

Helensburgh Community Council



"Helensburgh – Be Better : Be Excellent"

Minutes of a Meeting of the Helensburgh Community Council Thursday 24th June 2010

Present: Sonja Aitken, Karen Brabender, Allan Carrie, Henry Deane, Darrell Hendrie, Geoff Holliman, Nigel Millar (Convener), Kathleen Siddle, David Sinclair, John Tacchi, Richard Trail and Sheila Wilson.

Councillors: Vivien Dance.

Helensburgh Advertiser: Fiona Howard.

Public: Tony Dance.

Apologies: George Douglas, Tariq Durrani, Ian Fraser, Ian MacQuire, Stewart Noble, David Williams and Councillors Al Reay and James Robb.

Topic	Minute	Decision / Action
1. Welcome and Recognition	The Convener welcomed those present. The members of the Community Council who had prepared set up and run the Community Council's stall at the Helensburgh Highland Games were thanked.	
2. Vale of Leven Hospital	The Convener welcomed Bill Brackenridge and Jane Grant from the Greater Glasgow Health Board to talk to us about the future of the Vale of Leven Hospital. A number of points were made:– <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The year 2006 was a turning point for the hospital when the former Argyll and Clyde Health Board was wound up and the Argyll and Bute Council area was incorporated in to the Highland Health Board.◆ Despite assertions to the contrary, this has not altered where patients are treated.◆ The VoL Hospital has a catchment area of about 80,000 people of whom 25,000 live in Helensburgh and Lomond.◆ Unscheduled medical care would continue at about 70-80% of former levels.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To assist in this a further seven consultants are being recruited of whom four are already in place. ◆ Outpatients and day surgery will be increased by about 18,000 cases per year. ◆ The VoL Hospital will be the default destination for patients. ◆ The minor injuries unit will continue – it has increasing attendances. ◆ Rehabilitation services are being enhanced. ◆ Community midwifery is being promoted. ◆ Mental health services are being monitored. ◆ There has been investment in staffing and in the upgrading of the wards. ◆ Highly specialised treatment can only be given at a few centralised locations. ◆ Tele-health is being trialed in Rothesay and is already showing that fewer emergency admissions are needed. ◆ In 2008-09 there were 2338 emergency admissions arising from Helensburgh and Lomond of whom 1049 went to the VoL hospital, 900 to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, 83 to the Sick Children's hospital and 6 to the National Jubilee. ◆ Ring fencing does not mean that there will be no reduction in expenditure in particular fields, but it does mean that the expenditure on some fields might be reduced to enhance it on others. 	
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting	The minutes of the meeting of 27 th May 2010 were accepted; proposed by Darrel Hendrie; seconded by Kathleen Siddle.	The minutes were approved .
3. Matters Arising	<p>3.1 – Japanese Knotweed</p> <p>John Tacci reported that the eradication of the weed was too expensive to treat, at 2005 prices it amounted to £1.50 per square metre. Accordingly the best advice was to live with it.</p>	The position was noted .
4. Public Session	There were no matters raised by members of the public.	
6. Town Issues	<p>6.1 – Road Resurfacing</p> <p>It was noted that extensive road resurfacing was ongoing the upper part of town. It is understood that this is addressing the backlog of maintenance which has built up.</p> <p>6.2 – Town Centre</p> <p>The work which is going on in the town centre is to locate the services – gas, electricity and water – as a preliminary to carrying out work on the CHORD project.</p> <p>6.3 – Helensburgh to Edinburgh Railway</p> <p>It was reported that the service will start on 12 December</p>	

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2010. There will be a half hour service to Edinburgh calling at all stations and taking 1 hour 50 minutes.

6.4 – Kirkmichael Play Park

It was reported that the play park will be opening on Saturday 3rd July between 10.00 and 14.00 to which all appropriately aged folk are invited.

6.5 – Co-operation Among Authorities

A brief report was given about the public meeting which had been held in the Commodore Hotel with Sir John Arbuthnot. There was a small, but very relevant audience in attendance.

Tariq Durrani was thanked for securing the services of Sir John.

6.6 – Highland Games

A report was given on the HCC stall at the Highland Games. It was noted that the venture had cost the Community Council money rather than contributed to our funds as had been the intention

Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss Estates attended and a conversation was held with him about the possibility of a wind farm. He gave a sympathetic response.

The Head of Lomond School was also engaged in conversation and he offered the assistance of Sixth Form pupils in environmental projects.

6.8 – Old Hermitage Academy

It was reported that the demolition of the old Hermitage Academy had started this day.

7. Reports

7.1 – TEIG

The summary report is included as Appendix I.

An addendum concerning Argyll and Bute Council's web site for reporting street defects appears as Appendix IV.

7.1a – TEIG: Helensburgh – Gourock Ferry Service

It was **agreed** that no further action should be taken on this matter.

7.1b – TEIG: Helensburgh Play Parks

There is to be a meeting of interested parties on Thursday 1st July at the Commodore pub 20.00-21.30.

