

Drumoig Residents' Association

Secretary's report for 2022

Introduction

Yet again at the end of 2022 we faced uncertain times, with the cost-of-living crisis and fuel price increases. 2022 started with our activities still curtailed by the COVID pandemic and the uncertainty in planning community events. The face-to-face AGM was replaced by an on-line poll due to meeting restrictions. We saw the resumption of building the new houses under the ownership of Kirkwood Homes, which, while welcomed as progress, has brought its own challenges of travelling through a building site. However, there have been some achievements throughout 2022, and better prospect of progress in the coming year.

Membership

The first of the new homes was occupied in July 2022 and in total 10 new houses have been occupied during the year taking the number of households in Drumoig to 134. Membership of the Association remains high with only 15 households on the estate non-members, of which 7 have very recently moved in.

4 member households moved away, and 8 households became new members in 2022.

We will continue to encourage all residents to recognise the advantages of membership as house ownership changes and new houses are completed in Drumoig.

DRA Committee

The Committee met four times in 2022. Updates on matters arising, correspondence, finance and membership were discussed by the Committee.

News and information updates

Throughout the year I received just over 700 emails and sent about 450. Of these, nearly 50 were the subscribed members' news and information updates or requests for information that hopefully you find useful.

If anyone has any news items that they would like to share with the subscribed membership then pass them on to me for distribution.

Don't forget to let me know if you change your email address so I can update the distribution lists. If you think you have been missed from any of the updates, then please let me know and I'll check the details that we have for you.

Community Initiatives

The 2022 Burns Supper was cancelled due to the COVID restrictions. However, we managed to organise a Curry Evening at the end of May and a Summer Barbeque in July, both of which were well attended and received. Thanks to Lil Smith for organising these events.

The arrival of Kirkwood Homes and the preparation of the building site brought with it challenges to the wildlife in Drumoig. The grassland area to the north of Forgan Drive was lost, and the effect on the area to the south was unknown. This area is of particular interest as protected species such as skylarks are known to nest there. However, with the aid of local residents we managed to get assurances that the remaining area was not under threat and that regulations regarding protected species would be followed. Supported by the Drumoig Golf Hotel we were able to erect signs provided by the hotel warning of the existence of ground nesting birds in the area.

There are on-going issues with the repair of pot holes and we continue to press Fife Council for action. Twice in 2022 I reported the full list of potholes in Drumoig to the Transportation Department in Fife Council. A few have been attended to, but others in much worse condition have still not been rectified, and the road condition is seriously deteriorating due to the construction traffic. Another attempt to push for remedial action will be made early in 2023.

Also raised with the Council was whether the 20mph speed limit in Drumoig will be extended to cover the parts of Pickletillum Avenue and Forgan Drive/Drumoig Way where the new houses will be situated. No response has yet been received.

Other road safety proposals for traffic lights at the entrance to Drumoig and a pedestrian crossing at Pickletillum Inn were rejected by the Council.

Initial engagement with Kirkwood Homes management was positive, particularly after the indifference of the previous contractors. However, the recent connection of utilities to the new homes exacerbated concerns about the deterioration of the environment and these were raised with Kirkwood Homes and Fife Council. One of the Kirkwood Homes directors visited the site after we had documented the concerns, and agreed that the sub-contractors' work was sub-standard and that the site needed to be better managed. Overall, the response to our concerns was positive, but clearly we are dependent on the local site management to maintain standards, particularly in bad weather conditions. We will continue to have dialogue with Kirkwood Homes as issues arise.

The on-going issue of the maintenance of the verges in Drumoig has still to be resolved. Ownership of the land outside the new housing development area remains uncertain. Kirkwood Homes will appoint a factor for the play area and the common areas within the development, but other areas such as the entrance to Drumoig and the verges in Pickletillum Avenue and Craigie Hill will not be covered.

With the easing of meeting restrictions earlier in the year, the various clubs restarted, and the Drop In For A Drink (DIFAD) from 5-7pm on a Friday resumed.

DRA Website (www.drumoig.weebly.com)

The section on Corona virus and the various support mechanisms was removed from the website as people became much more familiar with expected behaviours and restrictions were lifted.

The trades and services list was updated with members' suggestions.

The Wildlife Newsletters are all available on the website.

Again, any ideas for improvements to the website would be welcome.

Used stamp collection in aid of RNIB

Four large packets of stamps were collected throughout the year and sent to the RNIB processing agent. Many thanks to those who have contributed. The collection will remain open until the end of January, when a new charity accepting used stamps will be nominated.

Conclusion

2022 was still a difficult year for us all. Hopefully, 2023 will see the completion of the next phase of the evolution of Drumoig, and we will be able to welcome the new residents and expand the membership and the activities of the Association. We will continue to push for improvement in the environment outside the new developments with the Council and landowners, and we look forward to your continued support for the activities of the Association.

Ian Wilson

Secretary,
Drumoig Residents Association,
December 2022