

## Helensburgh Community Council



"Helensburgh - Be Better : Be Excellent"

Minutes of a Meeting of the Helensburgh Community Council Meeting

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**Present:** Ronnie Finnegan, Ian Fraser, Marion Gillies, James Gorie, Alastair Macbeth, Catriona Malan, Findlay McQuarrie, Nigel Millar, Jim Milligan, Stewart Noble, David Sinclair, Richard Trail and Gordon Tran.

**Councillors:** Ellen Morton, Gary Mulvaney, Andrew Nisbet, Al Reay and James Robb.

**Helensburgh Advertiser:** David Cairnduff.

**Apologies:** Sonja Aitken, Karen Brabender, Councillor Vivienne Dance, Maggie Sheen and Kathleen Siddle.

**Chair:** Nigel Millar.

Topic	Minute	Decision / Action
<b>1. Welcome and Recognition</b>	The Chair welcomed those present. He commented on the issue by Argyll and Bute Council of the Conservation Appraisal document. It represented a first, as it was undertaken by a community group (lead by Kathleen Siddle, with Maggie Sheen, Sandy Kerr and Alison Graham) rather than council officials or a consultant.	
<b>2. Public Session</b>	There were no members of the public present.	
<b>3. Local Issues</b>	<b>3.1 Hospital bus service</b> The position is that the SPT are in the process of awarding a contract for the service. This service will be different from those in the past as it will make provision for visitors to patients, who are thought to be significant potential users of the service.	The position was <b>noted.</b>
	<b>3.2 Small towns Renaissance</b> The small towns renaissance is a project being promoted by the Mackintosh School of Architecture for towns within 50	The position was <b>noted.</b>

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miles of the school. The idea is that the School will provide resources and advice to towns to achieve renaissance. The Chair had attended the conference and concluded that there would be no benefit to Helensburgh as it was already on the

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	move.	
	<p><b>3.3 Review of Community Councils</b> The Chair reported that the review by Argyll and Bute Council was ongoing. The purpose of the review was to achieve greater engagement, involvement and democracy (few seats on community councils are contested) and a review of boundaries. Once completed the review will be presented to community councils who will be invited to consultation meetings to be held in mid March.</p>	The position was <b>noted</b> .
	<p><b>3.4 Housing Shortage</b> It was noted that there is apparently a shortage of affordable housing in the Burgh. This issue is dealt with in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan of Argyll and Bute Council.</p>	It was <b>agreed</b> to invite representatives from A+BC, ACHA and Dunbritton HA to a future meeting.
<b>4. Community Service Orders</b>	<p>Bill Freeland had been due to come and talk about Community Service Orders, but was unable to attend at the last minute. <del>XXXXX</del> of the Access Forum spoke about how they might benefit Helensburgh. The concept is that offenders are sentenced to carry out tasks of benefit to the community in their local area. The numbers involved in Helensburgh are few, though it is possible to bring offenders in from other areas, though this is not often done due to the loss of time involved. The Helensburgh Access Forum seeks funding to improve footpaths in the vicinity of Helensburgh; however, there is also the issue of ongoing maintenance of paths which generally does not attract grants. Community Service Orders do not cover the cost of any materials required for the project. The Access Forum is seeking support from the Community Council to attract projects for Community Service Orders in connection with footpaths near the burgh apart from Duchess Woods.</p>	It was <b>agreed</b> to support the request by the Access Forum with the proviso that it should also include urban footpaths.
<b>5. Local Issues</b>	<p><b>5.1 Development by John Dickie Homes</b> Although the dead line has been passed John Dickie Homes have not yet purchased the site. Negotiations are ongoing.</p>	The position was <b>noted</b> .
	<p><b>5.2 Denuded railway embankment</b> Argyll and Bute Council's environmental team continue to</p>	The position was <b>noted</b> .

be in discussion with Network Rail.

**5.3 Parking associated with Hermitage Academy** The position was  
A meeting is to be arranged with the Head Teacher and **noted.**  
others.

