

DRA – 2019 Chairman’s Report

It seems no time since our inaugural AGM in January 2019 when we agreed to reconstitute the Drumoig Residents Association. The last year has passed very quickly and the Committee have made every effort to carry out the aims and objectives of the DRA Constitution. These are –

To protect and advance the interests of all house owners and residents in the area covered by the Association on matters concerning the environment and the social and community life of the area. We continue to be non-political and may liaise or co-operate with other local organisations that share the same aims and objectives.

In 2019 our Committee consisted of myself as Chairman, Ian Wilson as Secretary, Bob Kelly as Treasurer and Lil Smith, Heather Knight, Rosemary Davidson and Alec Burden as Committee members. Alec resigned from Committee in February and Bob moved away from Drumoig during the year. Martin Hepworth agreed to join the Committee as Interim Treasurer in the latter part of the year. My thanks go to all of them for their commitment and support during 2019. I think everyone will appreciate that we cannot operate an organisation such as ours without the support of residents who are willing to volunteer their time and give us the benefit of their knowledge and experience.

We currently have well over 100 households in the existing Drumoig Estate as members of the DRA. This represents around 93% of all households and is extremely encouraging that we have such a high level of support from residents. I am pleased to announce that the new residents moving in to Pickletillum Avenue have all been given our New Members Pack and already ___ have joined as members. We are also very pleased to have a number of new members who have moved into Comerton, Forgan and Craigie Hill in the last year. To all new members we are delighted to have you on board and hope that you will enjoy the benefits of the DRA going forward. It continues to be very encouraging that we have such a high percentage of households supporting the DRA, our own community organisation.

I would now like to highlight some of the events, services and activities in 2019.

New Housing Development

The Morendy new housing development is now underway and 4 houses are either completed or nearing completion. This is the start of Phase 1 South and Phase 1 North should commence soon in the area to the left of Forgan Drive as you enter the Estate. Phase 1 North also includes the provision of a play park which has to be completed along with the houses. Progress appears to be fairly slow and the developers have recently applied to Fife Council to change some of their proposed plans from villas to bungalows. Apparently, there is more demand for bungalows.

In the initial Drumoig development started in 1996 planning permission for 120 houses was agreed but as you may be aware only 119 houses were ever built. There has always been one vacant site at the top end of Craigie Hill overlooking the 12th hole of the Golf Course. However completely unannounced clearance of the site commenced in November so there may be a new house planned for that plot. Apparently, no further planning permission is required.

LPG

In 2019, after two years, all LPG contracts negotiated by DRA came up for renewal and in the summer I contacted 4 LPG companies namely Flogas, Avanti, J Gas and Calor to arrange new contract proposals. Calor was the only company not to respond to my communication asking them to quote for the next two years. J Gas did quote but their price was not as competitive as Flogas and Avanti.

As you know we have a different supply arrangement between Craigie Hill and Comerton/Forgan. Craigie Hill is what is known as a Metered Estate with one tank supplying all houses with each house having their own individual meter whereas Forgan and Comerton households have individual gas storage tanks.

As Craigie Hill is a Metered Estate there can only be one supplier whereas Forgan and Comerton can have multiple suppliers. In Craigie Hill Flogas once again offered a very competitive price for both Year 1 and Year 2 of the new contract and as Metered Estate Representative I recommended acceptance. All residents continue to have an individual contract and any new resident moving into Craigie Hill will also have the benefit of the agreed contract pricing.

Forgan and Comerton are supplied by Avanti and Flogas with Avanti supplying the majority of the households. Flogas offered Forgan and Comerton the same contract price as was offered to Craigie Hill and Avanti once again also offered an extremely competitive price.

We continue to pay well below market price for our LPG and as previously highlighted we can only negotiate this level of pricing because we as a community have real bargaining power. Long may it last. Point to note is that the new houses will not have LPG as I understand they have heat pumps which I know some residents have also installed.

Summer Fayre

The Summer Fayre was held in June beside the Drumoig Hotel. The Committee felt that this was a better venue with enough space for the many tents and stalls. Once again it was a great success and was well attended by residents and friends. A lot of the stalls did brisk business and I managed to flip around 90 burgers on the barbeque. We also had an exhibition of paintings from our own local Drumoig artists which was very popular with the attendees. The weather, although breezy, remained dry and the profits made on the day were split evenly between Alzheimer Scotland and DRA funds. Our own Drumoig Wildlife Fund had a stall and money made there went direct to DWF. DRA members Malcolm Hodgson and Joanna Cooper also raised money for the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Stroke Association respectively. Thanks go to everyone who either gave up their time to help or who donated goods for the stalls. And of course thanks to all residents who attended the Fayre.

Burns Supper

In January, after a gap of a few years we held the DRA Burns Supper in the Hotel. As in previous occasions it was organised by Dave and Lil Smith and once again it was a great success and attended by over 50 members and guests. All the evening's speakers and entertainers were Drumoig residents and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. And as you know this year's Burns Supper is being held on Friday evening. Thanks to Dave and Lil for organising both last year's and Friday evening's event.

