

**Objection to proposed Orange March through Dunkeld on Sunday 22 August**

I wish to lodge an objection to the above proposed march. The core of my objection remains the same as that which I set out in an objection to the same march in 2019, the last year when it took place.

This is a community with a strong ecumenical ethos at its core, raising questions as to why the Committee would permit an organisation with such a sectarian history to parade through its midst. It is a town which was destroyed during the battle in 1689, posing serious questions as to why the Committee would wish to permit a march which celebrates its destruction. And it is a community which values ethnic and religious diversity, posing questions as to why the Committee would permit an organisation noted more for division than for unity to parade this message through her streets.

The last 18 months have seen Dunkeld, Birnam and the other communities in the PH8 area pulling together to feed and support their most vulnerable citizens during an extremely difficult period in the life of the community. This effort has now evolved into a Steering Group dedicated to delivering a Community Action Plan, in close consultation with the community. The process began, however, with 2 large scale surveys of residents and businesses in the community. The Committee might wish to consider the extent to which the Orange Order has similarly sought the views of the people of Dunkeld - and whether they should do so now .

Finally, Perth and Kinross Council are currently engaged in a conversation with communities across the Council area on how they might contribute to greater community resilience in the wake of the pandemic and the acquisition of yet more national debt. If the Council wish communities to become more involved in supporting hard pressed services, it would seem not unreasonable that they also seek their views on whether marches of this sort should be permitted through their precincts. At the very least, a survey of community views would leave both the Committee and the applicants in no doubt as to whether this march takes place with or without the consent of the community.

Yours sincerely

John Gilruth