



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting Civic Centre Annex 25th May 2023 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Norman Muir.

Welcome

Present for HCC: Norman Muir, Roger Clarke, Nigel Millar, Cameron Foy, Howard Green, Elizabeth Lambert, Peter Brown, Norman McNally, Tariq Durrani, David Sinclair, Polly Jones, Richard Trail, Joanna Pryce, Sarah Davies, Stewart Noble, Paula McIntosh

Apologies: Irina Agostinelli, Wendy Hamilton, Jonathan Meuli, Stewart Steel

Public in Person: 8

Argyll and Bute Councillors: Fiona Campbell, Paul Kennedy, Ian MacQuire

Declaration of Interest

None

Minutes of April Meeting approved

Police Reports

Helensburgh Supervisor

BTP Inspector David Lacey

Questions raised about 20Mph zones, Helensburgh drug use, disturbances on trains. Inspector Lacey said that Helensburgh and Balloch, as end of line stations, had more incidents than others. 199 callouts in Helensburgh 2023. 38% crimes. There have been incidents of antisocial behaviour on Helensburgh trains. The Travel Safe team and Scotrail continue to address these. Trains and stations have CCTV. He drew HCCs attention to the Guardian app which allows the public to report such incidents.

Locogen solar project

Kenneth Morton presented an initial proposal for a 15MW solar farm at Black Wood Farm on east side of Helensburgh, Full public consultation and planning application likely in early 2024. He said that the area was peat free and access would not be restricted. The project would bring Community Benefit Fund in order of £450/Mw/year.

Helensburgh to Dumbarton cycle path

Colin Young gave update on the long delayed Helensburgh to Dumbarton cycle route. Design contract for the final section from Hermitage academy to central Helensburgh will be in place June. There will be community engagement. The process to completion is likely to take four years. He said that completion of the route to Dumbarton would likely take at least 7 years, with annual funding bids via Sustrans. HCC members expressed frustration at the length of time this has already taken (~20 years), and at the planned time to completion. Dissatisfaction was also expressed about the lack of maintenance of existing cycle paths. HCC asked if there was anything they could do to ensure a more timely completion. Discussion with Cardross Community Council was proposed.

Action: Cardross Community Council to be approached.

Treasurers Report

Has been circulated. Awaiting approval of examiner. Questions were asked about income from Ceilidh. This was funded by A&B

Planning Report

Nigel Millar reported. Lomond Street fire damaged building: third application felt to be more acceptable. Surprise that a household on the new Alder Gate estate has already applied for

permission to turn a garage into part of the dwelling. Dinos has applied to turn next door premises into a takeaway: concern that any new shop front should meet the town centre design requirements. Rhu Community Council have made an approach re Luss Estates proposal for housing on Empress Field.
In future, HCC Secretary will circulate all planning applications to HCC Members, and training will be provided.

Action: Meet with Rhu Community Council

Website

New HCC website is live. Vote of thanks to Stewart, Jonathan and Cameron. Questions raised re photographs. Norman McNally will contribute the Visions for Helensburgh photos.

Town Centre Issues

Cameron reported on the recent cruise ship visit. Lessons have been learnt for the future. At meeting between HCC, Plastic Free Helensburgh and Tom Murphy of A&B, frustration was expressed that new litter bins have still not been installed. Other issues discussed: disposal of debris collected by beach cleans, mural for rear of toilet block, use of the Mine to collect for local projects.

Action: Lack of progress on bins to be raised at Helensburgh and Lomond Cttee.

Music in the Square

Tariq reported on the initiative, which receives funding (which must be matched) from Love Local. There is to be a "Helensburgh's Got Talent" event on 23 June with Hermitage Academy. Tariq asked for volunteers to help. Questions were asked as to how this event was organised and advertised with the HCC logo without prior discussion at HCC. Members were reminded that this was necessary.

Leisure Centre Feedback

Concerns continue to be raised about maintenance and operations issues at the new Leisure Centre. Responsibilities between LiveArgyll, A&B council and the contractors are unclear to users.

Action: LiveArgyll to be invited to speak to HCC to clarify the situation,.

Next Meeting

29th June 7pm Civic Centre Annex