

DFHC – CHAIRS REPORT FOR AGM 8th OCTOBER 2025

HELD IN DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL

I can hardly believe that it has been 12 months since my last report and therefore would like to reflect back on those months.

Due to constraints imposed by insurance, safety practices, SEPA and Police Scotland we can no longer enjoy a bonfire and fireworks on the Green. In November 2024, this committee organised and arranged a Sausage Sizzle as a friendly alternative. Although it was a considerably smaller event, those who turned up enjoyed a community evening on the Green. This year it will go ahead once again although it will be relocated from the centre of the Green to the bottom corner. We (the committee) will supply the sausages and hot dogs this year and they will be ready cooked for the start of the event. We are endeavouring to have small fire pits to give some atmosphere and some sparklers for children.

The Christmas Tree for the Green was again made by private donation and a switch on event and carol singing was enjoyed by village residents who attended. Mulled wine and mince pies were also made available. A big thank you goes to those who help in raising the tree, decorating it, arranging music and carol singing. Thank you also go to Gwen and Dougie Crew for the marquee, and the lights on every tree round the Green. Volunteers to assist with these tasks are always greatly appreciated. For this year we will have a tree donated again and an appeal will be made for volunteers to assist.

An SGM was held in February in an attempt to resolve the ongoing land disputes with Two Hoots, Larach Dene and Rubersvale. This will be completed immediately following the appointment of 3 Trustees this evening who will sign the relevant paperwork. We have been contacted by OSCR as a concern was raised by a resident regarding the procedures taken to hold the SGM. OSCR were given all the pertinent documentation and to date they have not raised any further concerns. The legal advice given to us, is to follow up with OSCR to ask if any further evidence is required.

The Rideout was a success in June. We were able to secure funding to cover the cost of providing toilet facilities and the skip to remove the litter, bottles, food and general mess left after supporters have gone. However, only 3 committee members and their spouses were there at the end of the day to clear up which was hard work and I would urge as many volunteers to help with this otherwise this may be another event in jeopardy due to lack of manpower.

From April to September, we have consistently organised a car boot sale on the first Saturday of each month. The selection of Saturday as our event day has proven effective, allowing us to avoid scheduling conflicts with similar events hosted by other organisations. Each sale has generated several hundred pounds, significantly contributing to our fundraising efforts. We extend our sincere appreciation to all volunteers who dedicate their Saturday mornings, including Jim and Dougie for managing parking logistics, as well as Lisa and Iona for overseeing hot dog, tea, and coffee sales.

The Denholm Dean Sub Committee and its volunteers remain a valuable resource for the Council, and I hope they feel supported by DFHC. Tom Sellar, the committee chair, will present a report summarizing their activities over the past year and outlining future plans.

The EV charging points project is ongoing and has faced delays due to car park ownership issues, legal review of the lease proposal, and consideration of other providers. Work paused in the summer but we expect progress after this AGM.

Maintenance problems at the Fisherman's carpark, Plot 1, and Quoiting Haugh persist. A strong group of volunteers is needed to move this project ahead and improve these areas for the neighbours as well as the community and visitors.

We aim to strengthen the committee's reputation in the village by engaging regularly with residents. This year, our main goal is to update the charity's governance and name to hopefully encourage more volunteers and participation in community events.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us and thank you to the committee for your input and assistance over the last 12 months and look forward to resolving and finishing some issues.

I also mention Lee Baines and thank him for his contribution to the village and the Feuars since joining the Council.

Thank you