



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting Civic Centre Annex 7pm 29th August 2024

The meeting was chaired by Peter Brown.

Welcome

Present for HCC: Roger Clarke, Nigel Millar, Cameron Foy, Elizabeth Lambert, Peter Brown, Norman McNally, David Sinclair, Richard Trail, Paula McIntosh, Joanna Pryce, Polly Jones, Simon Vella

Apologies: Irina Agostinelli, Wendy Hamilton, Cllr Ian Macquire, Howard Green Stewart Steel Tariq Durrani Sarah Davies, Stewart Noble, Louise McCormack Fisher

Public in Person: 100

Argyll and Bute Councillors; Fiona Howard, Paul Kennedy

MSP: Jackie Baillie

Community Councils reps: Rhu, Cardross

Press: Helensburgh Advertiser

Declaration of Interest

None

Reports

Police Report

None.

Treasurers Report

Circulated and agreed.

Planning Report

Circulated updates on previous submissions. No new submissions.

Waterfront

Peter Brown welcomed the visitors to the meeting that had come particularly to take part in the discussion on the Waterfront. It was encouraging to see the hall full and that the community was willing to turn out in good numbers on local issues as well also demonstrated at the Cycle Path meeting in Cardross.

Peter welcomed Jackie Baillie MSP for taking time to attend and hear the community opinion.

Peter Explained to visitors the Community Council role – which is a statutory duty to serve the community undertaken by elected volunteers.

Peter read a letter from the Helensburgh Skateboard Project stating their favoured location is still the Waterfront as the open and public site is the safest area for young skaters, as well as being near amenities such as toilets and shops. They do not feel they have been consulted about the relocation by the council, but have been informed that it is planned.

With the aid of a power point Peter and Cameron presented the history of the Waterfront Site. Various, reports, milestones, planning applications, and milestones were explained to give background and understanding of the current situation.

The Community Council objection is the lack of consultation with the community, the lack of transparency during the process and various examples of not following procedure.

In regard to consultation the view of A&C that the community wants a supermarket stands in contrast to the 20year history of the Community fighting supermarket proposals on the site. The HCC consultation in 2020-22 Vision for Helensburgh surveyed over 4,500 people and found the majority wanted some form of leisure provision on the site with a Supermarket some way down the list.

The announcement of the favoured bidder as: www.forrestgroup.co.uk for retail units plus a large supermarket has had a mainly negative response in the community. The Community Council will continue to represent the voice of the community.

Polly Jones outlined the ways in which the community can express their views for or against the proposal: To raise your views on the Waterfront development these are some actions you can take. [Helensburgh Community Council](http://HelensburghCommunityCouncil) want the community voice to be heard.

1. . Sign the Petition if you don't want a Supermarket. <https://www.change.org/.../stop-the-supermarket-on...>
2. Write to your Councillors, MP and MSP to let them know what you want on the Waterfront, they are ones who are elected to represent you. Write to Argyll and Bute Council officers.
math.campbell-sturgess@argyll-bute.gov.uk
grahamarchibald.hardie@argyll-bute.gov.uk
fiona.howard@argyll-bute.gov.uk
PaulDonald.Kennedy@argyll-bute.gov.uk
ian.macquire@argyll-bute.gov.uk
gary.mulvaney@argyll-bute.gov.uk
gemma.penfold@argyll-bute.gov.uk
mark.irvine@argyll-bute.gov.uk
iainshonny.paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Jackie.Baillie.msp@parliament.scot - MSP
brendan.ohara.mp@parliament.uk - MP for Argyll and Bute
pippa.milne@argyll-bute.gov.uk Chief Executive, Argyll & Bute Council.
jim.lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk - leader of Argyll and Bute Council
3. Attend the meeting Helensburgh & Lomond Area Committee - Tuesday, 10 September 2024 9:30 am
The agenda will be displayed in the week before the meeting
Please follow guidance via link below if you want to raise a question at this meeting. <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/Area%20Committee%20PQT%20Guidance.pdf>
Proposed venue: On a Hybrid Basis in the Marriage Suite in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre and by Microsoft Teams
(venue may be subject to change – please check agenda for finalised details)
Contact: Julieann Small, Democratic Services Assistant - 01546 604043
4. Offer assistance to the Community Council. If you have property or commercial legal knowledge you can help the Community Council by sharing that knowledge to give advice or support.
5. Get involved in the campaign online, post and share on social media and write to the press.
editorial@helensburghadvertiser.co.uk - Helensburgh Advertiser
editor@thelochsidepress.com - The Lochside Press

