



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting

Civic Centre Annex 7pm 25th April 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, Richard Trail, Sarah Davies, Stewart Noble, Paula McIntosh, Bill Purdon

Apologies: Polly Jones, Irina Agostinelli, Joanna Pryce, Wendy Hamilton, Cllr Ian Macquire, Cllr Maurice Corry, Insp Bart Simonis

Public in Person: 16

Argyll and Bute Councillors; Fiona Howard, Paul Kennedy

Declaration of Interest

None

Reports

Police Report

Circulated. HCC wished for a discussion in person at next meeting. Matters Arising: Community Officers and link with Railway police. Sarah and Paula to raise concerns in advance of next meeting.

Hill House Engagement Officer

Poppy introduced herself and explained her new role in encouraging greater involvement with the community. Please contact her with ideas at pjperrin@nts.org.uk.

Treasurers Report

Circulated and agreed. Change of signatories ongoing with Virgin Money. Examination of Accounts needed for end of year.

Planning Report

Nigel Millar verbal report. Application refused for ArdenCairn. Battery Energy Storage system: ongoing following a public pre-application consultation. More than 50 objections received for this Green Belt site. Will likely go to public examination at PPSL committee. The HCC Planning Committee are looking to hold a meeting with interested parties – Nigel to arrange.

Music in the Square

Balance still available £4355.55 (to be spent before summer 2025). A report was circulated by Nigel and Tariq with some proposed engagements. Further ideas were contributed by the meeting. An application form to be created allowing local musical groups and events to apply.

Place Plan

Elizabeth presented an outline of the requirements and advantages of creating a local Place Plan, building on Vision for Helensburgh. Meeting to be arranged for interested parties. [Tuesday May 7th Parish Hall 7pm]

Waterfront

Peter congratulated the Helensburgh Skateboard Project on return of the Skateboard Park to the waterfront. This has been very well received by the community. Letter of congratulation to be sent. Campaign to continue for community use of the whole waterfront site with petition and letters to councillors, MPs and MSPs. Recent change of administration at A&B may provide opportunity for revised proposals and further discussion.

Colquhoun Square

Work on shrub beds necessary. Date to be arranged (May 4th). Longer term solution still required.

Updates

HCC Petition to ScotGov

Petition will be heard on May 1st. Congratulations to Stewart Noble for his persistence.

Pier Regeneration Project

Positive meetings continuing.

Submariners Commemorative Wall

Norman circulated outline proposals.

AGM

Will be our next meeting. Please consider nominations for officers and subgroups in advance

Town Centre Meeting

Issues at Quarterly Meeting with Tom Murphy: bins, drains, repairs, mess left by contractors

Community Planning

Sarah Davies is now chair of H&L CPP. Will meet 7th May. HCC update circulated.

HCC Elections

Voting closes May 2nd. Thanks to all candidates.

Cycle path to Dumbarton.

Cardross Cycle Path Action Group arranging meeting with A&B and Jackie Baillie. HCC to attend.

Neil Walden proposed HCC group to look at route from Helensburgh Academy to town centre.

Volunteers needed.

April Beach Clean

27th April. Skip and tractor arranged.

Blossom

Letter of congratulation to Tree Conservation Trust on an outstanding blossom display.

AOB

Thouars twinning association have requested our involvement in 40th Anniversary visit and the return of this relationship to the town signage. Invite to future HCC Meeting.

Damaged trees on waterfront to be raised with A&B.

Closure of Helensburgh bank branch (RBS). Cllr Fiona Howard reported that a motion against the closure had been passed unanimously at the full A&B council meeting and a "Save our Bank" petition has been launched (by HCC and Business Group). A banking hub proposal is being investigated.

Daniel Frame raised provision of community pharmacy services. Will be invited to next meeting to present in more detail.

Next Meeting; AGM

7pm May 30th Civic Centre Annex