



Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting 27th February 2025 Civic Centre Annex 7pm

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, Sarah Davies, Tariq Durrani, Stewart Steel, Richard Trail, Paula McIntosh, Stewart Noble

Apologies: Irina Agostinelli, David Sinclair, Polly Jones, Simon Vella
Cllrs Ian MacQuire, Fiona Howard

Public in Person: 14

Argyll and Bute Councillors: Paul Kennedy

Declaration of Interest

Stewart Noble is a trustee of Heritage Trust, so took no part in planning discussion re Ardencaple Tower.

Introductions

Convenor: February update. Angela Anderson received a litter-picking award from Keep Scotland Beautiful. HCC members met with representatives of UK and Scottish govt re regeneration funding. Place Plan focus groups are currently taking place. Live Argyll update: no one available to attend. They told us that all current info is on their website.

Waterfront

See attached presentation from Peter Brown

Local Place Plan

Online Survey has closed. Community exhibition planned for March 22nd in Parish Hall. See attached slides in convenor's presentation.

Empty Premises

Daniel Macintyre has been appointed by A&B as empty premises officer covering Helensburgh. HCC members have met him informally. Fast changing situation: 24 currently empty business premises.

Community Pharmacy update

Consultation finishes March 6th. Decision will be made by Highland Health Board.

Save the Tower

Campaign was covered on STV News. Recent building survey indicates needed repairs will cost £35000. Application submitted to Scottish Land Fund in November. Decision expected in March. Estimated another £180k will need to be raised. New pledge fund opened.

Reports

Secretary: Visitor levy drop-in Victoria Halls 20th March. Consultation open till 30th April.
Training for community councillors on resilience planning 20th March. H&L Cttee 11th March: Public Questions.
Banking Hub meeting has taken place. Drop-in session Tuesday April 8 10am Parish Halls.
Process for co-opting new members to HCC was explained.

Secretary & treasurer are moving out of the area. Replacements will be needed before May meeting.

Treasurer's report circulated. Evaluation form for skip grant (Supporting Communities fund) has been submitted. Year end is March 31 – please submit expenses promptly.

Music in the Square: Grants approved: £350 for Helensburgh Oratorio Choir: £250 for Tartan Harmony: £500 for Baird Centenary Trust.

Stewart Noble's petition was discussed by the Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament March 19th. Jackie Baillie supported. Referred for further discussion by Scottish government to consider "allocating planning decisions to the most appropriate level".

Planning applications: Ardencaple Farm proposing "glamping pods" on green belt site. (Since withdrawn). St Joseph Catholic Church Hall in Grant St is to be demolished. Dunbritton Housing intend to build 14 affordable homes on the site, with HCC's support. Backlog of short term let licenses continues.

AOB

HCC agreed to investigate Jackie Baillie's concerns re Vale of Leven Minor Injuries Unit. HCC still needs to agree a memorial for Norman Muir. The reference to twinning with Thouars still needs to be returned to town entrance signs.

Next Meeting

7pm Civic Centre Annex 27th March