

Drumoig Residents Association

Secretary's report for 2023

Introduction

Yet again at the end of 2023 we face challenging times, with the continued cost-of-living crisis and fuel price increases. The year started with our activities still impacted by the COVID pandemic and the uncertainty of planning community events. We saw the completion of the building of the new houses by Kirkwood Homes and the expansion of the population of Drumoig.

Membership

After the 10 in 2022, an additional 22 new houses were completed by Kirkwood Homes in 2023 taking the number of households in Drumoig to 156. A total of 21 of 22 new houses were occupied during the year.

Membership of the Association remains high with only 14 households on the estate being non-members, of which 1 is the as-yet unoccupied new build, 1 is unoccupied due to the demise of the resident, and 1 is a Short Term Let. 1 member household moved away, and 22 households became new members in 2023.

We will continue to encourage all residents to recognise the advantages of membership as house ownership changes in Drumoig.

DRA Committee

The Committee met five times in 2023. Updates on matters arising, correspondence, finance, membership, Kirkwood Homes and Fife Council engagement were some of the topics discussed by the Committee.

News and information updates

Throughout the year I received around 800 emails and sent about 850. Of these, nearly 80 were the subscribed members' news and information updates or requests for information that hopefully you find useful. There was also a significant increase in the correspondence with Kirkwood Homes and Fife Council.

4 households that had previously not provided GDPR consent to receive emails, subscribed in 2023. There are now only 2 member households not on the mailing lists.

A few members have experienced problems receiving emails from the DRA secretary email address. Attempts to uncover the problems have so far failed. If you have not been regularly receiving DRA emails, please contact me to agree a workaround.

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

There were on-going issues with the repair of pot holes and we continued to press Fife Council for action. Twice in 2023 I reported the full list of potholes in Drumoig to the Transportation Department in Fife Council. Finally, we got agreement to attend to the road repairs using Fife Council's new jetpatcher machine. How long the repairs will last remains to be seen.

We also got action on the request to extend the 20mph speed limit to cover the whole of Drumoig.

Yet again other road safety proposals for a pedestrian crossing at Pickletillum Inn and traffic calming on the bends at the start of Pickletillum Avenue were rejected by the Council.

Repeated requests for updates on the replacement of the bus shelter at the entrance to Drumoig have not yet been answered.

In May, the path from Craigie Hill to the Pickletillum Inn bus stops was finally constructed. Kirkwood Homes had agreed to undertake this work when they took over the housing land from Drumoig Development Limited. It had been a planning consent pre-requisite that DDL had never fulfilled, and there was no obligation for Kirkwood Homes to take it on.

The on-going issue of the maintenance of the verges in Drumoig has still to be resolved. Maintenance 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 by this arrangement.

We had the Burns Supper in January, the Drumoig artists' exhibition in July, Open Gardens event in August and the Meet the Neighbours event in September, but there was little opportunity to arrange other community-wide events in 2023. Now that the expanded community base has been established it is hoped to stage more community involvement activities in 2024.

DRA Website (www.drumoig.weebly.com)

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

The Wildlife Newsletters are all available on the website.

The bus map was updated and the bin calendar maintained.

A section expanding the history of Drumoig to cover the new development has yet to be added.

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

Used stamp collection in aid of RNIB

It proved difficult to find an alternative charity to the RNIB that accepted used stamps without incurring costs for the DRA.

Three 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 for the RNIB will remain open until the end of February, when we will look again at identifying a new charity that would benefit from the used stamps.

Conclusion

2023 was again a difficult year to re-generate the community initiatives we previously enjoyed pre-COVID. 2023 has seen the completion of the latest phase of the evolution of Drumoig, and we have been able to welcome the new residents and expand the membership.

The completion of the play area in Spring 2024 will enhance the facilities available.

Many thanks for all your feedback throughout the year, and we look forward to your continued support for the activities of the Association in 2024.

Ian Wilson

Secretary,
Drumoig Residents Association,
December 2023