

DUFFTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

MARCH 1ST 2023



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Representation

20 participants attended the community forum at the Royal British Legion, Dufftown 6-8pm March 1st 2023. These included residents of the community, community group representatives, ward Councillors and representatives from Moray Council departments.

Community Groups & organisations represented:

- Royal British Legion Dufftown
- Dufftown Highland Games
- Dufftown & District Community Association
- Dufftown & Mortlach Development Trust
- Speyside Youth
- Keith and Dufftown Railway Association
- Dufftown Football Club
- Sports Development
- Active Schools
- Moray Unpaid Work Team
- Moray Council



Stakeholder updates

Community groups were asked to give a brief update on achievements in 2022, key activities for 2023 and how to get involved. Residents voiced that what they saw as Dufftown's key achievements in 2022 were the come-back of many events since the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the Dufftown Highland Games. Residents also enjoyed the many walks that the area has to offer. For 2023, residents would like to see the area attract more visitors and shops to regenerate the high street.

Below are written updates provided by community groups and stakeholders represented at the community forum.

Keith and Dufftown Railway Association

2022 achievements:

- Laying of second track at Dufftown station
- Installing bike racks at Dufftown station
- Cladding and roofing constructed over container-workshops to protect them from weather

2023 activities:

- Putting in crossover points between 1st and 2nd track at Dufftown station
- Building an all-abilities access ramp to the engineering shed
- Renewal of fence at Keith Town Station

How to get involved:

- By offering help with construction of ramp and fence

Contact details:

- manuela.hassall@keith-dufftown-railway.co.uk

Royal British Legion Dufftown

2023 activities:

- King's coronation 5-8 May with various activities
- Monthly cinema
- Ride the North catering 26th August
- Remembrance Sunday 12th November

How to get involved:

- All volunteers are welcome to help at any event

Contact details:

- Morag Ross - Treasurer dufftownrbl@btconnect.com
- Claire Porter - Secretary dufftownrblsecretary@btconnect.com

Dufftown Highland Games

2022 achievements:

- Games Day

2023 activities:

- Building new shed with funding from Dorenell
- Games Day
- Fundraising events

How to get involved:

- Volunteers required for Games Day

Contact details:

- dufftownhighlandgames@hotmail.com

Dufftown Football Club

2022 achievements:

- Darts tournament - fundraiser for defibrillator

2023 activities:

- Develop existing football building
- Gain charity status

How to get involved:

- Assisting with paperwork

Contact details:

- Harry Officer - 07932844121 / hofficer2@gmail.com

Dufftown & District Community Association

2022 achievements:

- Got our first employee
- August wellbeing week
- Created a clocktower business plan
- Progressed community-led housing plans

2023 activities:

- Progress clocktower project
- Progress community-led housing project
- Complete speed sign project
- Complete Clocktower wi-fi project

How to get involved:

- Volunteer with the community larder/bike shed/become a trustee

Contact details:

- hello@dufftowncommunity.co.uk

Dufftown in Bloom

2022 achievements:

- Invested in a new watering system for the polytunnels
- Planted daffodils for a spring display at the entrances of the village
- Composted the contents of the hanging baskets to make mulch for next year's growing season

2023 activities:

- Assemble raised beds to store Polyanthus for winter tubs
- With a successful application to Dorenell, we will buy new tubs and baskets
- Make new cold frames and benches for the polytunnel

How to get involved:

- Help with fundraising for the group / weeding / watering / potting up & planting out. No experience required!

Contact details:

- 01340820042 / 07776063113

Speyside Youth

2022 achievements:

- Partnership with Moray Parkour Development to become the Speyside Hub.
- Training provided for upskilling Young Volunteers, Volunteers & Youth Committee.
- Young people involved in Youth Cafes and wider community events.

2023 activities:

- Outdoor Safe spaces for YP (MUGA project with DMDT & DDCA).
- Build stronger pathways for YP into work, volunteering, careers & training.
- Support Dufftown Com Centre to continue as a base for all age grps in the community.

How to get involved:

- Volunteer & Provide support to Dufftown Com Centre User Group/ Committee.
- Volunteer with Speyside Youth various different roles-Advisory Board, Youth Cafes & other practical ways (Building an outside seated area, trailer runs etc)

Contact details:

- Julie Oyarzabal julieoyarzabal.sy@gmail.com (Youth Cafes & Practical)
- Elaine Clarke speysideyouthew@btinternet.com (Advisory Committee)

Sports Development Scotland

Sports Development and Moray Community Sports Hub offer free sports activities, such as walking football. They have also launched a new initiative called 'Active Recovery' in Elgin, which aims to provide regular, free-to-access sporting opportunities for individuals affected by mental health or addiction problems. For more information, contact Dimitris.Chrysanthakopoulos@moray.gov.uk.

Active Schools

Active Schools aims to provide more and higher quality opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity before school, during lunchtime and after school, and to develop effective pathways between schools and sports clubs in the local Community.