Jackie Baillie thanked the community for attending and encouraged people to write to their elected representatives. She expressed the importance of community consultation in getting the right outcomes. She has written to Jim Lynch and Mark Irvine requesting a pause and review of the process.

Q&A public forum

Local businesses and members of public expressed the following views or questions:

The desire to take action against the proposal. They did not feel they had been consulted. Or that any stated consultations had been representative.

Concerns were raised about due diligence by the Council in basing decisions on outdated reports.

Those that had attended the consultation for community groups reported bias in the information put before them.

It was felt this was an outdated model and other councils are moving away from retail parks and strip malls. Especially since the growth in online shopping.

Is the proposal really offering a new supermarket or just a replacement supermarket?

The Council is doing what is best for the Council but not what is best for the community.

Will the money from the sale of the site be spent on Helensburgh?

We don't want an ugly box blocking the current views.

Why has the agreed Masterplan not been followed?

Has the process been legal?

If the Co-op is confirmed as the Supermarket should their role in the process be challenged?

Does the Council have ownership of the Coop site and if so should that have been declared?

Pier Regeneration Project

Bill Purden reported the group has become registered company at Companies House and applied for charity status. They will then be able to raise funds. The new company marks a separation from HCC as the group started as a sub group of HCC and Bill Purden had been co opted to HCC to continue that connection. Bill thank the HCC for all the support over the years and the support from the community demonstrated recently at the Wave for the Waverley event. He explained the regeneration of the pier is not just for the Waverley to berth there but as the Waverley is publicly known and loved they are good for publicity and it's great to have their support for the campaign to restore the pier. HCC congratulate the group on their progress and will continue to support the campaign.

Local Place Plan

Elizabeth updated on progress that all local Community Councils, Loch Lomond National Park, Argyll and Bute Council, and local Councillors had be informed of the HCC intention to produce a Place Plan. The Steering group is working on a Website and surveys to enable engagement and consultation with the local community. The Heading will stay as Vision for Helensburgh as we ask the community what they want to see in Helensburgh within the next twenty years. Suggestions for maintenance, improvements, and new ideas are all welcome.

Remembrance Sunday

Roger has made contact with the Legion and others involved in organising the event. An initial meeting is scheduled for 17th September. HCC are now in a supporting role rather than leading the organising.

Memorial For Norman Muir

Item moved to next meeting.

AOB

Cycle path to Dumbarton.

Cardross Cycle Path Action Group meeting with A&B and Jackie Baillie was well attended with over 100 members of the local community. HCC representatives attended. The meeting highlighted delays and financial constraints with no clear route forward. The Action Group will follow up actions that came out of the meeting and report back via the newsletter. Sign up cyclepathactiongroup@gmail.com to receive updates.

Shrub Beds

Thanks especially to Roger for his commitment this year to this task providing the tools, leadership and doing the runs to the tip. As well as Cameron for the provision of plants and bark. The support from HCC and community volunteers has been excellent. The beds have had a much needed overhaul and are moving towards being lower maintenance shrub beds. The sessions will resume in April 2025.

September Beach Cleans

7th September- East Bay 10am

14th September – Support Rhu Community Council 10am

20th September – Kidston TBA

29th September – Helensburgh Skip and tractor to be arranged 10am

Next Meeting; AGM

7pm 26th September Civic Centre Annex