



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting 30 June 2022

Civic Centre Annex 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Norman Muir

Welcome

Present for HCC:, Norman Muir, Roger Clarke, Nigel Millar, Norman McNally, Cameron Foy, David Sinclair, Stewart Steel, Elizabeth Lambert,

Apologies: Stewart Noble, Sarah Davies, Tariq Durrani, Peter Brown, David Allan Sonja Aitken, Irina Agostinelli

Public in Person: Cllr Fiona Howard, Cllr Paul Kennedy, Cllr Ian Macquire, Richard Trail. Angela Anderson, Gail Steven. Vivien Dance, Erin Maquire Advertiser

Declaration of Interest

None

Matters Arising

To clarify the position of Cllr Maurice Corry discussed at the May meeting. He cannot be a member of the Community Council as well as an Argyll & Bute councillor. However he will be co-opted as a supernumerary advisor for the pier project in view of his previous involvement in the project as a community councillor. This was formally agreed by the meeting.

1. Helensburgh Waterfront

It has recently been announced that prospective Helensburgh & Lomond projects including the Pier project would be dropped from the Council's bid for the levelling up fund. As far as the Pier was concerned plans were not sufficiently far advanced to meet the business plan criteria. NMu noted that the new pool project had proceeded at the time of bidding without a business plan in place.

The HCC has been in discussion with A&B Council over the plans for the area north of the pool once the old pool is demolished. The HCC gave authority for NMu to arrange a meeting with the council to clarify the situation. The proposed representation from HCC to be, NMu, PB, NMc, and the Chamber of Commerce. NMi expressed an interest in also attending due to his role in the original consultation. NMu agreed. Those present supported the proposal.

There followed a discussion about the preference shown by the public at the VforH exhibition for leisure options rather than retail as part of this redevelopment. Much has changed since the original plan was drawn up some 10 years ago.

Action N Muir to contact Douglas Hendry and Pippa Milne to arrange to meet at the end July

2. Planning Report

Of the small planning applications submitted there has been nothing of concern to HCC.

3. Litter Bin Survey

Plastic Free Helensburgh had conducted a six month litter survey last summer monitoring bins in the town centre and waterfront area. Then had worked with HCC to draw up a proposal to alleviate the litter issues in these areas. A&B council has been awarded extra funding to refurbish the bins across Argyll and Bute, the money will be divided equally between four areas across the County. Both groups were invited to meet with Tom Murphy at the Civic Centre.

The waste team have been very good at coming up with measures to reduce the problem of litter especially over the summer months when there is an increase in litter with visitors eating takeaways along the front. The council employ seasonal staff to cover the increased demand and do evening pick ups to empty the full bins. However we were still seeing a problem at the John Muir corner and the Henry Bell monument.

Tom Murphy's proposal is to increase the capacity at each point with either placing two bins instead of one or increasing the size of the bin depending on the use measured by the litter survey.

The same bins will be purchased across Argyll and Bute to create a uniform look, effective maintenance for the future in having standard bins, and it obviously makes economic sense ordering more of two standard types of bin.

The bins that are replaced along the front which are in good condition but just too small for that position can then be moved to replace other broken bins elsewhere in the town.

Both Plastic Free Helensburgh and Helensburgh Community Council are happy with the proposal and we look forward to getting the new bins in place.

A final plan will be drawn up by the sub group confirming the agreements made at the meeting and submitted to Tom Murphy within the next two weeks.

DS noted that it would now be a good idea to look at the issue of the large bins used by commercial premises that seem to permanently sit on the footpaths in town.

Action The town group to look into the issue and report back to HCC

4. War Memorial Garden

The garden around the War Memorial in Hermitage Park has fallen into disrepair. Some remedial action was taken by the Navy and Helensburgh Legion to bring it into a passable condition for the recent ceremony to dedicate the Legion's new standard. However much work needs to be done to redress much overgrowth in the garden and produce a replanting programme.

N Muir will liaise with Argyll & Bute, the Navy and the British Legion to get a garden maintenance programme established.

5. Centenary John Logie Baird

NMu gave early warning of the upcoming centenary of the invention of television by its inventor who was born in the town. The event scheduled for 2025/26 is bound to attract much interest in the town and we should expect an increase in visitors. A small group is already set up to mark the event in a suitable fashion and the town will have to look its best to give the centenary occasion the best possible support.

6. Webinars

During the pandemic a series of webinars was set up by TD and greatly helped the HCC to maintain contact with the community. They were extremely successful and informative and the same facility was used to create hybrid monthly meetings of the HCC. The HCC will continue with both the webinar series and hybrid meetings.

Interested parties to suggest speakers to the HCC or Tariq in order for a programme to be drawn up.

7 Visions for Helensburgh

NMc had done a huge amount of work gathering all the data and statistics from the event. He now has a 10 slide presentation ready to share the findings.

The Pier was a popular topic and will be the one that the group is proceeding to develop ideas for first.

Sadness was expressed by those present that it had missed on the funding bid but it will not deter the group on proceeding with plans.

8.AOCB

Vivian Dance expressed sadness on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce on the death of Roger Ferdinand.

This was echoed by Norman Muir that HCC had been hit hard in recent months losing both Roger Ferdinand and John Tacchi two men that had put their heart and soul into working for the Helensburgh Community.

NMc had enquired about whether there could be a green bin waste collection for Helensburgh similar to other areas such as Stirling.

NMu had raised this subject at the meeting with Tom Murphy who did not seem keen on the idea due to the quantity of green waste and already having an environmental contract for the disposal of green waste via the Blackhill Recycling centre.

I Macquire had been following up on constituents questions regarding new street signs. While over 70 had been identified within Helensburgh as needing to be replaced due to fading. A&B council had only allocated 40 within the wider Helensburgh and Lomond area for this financial year.

NMi suggested that Taylor Wimpey might be approached to supply the shortfall in street name signs for Helensburgh as part of Community benefit if successful in its planning bid for the Golf estate.

N Mi and the planning team to pass on the suggestion to Taylor Wimpey

Next Meeting

July 28th 7pm Civic Centre Annex TBC