7.1c – TEIG: Hermitage Park

It is proposed that there be a one-off flagship event comprising the clearing of the Millig Burn within Hermitage Park.

The proposal was **accepted**.

The idea is that if this is successful it will be the catalyst for the formation of a community group who will undertake this work long term.

7.1d – TEIG: Cleaning Pier Head

It is proposed that there be a one-off flagship event

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	<p>comprising the clearing of the area immediately adjacent to the pier head. Argyll and Bute Council have agreed to provide a 30-foot container to remove the rubbish. The idea is that if this is successful it will be the catalyst for the formation of a community group who will undertake this work long term.</p>	The proposal was accepted .
	<p>7.1e – TEIG: Footways in West Clyde Street An exchange of correspondence was reported in connection with the mishap to an elderly lady reported a few weeks ago in the <i>Helensburgh Advertiser</i>. It was reported that workmen of Argyll and Bute Council had this week been noted providing areas of the footway with a skim coat to reduce the irregularities in it.</p>	
	<p>7.1f – TEIG: Staircases in Station Car Park John Tacchi concluded by saying that the TEIG modus operandi was to work in cooperation with A&BC in seeking improvements in these and any other areas. Councillor Dance asked if this was a new approach by the HCC in its dealings with the Council. Nigel Millar replied that the HCC valued its good working relationship with A&BC and always approached it in as constructive and non confrontational manner as possible. To imply otherwise was not correct.</p>	It was agreed that Sheila Wilson would take this forward.
	<p>7.1g – Clean and Dirty Streets It was suggested that a report should be prepared showing to 10 cleanest / 10 dirtiest streets in the town with a view to seeing if anything could be learnt.</p>	It was agreed to do this.
	<p>7.2 – Planning See report at Appendix II.</p>	
	<p>7.3 – Statutory Plans No report.</p>	
	<p>7.4 – Correspondence See list at Appendix III. It was arranged that copies of particular correspondence will be provided on request.</p>	
	<p>7.5 – Treasurer No report.</p>	
8. AOCB	<p>Prior issue of reports It was commented that a great deal of time has been spent in the meeting by people reporting matters which could just as easily and more satisfactorily reported by the issue of papers prior to the meeting.</p>	It was agreed that reports should be issued prior to the meeting.
9. Next Meeting	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 th August 2010 at 19.00 hours in the Victoria Halls.	

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	<p>It will take the form of a private meeting to determine priorities for the ensuing session.</p> <p>Matters which to be addressed will include the HCC Vision <i>Helensburgh – Be better: Be Excellent</i> and the vision document of 2004. Do they need to be freshened up?</p>	

APPENDIX I

Town Environment Improvement Group (TEIG)

1 An early meeting with Stuart McCracken of ABC understand the scope of Streetscene Services

Taken place in April – needs a follow up

2 An analysis of the flow path of the ABC website facility entitled "Street Light Fault Reporting" with the objective of creating a more extensive version for reporting a much wide range of common faults on-line.

Information from Cllr Nisbet:-the Council has been going through a major exercise to improve the functionality of Operational Services reporting; they were waiting for a software security test to be completed before going live.

3 Cardross to Helensburgh Gas Main

Report post meeting:-The project is now entering the 7th week and the Contractor has constructed approximately 1.5 kms of the new pipeline. The construction works has been hampered slightly due to engineering difficulties however the project programme presently remains on schedule. The reason works appear to be slightly slower at Cardross is that we have a need to cross two special sections which will require temporary / permanent design works and this has always been the case. The excavation at Charlotte Street is to allow for welding / connection to the existing main. We also have a need to hydrostatically test and dry the new main.

4. Helensburgh to Gourock Ferry.

The action has stalled as we lack detailed potential usage and the low tide effect on at least two days per month.

I suggest that case is now closed.

5 Hermitage Park

This, from Darrel's original play parks report has split into two:

(a) Play Area.

Public Meeting will be held on 1st July at Commodore Hotel at 8.00 p.m. when it is hoped to form a group which would be able to attract funding. The Council have carried out all repairs and remedial works, but have been forced to scrap one piece of equipment that is beyond economic repair.

(b) Hermitage Park

I have written to ABC seeking permission to work in the Park and with the Council. This was given verbally on 22nd June and I am awaiting a meeting with Stuart McCracken.

I believe the way forward on this is as follows:-

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- i) Announce a flagship event - clear the burn with 12 volunteers. It is a one off event - no way do we take on permanent works.
- ii) Sheila is working on 3 sources of potential funding
- iii) Depending on i) and ii) I would see us making an appeal to the community to form a group - similar to Duchess Wood Group, say Helensburgh Community Parks Group.
- iv) Having a group intact and a source of funding identified we could the approach the ABC
- v) Involve local ABC councillors to aid the cause.

6 The Shore by the Pier slipway.

It has been reported that grass is growing on the slip and rubbish is piling up.

- a) This is not a great problem to clear the wee corner, on strictly a one off basis, with volunteers.
- b) ABC he is prepared to put a 30 cu.ft container on the slip to put the rubbish in.
- c) Publise the event and promote the work of the East Bay Group and see if another could be formed to deal with this.

