



Lauderdale Community Council AGM 2025/26

Chair's Report

Following the election of a new Council in August 2025, I was nominated as Chair.

We were lucky to have 12 volunteers, the maximum contingent for the LCC, who have put in a great deal of effort on behalf of the Community.

The new membership of the Community Council allowed for a fresh look and renewed excitement about what the community council represented.

One of the first actions the new LCC took was to establish sub-committees to deal with specific topics:

- Energy Subgroup
- Lauder Development Fund Steering Group
- Public Hall
- Traders
- Planning Committee
- Communications
- Lauder Common Good Fund

Some of the challenges for the CC were dealing with issues that are relatively contentious whilst doing our best to represent the community and help bring the concerns of residents to the relevant authorities.

The Interim Treasurer will provide a more detailed summary of the financial position in their report – but, in summary, LCC have received the support payments from SBC and are in funds, with some ringfenced monies.

Our Community Council has had several successes over the past few months, some of which are listed below.

Energy Subgroup:

- Glenburnie Consultation
- Discussions with developers
- Developing systems & protocols to allow LCC to formally respond to consultation requests.
- Developing a methodology for consulting members of the public through questionnaires.
- Signing the LCC up to the Convention of Community Councils
- Working with members of the community to provide better informed responses
- Engaged in discussions with elected representatives

Community Action Plan

Building on the work of the previous CC, we have published the CAP in the Lauderdale News and recently had a leaflet printed that is being distributed across Lauderdale.

Recognising the need for a Community Development Group, we have established a steering group and will be hosting the inaugural meeting later this month.

All residents of Lauderdale are invited to join the Community Development Group.

Please come to the meeting on the 26th May at 7.30 pm in the Public Hall to get more information.

Public Hall

Live Borders produced a report on SBC assets that identified Lauder Public Hall as one of the fixed assets that they would be looking to divest.

Following the publication of this report, LCC requested a meeting with Live Borders and SBC to discuss the future of the Public Hall.

The sub-Group that was set up to address the Public Hall have been fantastic in rallying local support.

LCC have invested in the Public Hall, negotiated free internet (thanks Marilyn!) and Live Borders have agreed to modify their pricing.

Traders

LCC, recognising the importance of having a thriving high street as a key part of the community, have established a sub-group that focuses on bringing the Lauder traders together. So far we have had 2 meetings.

We are looking forward to what this group will bring in the future.

Comms

Eagle-eyed residents might have noticed that some of the noticeboards have recently disappeared: this is to allow them to be refurbished, and the refreshed boards will be reinstalled soon.

The Comms subgroup recognised that the LCC website was a bit long in the tooth. With the renewal of the domain and hosting looming, it was decided that we would start afresh with a new website that LCC would share with the Community Development Group. Judi has put in a tremendous effort in populating the new website and getting us back up and running.

Since February we have had an LCC 'Suggestions Box' available in the Firebrick Bakery. Although we have had relatively few suggestions come in through this method to date, we have tried to act on them as soon as possible – a good example being the litter pick that Lauder in Bloom led on recently.

To get better feedback from our meetings, we have introduced new protocols – including an open forum for residents to voice their concerns early in the meeting schedule and an exit poll for those members of the public that attend the LCC monthly meetings.

Common Good Fund

Following a briefing from SBC on the status of the Common Good Fund and how it is being administered, we are looking forward to working with the farmers who occupy Common Good Land and SBC in the future.

Usual Business

Regular reports from Police Scotland.

We remain a statutory consultee on Planning matters in Lauderdale.

It has been challenging to be elected as Chair on my first term with LCC! However, with the support of the other Council members I believe we have made many positive changes for the Community, and it has been a highly rewarding experience.

Circumstance has led me to have to resign as Chair. I will remain a part of the local community and will retain an interest in seeing Lauderdale go from strength to strength.

Finally, I would like to offer our many thanks to all the volunteers, both in the LCC and the multitude of other groups, for all the effort they have made behind the scenes that helps to make Lauderdale such a vibrant and wonderful place to live!

Breakdown by Month

August 2025 – Election; Appointment of Office Bearers; Survey on Glenburnie Wind Farm Application; 1-on-1 meetings;

Sept 2025 – Lighthouse BP; establishment of Sub-Committees; Response to Glenburnie Wind Farm application; Bike Track; Lauder Common Good Fund;

Oct 2025 – SBC briefing on Lauder Common Good Fund; Energy Sub-Group; Comms; Public Hall

Nov 2025 – SBC slow to respond to ECU on Glenburnie & other wind farm applications; Community Action Plan & Development Steering Group; ESG established a template for future engagement with the community; Public Hall Sub-Group engaged with users of the Public Hall; Remembrance Day Wreath; Lauder Cemetery;

Dec 2025 – Briefing from BEAR Scotland; ESG – SPEN, Longmuir, ECU; Comms – Noticeboards, Community Engagement & Website; Lauder Common Good Fund; Meeting of Traders SG; Christmas Lights; Gritting etc on Blainslie Road;

Jan 2026 – Briefing from LiveBorders; Convention of Community Councils; Public Hall – Chairs;

Feb 2026 – Introduction of Open Forum; Update on Progress of Bike Path; Agreed to sign the Unified State of the Convention of Community Councils – although it was noted that LCC had concerns about some of the phrasing & content;

March 2026 – Lauder to Oxtou Path; Briefing on Longmuir Wind Farm; Briefing on West Allanbank Housing Development; Lauderdale Development Trust – publishing in Spring edition of Lauderdale News; Cornet's Pin

April 2026 – Attending the Convention of Community Councils in Lauder; Lauder in Bloom Litter Pick; Launch of new LCC website; Traders Meeting; Improvements to roads around Blainslie; Joining Borders Community Action.

Chair

Lauderdale Community Council

May 2026