



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting

19th December 2024 Civic Centre Marriage Room 7pm

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, Stewart Noble

Apologies: Richard Trail, Louise McCormack-Fisher, Stewart Steel, Joanna Pryce, Paula McIntosh Tariq Durrani, Sarah Davies, Polly Jones, Howard Green, Simon Vella, Irina Agostinelli.

Public in Person: 8

Argyll and Bute Councillors: Maurice Corry

Declaration of Interest

None

Vote of Thanks

Nigel Millar - Thanked the Helensburgh Festival Lighting Trust on a fantastic achievement again this on lighting up Helensburgh with Festive lights. The HCC approved the motion of thanks.
Cameron Foy also noted the efforts by local businesses Christmas Windows and both the Light Switch on and Winter Festival weekends. Thanks were noted for all the efforts made for the Festive season especially when the weather had made events difficult.

Waterfront Campaign

The Judicial Review petition has been served a decision is expected in January. GoFundMe we have spent half of our fund and will need to appeal for more funds if we decide to proceed further after the judicial review. See attached presentation. A group of delegates travelled to Kilmory on 5/12/24 to lobby Policy and Resources Cttee with banner. During December, the one remaining banner made appearances around Helensburgh with Facebook posts. Thanks go to the combined efforts of all the local independent businesses that supported this.

The HCC will continue with FOI requests, investigating the land ownership and various legal aspects concerning the Waterfront land, as well as continuing media engagement.

Helensburgh in Motion Survey

Several HCC members attended the recent public consultation on the proposed active travel route from Helensburgh to Hermitage Academy, The survey is online at <https://www.pagepark.co.uk/hello/helensburgh-in-motion/> and finishes 6th January. The website has a proposed route for comment.

Peter Brown noted that he was disappointed that the engineer at the event was not actually familiar with the proposal and was unable to answer questions.

The HCC encourages the community to get involved in the consultation via the survey or email.

The HCC will also submit a response.

Visitor Levy and Peel Port Levy

Peter Brown noted two other consultations taking place that will impact upon local businesses and tourism for Helensburgh.

The Visitor Levy proposed by Argyll and Bute Council of 5% for visitors. It was noted by Maurice Corry that the fee being a percentage rather than a fixed amount had been agreed by the Scottish Government and that A&B Council decided the amount of the percentage. The Consultation should be advertised in the new year and the Local Business Group are holding an information event for local businesses on 5th Feb sign up via Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/argyll-bute-proposed-visitor-levy-briefing-for-businesses-helensburgh-tickets-1111614792769?msocid=12f953017a9166431ed742a57bc9671f>

The Peel Port Levy if introduced, the proposed £100 annual fee will apply only to boats and yachts between six and 24 metres regularly sailing on the Clyde, with a small daily fee for short-term visitors. "The funds will help cover the rising costs of managing leisure vessel activity, such as the survey, marking and

recovery of abandoned vessels, maintaining navigational aids, and supporting around 450 annual leisure events within the jurisdiction.” Stated by Peel Ports
Again this could deter tourists from visiting compared to choosing areas with no charges. A consultation is expected in the new year.
HCC will respond to both consultations.

Reports

Planning report. Nothing of note this month.

Local Place Plan

Norman Burton. gave an update on progress so far and what will be the stages to be completed next year. These include analysing the survey results, identifying the priorities of the community, forming some focus groups, describing some potential projects, holding a public consultation, producing a draft plan. This all needs to be done by 1st May which is a lot of work in a short timeframe.

AOCB

The silver bins will be removed from the Chord area but at a cost of £21,000 this money was taken from the Outdoor museum budget and had been allocated for an art project for the Comet models from the old lampposts. Stewart Noble will look into what is now planned for them.
Maurice Corry noted that the old provost lamppost are also being removed from John Street and given to the Council.

Helensburgh Pier

Congratulations were expressed to the Pier Group for achieving the agreement of a long term lease. The details of the agreement are still being worked on.
Meanwhile the group is working with the Council to secure funding. They are also working with engineers to identify what work needs to be done.

Helensburgh Community Pharmacy

Muaz Jamil and Daniel Frame gave an update on the consultation about a proposed community pharmacy. They have received 250 surveys but ideally need 2,000. They have been visiting local community groups to explain what services the community pharmacy could provide.

Next Meeting

7pm Civic Centre Marriage Room January 30th 2025