7 Pavements- West Clyde Street.

After the report in the Advertiser on a woman falling I wrote to the council requesting that they comment and bring forward spend from the CHORD project. They declined to do the latter.

The comment on the state of the pavement was as follows:

For clarification safety inspections are carried on West Clyde St footway as follows:-

Sinclair St to James St monthly frequency and walked by the Inspector

James St to William St bimonthly and driven with Inspector as passenger in car

Any safety defects found will be repaired in accordance with Road Maintenance and Asset Management Plan.

Inspectors also do ad hoc inspections on a regular basis in recognition of pedestrian movements during the summer and repairs carried out accordingly.

The current footway condition is fair and no improvement works will be done prior to the CHORD works, only safety defects or defects likely to deteriorate rapidly to form safety defects will be repaired.

David Sinclair advised that he had noted ABC were skim coating bits of the footway between Sinclair Street and James Street

8 Network Rail & Verges

- Bridges - Grant Street, Lomond Street, George Street and Adelaide Street - need to be repainted, graffiti removed and their approaches cleaned up
- The rail entrance to Helensburgh Central is littered. Beside the track there an unacceptable amount of discarded rail material

Nigel reported that work had started on Monday.

9 Matters Outstanding

- a) The cleanliness of the Co-op car-park and in particular the revolting state of the staircase leading to the upper level

ACTION John asked to follow up

- b) Draw up a top ten of the cleanest streets in town and a top ten of the dirtiest streets from this list we could compare them to see if there are any patterns or things in common. I.e. are all the dirty streets in the same area do they all have pubs in them? Are they close to schools? Also we could find out why some streets are cleaner than others are they cleaned more often? Or is there another reason?

ACTION suggested that ALL members fill in a questionnaire to be prepared by John.

APPENDIX II HCC PLANNING GROUP REPORT

In the last month, the work of the Planning Group (PG) has included the following :

1. UPDATES

(a) Morar House - the PG visited The Scottish Civic Trust headquarters in Glasgow. The Trust is in the process of placing the old Leiper mansion on their Buildings at Risk Register. This will have the result of giving A&BC more leverage when dealing with the owner of the building.

A&BC have written to the owner inviting him to a site visit. I also understand that photographs have been taken of the condition of the building.

(b) Certificate of Lawful Use - Moss Road

A meeting of the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee took place at Kilmory on 16 June to consider the Application of Lawful Use to use this land as a scrap yard. An official statement of the decision by the Committee will be issued in the next few days.

2. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications considered by the PG included :

(a) Rhu Road Higher, Lomond School Playing Fields - erection of a 3m high fence. After much discussion, the PG decided to take no action unless contacted by residents.

(b) 3 Lower Sutherland Crescent - demolition of existing lean-to extension and erection of a new garage, shower/cloak room and formation of new vehicular access. Lots of plans for this development are in the library, but nothing that showed what the new development would look like or where the vehicular access would be. PG made a site visit and decided that KS would approach the A&BC Planning Department at Blairvadach and ask for clarification.

(c) 6 Barclay Drive - erection of a conservatory. No plans in the library. A number of conservatories have already been built in the area. PG to make site visit and look at plans when they are available.

(d) 4 Machrie Drive - erection of single storey granny flat extension to dwelling house. Site visit made. Extension would be at the rear of the house and would not be overlooked by neighbours. Many of the houses in the vicinity already have extensions.

Cairndhu House - West Clyde Street.

No Planning Application has been submitted for this Grade A listed Building designed by William Leiper, but the PG was approached by a concerned community member who said that the building had been sold to a Residents' Association. The building contains some beautiful ceilings, wooden panelling and a valuable stained glass window designed by Collier. Our informant is concerned that the new owner will seek to change the inside of the building thereby damaging it.

PG reassured the informant that any changes would need a Listed Building Consent, Historic Scotland would be involved and site inspections made. PG has alerted the A&BC Planning Department to these concerns and will follow them up with the department.

For further information, please contact any PG Member. Kathleen Siddle (Leader), Henry Deane

(Secretary), Ian Fraser, David Williams, Sheila Wilson.

APPENDIX III

HCC CORRESPONDENCE AS AT 24 JUNE 2010

1. Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland Newsletter "Mental Health in Argyll & Bute 2012 : Everyone's Business".
2. A joint COSLA, Scottish Government and NHS Scotland Leaflet "Reshaping Care for Older People".

APPENDIX IV

Email from Councillor Nisbet about the Council's web site for reporting street defects:-

I did indeed follow through the issue of website reporting which has a very poor record in its current form. I have been actively chasing a number of problems with the system to try and ensure that in its current format it is at least functioning. However, the Council has been going through a major exercise to improve the functionality of Operational Services reporting. When I last checked about a week to 10 days ago I was advised that they were waiting for a software security test to be completed before going live. I sincerely hope that the delay will not be too much longer and will try and get an update for you tomorrow so that the CC minute can report this.