.
  + All agreed that this is something that should potentially be pursued, whether initial funding for the feasibillity study could be requested from the Windfarm etc.
    - Renewable Energy Fund may be a option to get the funding for the Feasibility Study
    - Maybe approach the Church of Scotland for funding
  + EAC have issued further guidance on the erection of the Christmas lights and there is a published page. Hoping to have local volunteers to assist in putiing up the lights.
* Facebook Page
  + Continue to monitor the DDCC Facebook page to ensure that no advertising is put on the site
    - Ongoing monitoring continues, item to be removed from the agenda
    - RH not able to have access to the Darvel and Priestland Community Page
* (MF) Spoke regarding a potential new member for the DDCC, the individual will be encouraged to attend the next meeting
  + No further update this month
* Enquiries on the Land by the Electricity Substation on the main road through Darvel that has now become an eyesore due to the dumoping of large amounts of waste on the site. Concerns have also been raised by members of the Darvel community. Initial discussions have taken place but as the land is privately owned the council would first need to establish and approach the land owner.
  + No further updates this month
* MF raised the question that the traffic has increased in Darvel and whether there could be a further study on the traffic flow in Darvel and whether further traffic calming is required. Also need to confirm if there is a 20mph zone in the centre of Darvel. RH to ask if there are any plans to do a further study.
* Note that I (DDCC Chairman) will not be attending next months DDCC meeting.

Date of next DDCC meeting Wed 28th  May 2025