

PENPONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson's Report 2007-2008

Over the past year, Penpont Community Council has been involved in a series of important consultations, decisions and activities.

1. Loreburn Housing Development:
 - a. Canvassed the village for opinion and represented the community view at the Planning Committee meetings.
 - b. Communicated with Loreburn including two public meetings in Penpont to discuss such issues as allocation policy, minimizing disruption during the build.
 - c. Invited the community to suggest a name for the development and successfully recommended Millbank Place.
2. Secured funds from Loreburn Housing, DGHP, D&G Council, Dalswinton Windfarm Fund to be spent on improving facilities in Gladstone Park:
 - a. Asked the community for suggestions – skatepark and MUGA suggested as most suitable; local authority strategy and plans for sports and facilities recommended MUGA over skatepark.
 - b. Formal canvass of the community returned view that majority of village supports progressing MUGA at south end of Gladstone Park.
 - c. Stage 1 of MUGA almost complete; planning approval through for Stage 2 (fencing and surfacing); fundraising continues with grant applications to SportScotland, Awards for All, Leader Project and others. D&G Leisure services have provided support in these applications. Stage 2 will commence when all of the necessary funds are secured. Likely within 2-4 months.
3. Scottish Water Sewage System upgrade:
 - a. Hosted two public meetings for Scottish Power to outline their plans for the upgrade.
 - b. Pointed out to Planning that the original proposal would not leave capacity for new build beyond the Loreburn Development – this was resolved with an extended system.
4. Yourpenpont.com set up and managed by John McIntosh on behalf of the Community Council. Great opportunity to improve communications between the various organizations in the village and the community, including enabling individuals to participate in the public consultations the CC are asked to take part in.
5. CC responded to many public consultations, for example: on local Health Service provision; on windfarm fund contracts and allocations; drinking in public places by law review.

6. CC was pleased to hand over £4,000 donation from the community (set aside several years ago) to the Playgroup new build and wish them success.
7. CC had success in persuading Scottish Power to remove the plot at Grennan Road from the market and work continues to encourage them to gift the land back to the community and progress the much-needed car park.
8. Another busy year of community activities including Gala Week, Halloween Party, Panto trip, senior citizen's outing. Thanks to all in the community, especially the Community Council members, who contributed so much time and effort to making these successful.
9. Major action points for the coming year are:
 - a. To complete and operate the MUGA equitably and fairly to the benefit of all potential users.
 - b. Progress the shower upgrade in Gladstone Hall.
 - c. Progress the Grennan road car park.
 - d. And of course facilitate another year of community events such as Gala Week.

As ever, the call is for as many volunteers as possible to ensure another successful year.

Margaret Reid
Chairperson