

DUFFTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

AUGUST 31ST 2023



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Representation

19 participants attended the community forum at the Royal British Legion, Dufftown 7-9pm August 31st 2023. These included residents of the community, community group representatives, ward Councillors and representatives from Moray Council departments.

The forum was organised in two parts. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to stakeholder updates and information sharing. During the second part of the meeting, separate tables were set up with information on affordable housing, household energy advice and emergency planning for participants to engage with.

Community Groups & organisations represented:

- Royal British Legion Dufftown
- Dufftown & District Community Association
- Dufftown & Mortlach Development Trust
- Keith and Dufftown Railway Association
- Mortlach Memorial Hall
- REAP
- Dufftown in Bloom
- Moray Council



Stakeholder updates

Community groups were asked to give a brief update on recent, current and upcoming activities in 2023. Below are summaries of stakeholder updates at the community forum.

Keith and Dufftown Railway Association

- It's been a busy and successful summer with good visitor numbers.
- New addition Dram Tram has been a big success, with potential expansion of a second carriage conversion.
- Upcoming yearly events such as Fish & Chip train, Ghost train, and Santa train planned and tickets selling well.
- Planning on putting on a hogmanay and burns supper on the Dram Tram.

Royal British Legion Dufftown

- Oktoberfest and Burns night supper events planned.
- Will be running whisky tasting events throughout the autumn and winter months.
- Potential collaboration with other community organisations for D-day event.

Dufftown & District Community Association

- Community-led affordable housing masterplan underway. First public consultation held earlier in August with good turnout. Newsletter with community feedback created and available online.
- Good season for eBike hire coupled with free eBike loan project and free community eBike trials throughout the summer.
- Public wifi project at Dufftown square delayed due to technical issues but solution found and project is progressing.
- Clocktower project ongoing with appointed conservation architect Angela Dow developing concept drawings and preparing for a pre-planning application enquiry to Moray Council.

Dufftown & Mortlach Development Trust

- Monthly farmers markets successful and popular.
- Annual General Meeting is coming up and will take place at the Community Centre.
- More work completed on the Giant's Chair path.
- Work on Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) progressing. Currently in discussions with Moray Council about a Community Asset Transfer for the location of the equipment in Tininver Park.

Dufftown in Bloom

- Great season with beautiful flowers around Dufftown.
- Planters will be removed at some point in order to prepare them for the next season.

Mortlach Memorial Hall

- Resurfacing of car park completed and successful.

Community resilience

An initial meeting on community resilience was held in the Spring 2023 with the community halls in Dufftown as well as interested community members. At that time, participants discussed the possibility of creating a community resilience steering group that could develop a more comprehensive community resilience plan and/or raise awareness of household resilience. Duncan Smart from the Royal British Legion volunteered to chair this potential steering group. Following this initial meeting, the topic was discussed at this community forum to explore next steps.

Comments from the community forum discussion include:

- Dufftown is relatively well equipped for emergencies but neighbouring households/communities that are more remote, such as the Cabrach and Glenrinnies, may be more vulnerable. Any future plans should consider how to work with and support neighbouring communities.
- As heavy snow fall is likely to be one of the main risks for our community, gritting is a key issue to consider.
- As Dufftown's water is pumped from another location, loss of water supply is another main risk in case of severe weather.
- Storm Arwen demonstrated the high likelihood of mobile phone signals to be cut off in the case of severe weather. Access to land lines should therefore be considered as a key risk mitigation in any future resilience plans.

No clear direction of future travel was reached at the community forum in terms of forming a steering group, and what the main objectives of such a group should be.

Household Energy Advice

REAP Scotland, which is a local environmental and sustainable development charity based in Keith, came along to give a presentation on Carbon Monoxide Safety and how to register for the Priority Services Register (PSR) if you are a vulnerable household.

REAP can offer advice on:

- * Energy supplier issues
- * Energy debt
- * Switching tariffs and/or suppliers
- * Energy efficiency at home/No cost energy saving tips
- * Information on energy grants and schemes
- * Carbon monoxide safety

To get in touch, visit <https://reapscotland.org.uk/>



Next steps

The next forum is scheduled for the end of November 2023. Please get in touch if you would like to be kept up to date when we provide future information about the Dufftown & District community forum.

Acknowledgements

The community forum is funded by tsiMoray 'Community Priorities' funding. We would also like to thank all the participants that came along on the night and shared their ideas and thoughts.

Get in touch

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🌐 www.dufftowncommunity.co.uk



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Dufftown and District
Community Association