Drop in For a Drink (DIFAD)

Drop in For a Drink is now into its second year and meets in the Drumoig Hotel every Friday evening from 5.00pm – 7.00pm. There is only one stipulation and that is you buy your own drink. No big bar tabs, only the price of whatever you want to drink – alcoholic or non-alcoholic. It continues to be well supported by members but we would love to welcome anyone who hasn't been there for some time or anyone who has never been there. You will be made very welcome and hopefully you can enjoy meeting your fellow residents for a chat and a drink. Please come along some Friday evening soon. And a Curry Night held on a DIFAD evening in April was a great success and attended by 46 residents.

Members Outings

In May a group of 21 Drumoig Residents attended a tour of Peacehill Farm, Wormit guided by owner Peter Foster. Peacehill is not your average farm! Peter and his son recently installed an anaerobic digester, which produces methane from a mix of crops, chicken dirt and just about anything else left over from farming activities. This is eco farming taken to an extreme with nothing wasted and everything is recycled back around the system or put back on the fields as fertiliser. The scale of the operation was massive and the gas not used on site is fed into the grid via Scottish Gas. We were also shown the many acres of crop production and his nine large chicken sheds containing around 300,000 chickens. An amazing and informative visit to an ultra modern farm which is right on our doorstep.

Drumoig Wildlife Forum

The DWF is a fantastic group which is organised by Chris Edwards. I will not say anything further as Chris will give a full report on activities later. Please give your support and attend any of the DWF meetings or outings as I can assure you, they are extremely interesting and enjoyable.

Heart Start & Defibrillator Training

As you are hopefully aware there is a defibrillator on the wall of the Hotel just beside the entrance. A further training session for both heart start and the defibrillator was held in September and was attended by 14 members. An initial training session was held two years ago when the defibrillator was installed.

Communications (Newsletters and Website)

Ian, as Secretary, has issued a number of Drumoig Latest News throughout the year and goes out of his way to find items of interest for all members. They make good reading and if any member has anything that they would like to communicate to our membership then please let him know. We are always keen to advertise any local event which may be of interest. Hopefully the Committee can also keep you updated with any issue affecting, or of interest to the Estate, through the newsletter.

Our website continues to be updated with news, events and information for residents. Although we feel that the use of email is by far the best method of communicating with members, the website is still a great source of valuable information. My thanks go to past committee member Bob Kelly who spent a lot of time improving and updating the website.

Rambling Group

The Rambling Group, organised by Alec Burden, continues to enjoy outings every six weeks or so in our local area. I'm assured that the rambling is not strenuous but gives members a chance to enjoy a walk, have some lunch and to meet fellow ramblers. Full details available from Alec.

Mahjong, Bridge and Book Clubs

The Mahjong and Bridge Clubs continue to meet on a weekly basis in the Hotel and are well supported by Drumoig members and friends. The Book Club meets in members houses on a regular basis.

Superfast Broadband

Superfast broadband has now been available in Drumoig for some time now. Craigie Hill which is further away from the BT cabinet in Forgan has had fibre cables laid throughout the area. And I understand that a number of Craigie residents have signed up to this much improved service although I believe that some are finding some difficulty in getting their provider to connect them.

Street Signage, Bus Shelter & Speeding Campaign

In 2018 we arranged with Fife Council to have directional house number signs erected in both Craigie Hill and Comerton. Unfortunately they got the Comerton sign wrong but after two attempts it was finally fixed during the year. With Drumoig's house numbering system being a little confusing, these signs certainly help both delivery drivers and visitors find the right house. Steve Moncur, one of our members has campaigned to get a new bus shelter installed at the Pickletillum bus stop heading for St. Andrews. He has been given support from our local councillor and although there has been quite a delay it hopefully may be in place early in the New Year. Another of our residents has been campaigning to have something done to reduce speeding on the A914 at the entrance to the Drumoig Estate. However, after some testing by the Fife Camera Unit they felt that speeding didn't seem to be a major issue. This has been disputed but currently there is no further progress to report. It should be noted however that excessive speeding in the 20mph limits in Drumoig is still observed on a regular basis. Your support in adhering to the speed limits is appreciated.

Trades and Services

Ian Wilson, our Secretary holds a list of trades and services which may be of interest to members looking for getting a job done. Please contact Ian to see if he can help you and if he can't he will endeavour to ask members if they can recommend anyone. This service continues to be a valuable source of information to both existing and in particular to new members.

Drumoig Golf Club

A number of DRA members are also members of Drumoig Golf Club and I am pleased to let you know that this year's Captain is DRA member John Williams. We wish John every success at the helm of our local Golf Club. The golf course continues to be a great test of golf and is always in extremely good playing condition. The Golf Club offers different membership packages which includes free Junior Membership to juniors under 15 years of age. Full details can be obtained from the Starters Hut in Forgan Drive.

And finally, I must also thank all members for their support of the DRA in the past year and hopefully to retain it again this year. Please support our ideas and initiatives and we will continue to welcome ideas from members which will help make our community a great place to live in.

We are extremely fortunate in Drumoig to have such an enthusiastic community. Long may it continue.

John Cuthbertson
Chairman
Drumoig Residents Association