**5.4 Conduct of Inquiry** The position was  
The Ombudsman is investigating the complaint by the **noted.**  
Colgrain residents into Argyll and Bute Council's handling  
of the inquiry resulting from the Planning Application by  
John Dickie Homes.

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**5.5 Twinning**

Ian Fraser raised the issue of Helensburgh's being twinned with a another place in addition to Thouars. He suggested Kos'In Denmark. It is a town within an hour of Copenhagen, ODF similar size to Helensburgh and is a base of the Royal (Danish) Navy.

Oban had previous suggested twinning with an additional town and Argyll and Bute Council had indicated that additional funds would not be available for additional twins.

**5.6 Helensburgh Partnership**

The Helensburgh Partnership will show the results of the recent public consultation in relation to the Pier Head site on its web site. It is concluded that how well Helensburgh deals with parking will determine what the burgh can achieve.

The application to the Court of Session to determine the question of land ownership of the site is still ongoing.

**5.7 Parking charges**

Parking charges in the various car parks have been altered.

The position was **noted.**

**6. Correspondence**

From the Local Licensing Forum – concerning activities.

The position was **noted** in each case.

From Development Services - about the Walk Homecoming Project advising of walks about town.

From NHS Highland - concerning public consultation about mental health services. There is to be a meeting in the Victoria Halls.

From the Association of Scottish Community Councils - inviting us to vote on a representative for Argyll and Bute.

On a vote being taken Anne Gabriel (Dunoon CC) was chosen in preference to Leonard MacNeill (West Loch Fyne CC).

**7. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were considered. Proposed for approval Stewart Noble; **approved.**  
seconded Gordon Tran.

**8. Matters Arising** None.

<b>9A. Planning</b>	Catriona Malan presented her report in terms of Appendix I. In particular Kathleen Siddle has resigned and Richard Trail and Jim Milligan have joined it.	The report was <b>noted</b> .
<b>9B. Planning</b>	Nigel Millar explained the way that the Planning Group operate. He then went on to outline the circumstances of the recent débacle with Lomond School, which had nothing to do with the planning group. He had established that community councils are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, neither are private schools. The question of training of community councillors, particularly in planning matters has still not been resolved.	The position was <b>noted</b> and it was <b>agreed</b> to consider how such groups should operate at the August review of activities meeting.
<b>10. Finance</b>	The Treasurer reported that the funds currently stand at £874, with no accounts for Remembrance Day.	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Decision / Action</b>
<b>11. Community Centre</b>	The Chair outlined the present position with the proposed new community centre, in particular the ongoing discussions with the Friends of Victoria Halls.	The position was <b>noted</b> .
<b>12. Any Other Business</b>	<b>Filing Cabinet</b> The whereabouts of the filing cabinet containing old records of the Community Council has not been established, though it is suspected that it may still lie in the closed community centre in East Clyde Street. The question of obtaining space within the new council officers there was raised.	
<b>13. Next Meeting</b>	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 19.00 in the Victoria Halls.	

## APPENDIX I

### Planning Group report

- 1) Two planning applications were looked at in the library on 20.2.09:
  - 2, William Street:** where it is planned to change the former application by removing dormer windows, and changing the flat roof to a pitched one. No action is needed.
  - 21, Sutherland Street:** the proposed erection of 4 townhouses. No objection is planned, but three proposals are to be made to Howard Young
    - 1) that the monoblocking in driveways or parking areas should be permeable
    - 2) that the windows should be mullion windows to fit in with neighbouring buildings
    - 3) that a finish other than pale roughcast should be used, again to be more in keeping with the surroundings.
- 2) It was decided that Nigel Millar should write to Argyll & Bute Council to suggest that the use of permeable monoblocking and the inclusion of an element of

sustainable energy should be the rule in new developments, and this added to their design policy.

3) Kathleen Siddle has resigned from the planning group. Jim Milligan and Richard Trail have agreed to join the group, along with anyone else who is keen to do so.