



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting

Civic Centre Annex 7pm 28th March 2024

The meeting was chaired by Peter Brown.

Welcome

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

Apologies: Stewart Noble, Paula McIntosh, Irina Agostinelli, Stewart Steel, Wendy Hamilton, Cllr Maurice Corrie, Cllr Gemma Penfold, Inspector Bart Simonis

Public in Person: 10

Argyll and Bute Councillors: Fiona Howard, Paul Kennedy, Mark Irvine

Declaration of Interest

None

Helensburgh in Motion/Dumbarton Cycle path update

Colin Young (A&B council) & Eilidh Henderson gave an update on HiM Active Travel Survey which closed 29/2. They reported significant feedback, some of which will be used to determine the route for the cycle path from Hermitage Academy to the town centre. HCC members expressed concern that this was not the advertised intention of the survey. They reported that this work would require four stages of consultation and would take several years more. HCC members expressed frustration at the continuing delay and inaction (project ongoing since the last millennium). Colin and Eilidh will return for a further update at the July meeting.

Police Report

Circulated. CC would welcome an in-person report at next meeting. Steward Noble asked about call blockers.

Treasurers Report

Circulated. Significant expenses of late re Waterfront. We have applied to change bank signatories to include current treasurer.

Planning Report

Nigel Millar reported that the W. Lennox Drive planning application had now been approved. The proposed battery storage facility at Ardencaple has provoked several objections, which are visible on the planning website. The Planning Group will meet to discuss holding a meeting of objectors. Elizabeth reminded the meeting that we had previously expressed qualified support for this application.

Waterfront Project

HCC has now been advised by Avison Young that our bid was unsuccessful. Two bids have been shortlisted, but we have not been told what they are. As advised by Avison Young, we wrote asking for feedback on our application, and were told that this needed to be via a Freedom of Information Request. HCC has repeatedly expressed its concerns about the lack of transparency of this process. Peter Brown presented detail about these concerns, which will be expressed in a letter to MSPs, MPs, and all local councillors, and may form the basis for a formal complaint. There will be a campaign involving a petition and website in the local community.

Pier Regeneration Group

Bill Purdon reported on a 4 point plan: Renovate the timber pier: provide access pontoon on East: Tender pontoon on the West: Reinstate the ticket office as an events space. Money is to be sought from the levelling up fund. Proposed asset transfer to be further investigated.

Council Tax
A&B councillors answered questions from HCC and the public about the 10% rise and subsequent intent to reverse the decision at a special meeting on April 15. Concern was expressed about the costs and inconvenience to the public of paying the new rate and then re-issuing bills.
Democracy Matters
Howard Green reported on a response to the Scottish Government “Democracy Matters” consultation prepared by some HCC members and community activists, proposing devolution of powers to the Helensburgh and Lomond region. The document has been circulated to HCC members – comments and discussion welcome.
Place Plans
Elizabeth Lambert to present at next meeting.
Community Planning Partnership
Sarah Davies has been elected chair of the Helensburgh and Lomond CPP. Vice-chair is currently vacant.
HCC Subcommittees
To be reviewed at upcoming AGM in May.
Beach Clean
First of the year 30/3.
“Rest and Be Thankful”
Current consultation circulated to all members.
Grey Matters
Sarah Davies met GM and updated them on current HCC activity. They asked about status of the long running “Men’s shed” initiative. Progress to be investigated
AOB
<p>Music in the Square. HCC approved Tariq Durrani’s suggestion for another “Helensburgh’s Got Talent” event in conjunction with Hermitage Academy, and an outline cost of £700. Concern was expressed about using the remaining funds (£3500+) in the time period specified. The subcommittee to bring a paper with options to next HCC meeting, taking account of local events and festivals.</p> <p>Housing Emergency Action Plan. Neil Walden raised the proposal to use annex to Hermitage primary for social housing. We need to follow this.</p> <p>Silver Voices. He also pointed out the national organisation Silver Voices as a good source of information regarding Issues and resources for the elderly.</p>
Next Meeting
7pm Civic Centre Annex April 25 th . AGM will be May 30th