

Helensburgh Community Council



"Helensburgh – Be Better : Be Excellent"

Minutes of a Meeting of the Helensburgh Community Council Thursday 17th December 2009

Present: Sonja Aitken, Tariq Durrani, Ian Fraser, Marion Gillies, Ian MacQuire, Nigel Millar (Convener), Stewart Noble, Alan Rodgers, David Sinclair, John Tacchi, Richard Trail, Gordon Tran, David Williams and Sheila Wilson.

Councillors: Vivien Dance, Ellen Morton and Andrew Nisbet.

Helensburgh Advertiser: Sharon Thompson.

Public: Tony Dance

Apologies: Karen Brabender, Elizabeth Buist, Henry Deane, George Douglas, Geoff Holliman, Councillor Al Reay and Kathleen Siddle.

Topic	Minute	Decision / Action
1. Welcome and Recognition	<p>The Convener welcomed the members present.</p> <p>He expressed his appreciation of the organising group for the switching on of the Christmas lights and the many stalls and attractions.</p> <p>Also appreciated were the Round Table and Helensburgh Athletic Club for the organisation of the Santa Dash which included the sale of 250 Santa suits for charitable fund raising.</p> <p>And Richard Trail who looks after our web site which is up-to-date, unlike those of a couple of other large community councils in A+B.</p> <p>And the Horticultural Society for the provision of Christmas trees in Helensburgh railway station.</p>	
2. Public Session	<p>The public had no issues to raise.</p>	

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3. Town Issues	<p>3.1 Landscape Statement Copies of the recently completed <i>Helensburgh Landscape Statement</i> were issued to the members present. This document is a reflection of Scottish Government and A+BC views on the importance of landscape in the planning process and how it relates to Helensburgh.</p> <p>3.2 Lighting Faults It was reported that the system of emailing reports of defective lighting does not work. Councillor Nisbet explained that the whole system of fault reporting is in the process of change. Councillor Dance indicated that reporting faults to 01546 605514 had a high rate of success.</p> <p>3.3 Kirkmichael Playing Field It was reported that the flood lights for the pitch were left on. It was indicated that such matters should be reported to the KSR group.</p> <p>3.4 Hermitage Academy It was noted that a student council had been established in Hermitage Academy. It was also noted that David Williams would be talking to the Student Forum there to establish links with the HCC so that the views of young people in the town could be heard on issues involving recreation and the needs of young people generally.</p> <p>3.5 Station Car Park It was reported that again the stairs leading to the upper level were in a disgusting state.</p> <p>3.6 Common Good Fund The question of whether there should be a common good fund in Helensburgh was raised. A number of points were made –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At present Helensburgh does not have one, unlike some other towns in A+B. ➤ To generate a worthwhile amount of income for Helensburgh it would need to have in excess of £1m in capital. ➤ A+BC, while they manage funds which they have inherited, are unlikely to take on the management of a new one. 	<p>It was agreed that dialogue between that and the Community Council should be established.</p> <p>It was agreed to remit this matter to the Town Environmental Improvement Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that Ian Fraser would investigate further what would be involved.</p>

- A charitable trust might be an appropriate

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4. Model Constitution etc	<p>body to manage such a fund.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the <i>modus operandi</i> of the various groups with particular reference to notice of meetings and their location.</p>	<p>It was agreed to deal with the formal adoption of the Model Constitution etc at the next meeting.</p>
5. Group Membership	<p>The HCC now had four Groups reporting to it :</p> <p>1. Planning Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Henry Deane ▪ Sheila Wilson ▪ Kathleen Siddle ▪ Ian Fraser <p>2. Statutory Plans Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sonja Aitken ▪ Tariq Durrani ▪ Gordon Tran ▪ Nigel Millar <p>3. Town Environmental Improvement Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geoff Holliman ▪ John Tacchi ▪ Ian MacQuire <p>4. Projects Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stewart Noble ▪ George Douglas : provisional ▪ Frank Aranci : provisional <p>In addition :</p> <p>CHORD - Nigel Millar to represent the HCC</p> <p>Licensing – Stewart Noble to act as contact point.</p> <p>Hospital Access – Marion Gillies</p> <p>Association of A&B Community Councils – John Tacchi</p> <p>Community Health Partnership – in abeyance meanwhile</p> <p>Community Planning Partnership – It is presently not clear how the community councils will be involved in this.</p>	<p>The Planning Group is already functioning.</p> <p>The Statutory Plans group and Town Environmental Improvement Group to meet soonest and agree terms of reference.</p> <p>Stewart Noble to confirm membership of the Projects Group.</p> <p>Securing a second filling station in the town would be a priority.</p>
6. Planning	<p>Sheila Wilson reported on the activities of the Planning Group. See Appendix I.</p> <p>In connection with Item 9 (Victoria Infirmary) the process involved in the review of the earlier planning application refusal is not known.</p>	<p>The report was noted.</p> <p>It was agreed that Sheila Wilson would find out and report back.</p>

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7. Treasurer's report	<p>With the increased complexity of planning, it was felt that training of those involved was necessary.</p> <p>The Treasurer reported that there was £820 in the bank, though there was still an account of about £60 to be received in connection with Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>The financial year ends on 31st March and the A+BC grant is received after the submission of the audited accounts.</p>	The report was noted .
8. Secretary's report	<p>A summary was given of the correspondence which the Secretary had received. See Appendix II.</p> <p>In connection with Item 1, a response to a questionnaire on the new Local Development Plan is called for.</p>	The report was noted .
9. Next Meeting	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 28 th January 2010 at 19.00 hours in the Victoria Halls.	It was agreed to remit this to the Statutory Plans Group.

