

Denholm Feuars and Householders Council (SCO 42692)

As a committee, we have been elected by the community to manage the communal land in the best interests of the village.

With this and recent events in mind we have taken time to consider our situation and would like to propose the following:

1. Background

1a. Historically, DFHC have maintained a number of areas of land around the village.

1b. Expenditure through legal costs over the years has highlighted the contentious nature of some of these areas, and this has created confusion and reputational damage which we are keen to repair and move on from.

1c. Land issues and obstacles put forward by previous councils have resulted in the village losing out on possible developmental funding which could have considerably improved our community.

1d. The maintenance and allied responsibilities associated with the areas have been and continue to be a drain on time and resources which has inhibited the way the land can be used, given some areas are of little practical use to the organisation. In addition, due to a lack of maintenance created by their contentious nature, some of these areas have become an eyesore in the village.

1e. The land was gifted “in perpetuity”, which may be interpreted in multiple ways, to be managed “in the best interests of the village”. Historically, some areas have been previously disposed of and there is no clear evidence of consistency in how the areas have been or are being managed.

2. Recommendation

In order for us to move forward as a productive committee that will best serve the interests of everybody in the community we would like to propose the following:

2a. The focus, going forward, should be on the areas which are clearly communal spaces (Green, Wee Green, Quoiting Haugh, Fisherman’s car park, wee Playpark, Dene Wood, telephone exchange) and that the other areas of gifted land are made available to the households who have been directly impacted without legal challenge.

2b. Failure to agree with these proposals may result in the dissolution of DFHC.

Treasurer - DFHC need a new Treasurer due to a retirement from the post, if anyone is interested in this role, we’d love to hear from you.

3. Public Vote

We need **YOU** to help us and support this process by attending the **Special General Meeting (SGM)** on **26/02/2025** in the **Village Hall** where there will be a vote on the recommendation above.

We are keen to clear up the confusion and to resolve this in a way that is open, transparent and better serves the best interests of the village.

Voting will be by secret paper ballot (like in General elections) on the proposal explained previously with the result being declared that evening and shared via the usual means (FB, village website, newsletter)

It's a mess, let's clean it up!