

On 31 Jul 2023, at 10:22, norman muir <conn75@gmail.com>  
wrote:

Attendance; Paula Mackintosh, Jonathan Meuli, Tariq Durrani, Roger Clarke, Nigel Millar, Norman McNally, Norman Muir, David Sinclair, Cameron Foy, Jo Pryce, Peter Brown, Richard Traill, Irina Agostinelli.

Apologies; Sarah Davies, Howard Green, Stewart Steel, Polly Jones, Wendy Hamilton, Stewart Noble, Elizabeth Lambert.

Declaration of Interest; none registered

Approval of June Minutes; Tariq Durrani

Treasurer Report; Circulated separately to HCC members and attached to these Minutes. Minor transactions since last report. Annex A

Planning Report; The Planning Report as submitted Annex B was agreed with one addition – proposed planning application for the George Street Car Wash. Although not objected to by the Planning Group planning permission was refused by A&BC as the development would have :

*“an unacceptable effect on the character of the surrounding area. It does not effectively integrate with the urban setting due to it causing intensification of the road network at this location, with the potential to affect the operation and safety of the road network”*

The Group did not consider this to be an issue. A further meeting on the battery storage application will take place in early August.

The question was asked on how the Planning Group decided on which planning applications it sent to the full HCC for discussion and decision. This was determined according the Group's current Terms & Conditions :

*The Planning Group has full delegated powers to make formal representations to A&BC on behalf of the HCC and other bodies/individuals when responding to particular planning applications **unless** :*

- ☐ *There are over 10 objections (the number required to trigger a PPSL public hearing) to a particular application*
- ☐ *It is a major application of importance to Helensburgh as a whole*
- ☐ *There is significant resident opposition to the application*
- ☐ *The Group's proposed representation from that of residents*
- ☐ *There is a lack of consensus within the Planning Group*

Police Report; Attached to these Minutes. Low levels of activity.

Registration of Core Path; Lorna Masterton gave a short informative presentation on the registration of an informal public path adjacent to Duchess Woods. It was agreed that the HCC supported the registration in principle and agreed to support her efforts and raise public awareness of the Gorse Path to register it as a public right of way. The HCC also agreed to re-examine the current situation regarding the Green Belt situation in and around the town.

Waterfront Update; There is little public information available on the state of play on this project. The results of the recent Council-authorised survey are awaited, as are the identities of the potential retail bidders. The HCC has established a working party whose aim is to consolidate community feedback gathered over recent community initiatives directly relating to the now vacated Pier site and from this to develop potential community-centred layouts that both respond to community needs and meet the Council's 2012 Masterplan Addendum. The objectives will include;

- A set of visual options based upon community feedback
- Widen debate, support and feedback concerning this site
- Take concepts forward in collaboration with A&BC
- Create a datum against which subsequent proposals may be measured

It was also agreed that the HCC should raise its profile in Facebook and in the public notice boards to make the community aware of our role.

Follow-up to Le Taillan Visit; Nigel M and Tariq D outlined the strategic development of the relationship between the town and Le Taillan. It would be founded on six pillars of interaction, culture, schools, sport, tourism, business and the environment. The HCC gave agreement in principle for this initiative to continue. Annex C.

Business Group; The relationship between the HCC and small businesses in the town is currently thriving and the third meeting this year will take place around September. The meeting provides a forum to share matters of concern and to support and encourage our retail sector to flourish.

Venue for future meetings; The lack of an audio loop and IT support for presentations at our meetings continue to frustrate the management of our meetings and are in the process of being addressed.

Visitor Levy; A response to a consultation on the introduction of a visitor levy in Scotland and in particular Argyll & Bute has been invited. A briefing paper on the subject has been circulated to HCC members and a consolidated view will be sent from us.

Any Other Business; Paula raised the subject of a Scottish nurse from Helensburgh - Margaret McCallum who died in 1919 and whose grave is being maintained by locals in ??

Date of next meeting; Thursday 31 August.

## ANNEX C

BENCHMARKING PILLAR	COMMENTARY
1. <b>CULTURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exchanges of musicians, dancers focussing on those areas reflecting the local vernaculars of Helensburgh (Scottish) and Le Taillan (French)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Culinary exchanges – “The Best of ...”</li> </ul> <p>Leading to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Le Taillan – Helensburgh Festival</b></li> </ul>
2. <b>SCHOOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Staff/Student Exchanges - having a structured purpose</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Development of teaching materials on the “Essentials” of each towns</li> </ul>
3. <b>SPORT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exchanges of Soccer/Rugby/Swimming teams built around a Challenge Trophy format</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Golf : Sailing(?)</li> </ul>
4. <b>TOURISM</b>	<p><b>Helensburgh</b> : A base for exploring world class visitor attractions in the area, e.g. Hill House : Local Retailing  Loch Lomond : Whisky Distilleries : West Highland Line : Stirling Castle  Free French Memorial – Lyle Hill, Gourrock</p> <p><b>Le Taillan</b> - Vineyards : Bordeaux City : Others(?)</p> <p><b>Cheap flights</b> between Le Taillan &amp; Glasgow</p>
5. <b>BUSINESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exploit business opportunities around locally sourced products, e.g. wine : cheese : whiskey</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Creative entrepreneurial initiatives, e.g. Start-Ups : Innovation Hubs</li> </ul>
6. <b>THE ENVIRONMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Learn and reflect on Net Zero and other environmental initiatives in Le Taillan including the circular economy : waste management/recycling : active travel &amp; climate change projects</li> </ul>