APPENDIX I
HCC PLANNING GROUP REPORT
FOR HCC MEETING ON 17 DECEMBER 2009

MEMBERS: Kathleen Siddle (Leader), Henry Deane (Secretary), Ian Fraser, David Williams, Sheila Wilson.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Sheltered flats for the elderly at Clydeview Court.

After negotiations with the developer for some improvements to the design of the building, HCC Planning Group (PG) supports this application. PG sought the advice of the Helensburgh Tree Trust and concluded that the developer should landscape the site, retaining any trees of value and that this should form part of the planning application.

* Argyll and Bute Council decision is pending.

2. Proposed extension to Gorse Cottage, West Duhill Drive.

The proposed single storey, narrow extension fits in with the character of the existing house in terms of design and materials used.

* PG decision to make no comment unless neighbours objected.

3. Demolition of existing Cherryhill Stables and proposed new Stable Block.

This site is within Helensburgh Greenbelt. The replacement stables would have almost the same footprint as the existing building, it is screened from the adjacent track by mature trees and will be painted a camouflage green.

* After discussion with the Helensburgh Greenbelt Group, the PG decision was to take no action.

4. Conversion of Attic Space into Living Accommodation at 10 Paterson Drive.

* PG decision - no action to be taken.

5. Lopping of an Oak Tree at Dalmore House.

This tree is the subject of a TPO, but as the neighbours had not registered an objection, it was decided to take no action.

6. Erection of a Conservatory at 42 West Argyle Street.

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Property is a pretty Victorian cottage within a Conservation Area. The original design has been partly compromised by replacement windows not in the original style. The conservatory would obscure the front of the building and was not in a style consistent with the age of the building to which it was attached.

* PG decision: to discuss application again after a further inspection of the plans and a site visit.

7. Certificate of Lawfulness with regards to an existing Scrapyard at Moss Road in the Helensburgh Greenbelt.

There may be a question of asbestos residue in the area.

* PG decision deferred until after site visit and consultation with Argyll and Bute Enforcement Officer.

8. Proposal in Principle to erect 5 Dwelling Houses in the Courtyard behind 112 West Princes Street

Site visits made and proposal discussed.

* PG decision to take no action currently. If application is submitted as a detailed planning application, PG will discuss the architectural design of the houses, their energy efficiency, impact on the neighbours and parking arrangements. These points have been discussed with the site owner and he has been given a copy of the HCC Design Statement.

9. Ambulance Building at the Victoria Infirmary (Office Block)

* This application has gone to the Local Review Body in Kilmory. PG has written to the Review Body repeating our warm welcome to the Ambulance Station Office Block, but asking for (a) if possible, a different location on the site and (b) an improved architectural design. This is because the Office Block would be sited directly in front of the Victoria Infirmary which is a Category B Listed building designed by William Leiper.

10. Update on Access Appeals

Access Appeals for the woodland at the top of Cumberland Ave (east side) and Castle Woods are currently awaiting A&BC Legal Department Action.

APPENDIX II
HELENSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE AS AT 11 DECEMBER '09

1. Letter dated 10 Dec '09 from Fergus Murray, Development Policy Manager A&BC regarding a new Local Development Plan and a related questionnaire which has been developed by A&BC as an early consultation exercise with the community. The Web link for the questionnaire is: <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/planning/developmentpolicy/3270329/3292083/>
2. Invitation by A&BC to join the "Health Issues in the Community Course to be delivered by the NHS Health Promotion Team, Women at Work, and Community Regeneration. The course will take place over 6 weekly sessions from 10.00 until 14.00 starting on Tuesday 2nd February at Lochgilphead Community Centre.
3. Digital Television Switchover Community Outreach Pack from "digitaluk". Pack comprises some booklets and a DVD.
4. Argyll Community Housing Association Annual Report 2009.
5. Dunbritton Housing Association Report 2009 + DHA News - Autumn Issue
6. North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority - Autumn Issue with report regarding the new HM Prison at Low Moss
7. North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority Annual Report 2008 - 2009.
8. Letter from Andrew O. Robertson, Chairman of NHS Greater Glasgow and the Clyde (undated) regarding the Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital: the next steps.
9. The Journal of the Association of Scottish Community Councils - Autumn issue 2009 with report on pilot projects regarding grants of £15,000 for Community Councils to use in local projects.
10. Jackie Ballie MSP – Christmas Card.
11. Councillor Freeman in connection with the transfer of lock up garages to ACHA.
12. NHS Mental health report.