Are you interested in volunteering? No experience is necessary and volunteers will have access to training opportunities throughout the year. Please contact Craig.Carswell@moray.gov.uk or 07966 120516 for more information.

Moray Unpaid Work Team

We are part of the Justice Social Work Service in Moray working with individuals who are subject to a Community Payback Order imposed at Court with an Unpaid Work requirement. We carry out work that is of benefit to the local community over the whole of Moray. This includes supporting local charities and community groups, painting, litter picks, grass cutting, upcycling furniture to name but a few. We accept referrals from professionals, local support services, charities/non-profit organisations and councillors. We will assess each job request individually and offer an estimated timescale for the work to be undertaken and quote any materials required ie. amount of wood required for a fence. For further information or to make a referral please contact: Peter Wilson 01343 557200 / criminal.justice@moray.gov.uk

Councillor Juli Harris

Always happy to hear from and meet with local residents and community groups. Committees that Cllr Harris sits on: 'Education, Children's and Leisure Services'; 'Community Planning'; 'Appeals'; 'Economic Development and Infrastructure Services'.

Contact details: juli.harris@moray.gov.uk

Councillor David Gordon

Always happy to hear from and meet with local residents and community groups. Committees that Cllr Gordon sits on: 'Licensing'; 'Planning and Regulatory Services'; 'Economic Development and Infrastructure Services'; 'Audit and Scrutiny'.

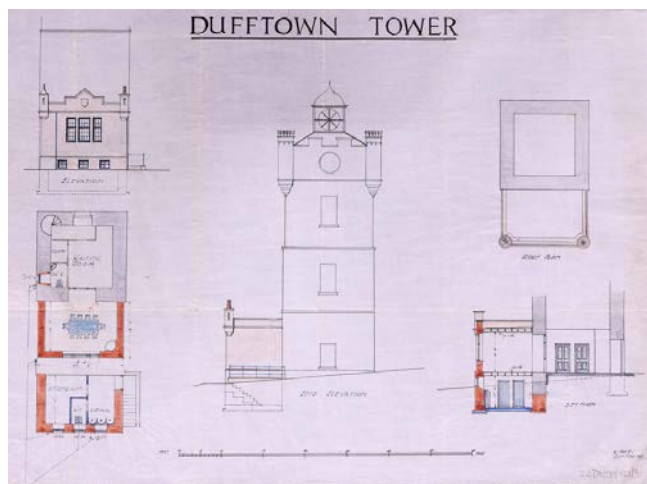
Contact details: david.gordon@moray.gov.uk

Table Discussions

The last half of the meeting consisted of focussed discussions around 3 action points in the Dufftown & District Community Action Plan 2021-2026. These were:

Restore the Dufftown clocktower

DDCA provided copies of their business plan for future use of the building, which was prepared by Delfinity Consultancy in November 2022. DDCA also shared their most recent QS cost estimate of the restoration and alterations needed, totalling £725,000. Old basement drawings sourced from Moray Council archived were shared. Participants were asked what they would like to use the ground floor 'pop-up' space for, and what the clocktower means to them.



Improve outdoor amenities

In the Dufftown & District Action Plan 2021-2026, it was identified that "Sports and recreation facilities are also of great importance for all ages in Dufftown". Based on discussions at the community forum November 2022, Speyside Youth, Dufftown & Mortlach Development Trust, and Dufftown & District Community Association have together explored how to improve the number of accessible, outdoor amenities in the area. Participants were invited to give their views on a proposed Multi-use games area (MUGA) and its potential location.



Promote events

Participants were asked to populate a 2023 diary of events in Dufftown & District. The events identified have been added to the [Dufftown community website](#).



Evaluation

Participants were asked to give feedback on the community forum. Majority of the written comments revealed that the community forum was positive and an opportunity to meet new people, share ideas and information. To make the community forum even better, participants would like to be able to connect with funders. Below are some of the written comments:

What was great about the community forum?

- “Excellent sharing of all the good things going on in Dufftown”
- “Great to see what is happening in Dufftown and to meet new people”
- “Established some new connections and potential opportunities for collaborative working”

What would improve the community forum?

- “Invite funders”
- “Less introduction talk as it takes up too much time”

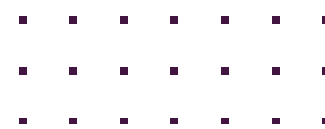
Next steps

Based on the feedback provided, the next community forum will take the form of a ‘Meet the Funders’ forum. Scheduled for the end of May 2023, the Dufftown & District Community Association will invite local funding bodies to share information and advice about their current funding opportunities and priorities. 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

We would like to thank tsiMoray for providing the photographs used in this report. 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



✉ hello@dufftowncommunity.co.uk

🌐 www.dufftowncommunity.co.uk



DDCA

Dufftown and District
Community Association