



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting Civic Centre Annex 29th June 2023

The meeting was chaired by Norman Muir.

Welcome

Present for HCC: Norman Muir, Roger Clarke, Nigel Millar, Cameron Foy, Howard Green, Elizabeth Lambert, , Norman McNally, Stewart Steel, Tariq Durrani, David Sinclair, Polly Jones, Richard Trail, Joanna Pryce, Wendy Hamilton, Sarah Davies, Stewart Noble, Jonathan Meuli

Apologies: Irina Agostinelli, Paula McIntosh, Peter Brown, Cllr Ian MacQuire

Public in Person:6

Argyll and Bute Councillors: Fiona Howard, Paul Kennedy

Declaration of Interest

None

Police Report

Previously circulated

Speaker: Colin Crichton, Leisure Centre Manager, LiveArgyll

Supported by 2 colleagues, including new commercial and operations manager. He explained the operation of the new leisure centre, and the relations between LiveArgyll, A&B council, and the contractors Heron Brothers. Membership has climbed above 5000, and more than 1000 people are involved in swimming lessons, 75 classes a week.

Questions were asked about maintenance, upkeep of the infrastructure, school swimming, provision for bicycles, vandalism

In response to questions:

Teething problems of new building (showers, hair driers, costume driers, tiling) are being addressed.

Vandalism has not been a problem.

Customer comment/feedback cards are located at reception, and will be prioritised by management.

The building will be handed over by the contractors in the near future.

Question was also asked as to why LiveArgyll organised fewer events in Helensburgh than in other LiveArgyll locations in A&B, and why the Victoria Halls were currently underused. This was related to capacity and fire regulations. It is being addressed.

Waterfront consultation

HCC were originally invited to participate in the A&B consultation, but were subsequently excluded in respect of a perceived conflict of interest, having submitted a community expression of interest. There was a wide ranging discussion of how HCC could best ensure that the community's interests were taken into account. HCC has collected over the past years through Vision for Helensburgh and our recent Community Survey a substantial view of the wishes and needs of the community, which is not currently being presented to the A&B consultants.

Moreover, we have no information as to the objectives of the consultation, transparency of the process, visibility of data collected, and decision making process. Two threads of activity were identified:

- 1) Strengthening the Expression of Interest into a compelling vision for the site and the community

2) Ensuring that the A&B process is fully transparent and in line with the statutory requirement to engage with community councils. There may be value in legal advice
Action HCC Convenor to draft letter to A&B expressing our concerns and seeking clarification of the next stages of the process, and of how HCC will be involved in representing the views of the Community. A small working party to be set up, chaired by Norman McNally, to revise and update Vision for Helensburgh with appropriate community input, and to strengthen our expression of interest. Polly Jones, Nigel Millar, and Cameron Foy agreed to take part.
Agenda 5:
Agenda 6
Action.
AOB
Items which had been proposed under AOB will be progressed and reported on at next meeting
Action
Next Meeting July 27th 2023
Questions were raised about the suitability of the current venue and the quality of IT support