



## Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting - 29 January 2026- Civic Centre Annex 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Peter Brown

### Welcome

Present for HCC: Cameron Foy, Norman McNally, Richard Trail, Joanna Pryce, Roger Clarke, Tariq Durrani, Elizabeth Lambert, Peter Brown.

Argyll and Bute Councillors present: Fiona Howard.

Apologies: Irina Agostinelli, Stewart Steel, Nigel Millar, Polly Jones, Paula McIntosh, Stewart Noble, David Sinclair.

Cllr Paul Kennedy

Public in person: 15

### Minutes of Last Meeting/Declaration of Interest

Approved/None.

### ACT – Resilience Plan.

Online Presentation on resilience and climate change by Andy Macpherson.

Discussed was - finalise and approve the CPP and things to consider. This includes identifying risks i.e. heavy rainfall, flooding, high winds, increased frequent storms and surface water. Waves from driving through flood waters – taken from LPP. Concerns from Helensburgh shops regarding flooding and road closing. Outlining community emergency plan and household/family emergency plan, and what community emergency group can do. Identifying people with skills and resources i.e. first aiders or owning machinery. Identifying key locations to share information, warm spaces etc. Emergency contact list. List of community organisations who may be able to help i.e. picking up prescriptions. How to trigger the plan and who will activate it. The first steps after the plan is triggered. Alternatives if usual communications are disrupted i.e. phone service or internet. Also discussed were general trends in climate change for Helensburgh and Lomond and what they mean for the long term. Norman McNally, Cameron Foy and Angela Anderson will Liaise with Andy Macpherson to make a start on an HCC plan.

### Questions from the public

Colin Thompson - Could Helensburgh apply for town of culture? – Noted by HCC.

Colin also asked about the JLB centenary and what is being done in the town to celebrate.

Discussed were the screenings and talks already done and other planned events

<https://jlbtv100.org/event-directory/>

Colin also suggested wealthy residents of the town could contribute to improving things.

President of Helensburgh Savoy is worried about the future of Victoria Halls as they have had to relocate for their next performance. Survey regarding certain amenities the delivery of LiveArgyll services – can be found online. Councillor Howard said lighting faults are ongoing and encouraged public to complete the Live Argyll survey regarding the facilities in Helensburgh, which includes Victoria Halls, leisure centre, library, and other services . Survey closes 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026.

Question about confusing parking regulations as marked bays where the lines have faded are now subject to parking enforcement. Elizabeth Lambert said that that some marked bays by A&BC had previously been mismarked and are now subject to parking fines. Noted that this a

ongoing issue when parking in Lower Colquhoun Street either side of the Square, as the public are not aware it is no parking, and it also has safety implications

HLC swimming club asked about information for the leisure centre and reopening time in order to plan future training. Cllr. Howard confirmed that the estimated date of end of March will be missed and cannot give a date for reopening at the moment but did confirm that there is no structural damage to the building or swimming pool, work on regrouting of tiles is starting and that there will be more updates available from next week. They are also forming a user's forum with key stakeholders in preparation for reopening.

## Reports

**Police** – Report received and distributed and summarised for meeting.

**Waterfront campaign/Leisure Centre** – No update at the moment.

**Secretary** – Report sent to members. Report detailed:

Issues raised by public Sept – Lack of markings for Parking Bays in Lower Colquhoun street no signs or road markings indicating no parking - ongoing Sept – Complaint no cleaning of bus stop East Princes Street for three years - ongoing Oct – Lack of markings or signs indicating parking regulations Pier slipway area ongoing Oct - Complaint about shop not adhering to the planning regulations – under review by council. Jan – Query whether Helensburgh should submit an entry as Town of Culture.

**Current Consultations** – Customer Service Points - opening hours at Civic Centre changing to appointment only. Now Closed - HCC submitted response.

LiveArgyll – Service provision Online Survey.

HSCP – Consultation on proposed budget cuts – online. Helensburgh Drop In event Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Feb Civic Centre 10am-12pm and 1-3pm.

### **Town Improvement Update January 2026**

The broken benches in Colquhoun Square have been repaired however we are concerned about the life span of these benches and would be keen to meet with Mark Calder to discuss this and other matters relating to Colquhoun Square as he offered at the last local area meeting. Awaiting a meeting date TBA.

The restoration of the stepping stone path along the waterfront grassed area as well as restoration of the grass and paved areas is ongoing. The Waterfront Esplanade has been left in a poor state following repairs to burst sewage pipes this year and last.

The issue of the bus shelter in East Princes Street - ongoing. (scheduled for March/April)

We are thankful for Hugh O'Neil's work on the playpark equipment tenders and await successful completion.

We look forward to information about the Project 20 reducing the speed limit for some roads in Helensburgh.

Discussing waymarking with CARS Project Officer.

Community events - Kirkmichael Community Development Group Open Day Saturday 17th January 10am-12noon This event was very successful with all ages attending. People were keen on the idea of a Mens shed, and making the changing rooms into a community meeting room.

**Treasurer** – Report sent and approved. Also discussed new email mailbox at a cost of £30 per year for HCC administration and to reimburse Stewart Steele £60 for website expenses. Both approved.

**Planning** – Report distributed. 5 applications looked at. Application for hotel rooms at 48 and 50 Sinclair Street, more than previously proposed by Peckhams, Peckham's are not responsible for current application. Bringing this unused part of the former council, police and fire station buildings back into use was welcomed.

#### **Any Other Business**

Email received regarding flooding issue East King Street and A814 Seafront near 23 -30 West Clyde Street - concern noted by HCC and the complainant invited to future meeting to discuss the issue. It has also been shared with Cllrs and the Climate Change Officer.

Proposal to get other local Community Councils together to discuss issues on various topics of shared interest.

Helensburgh Strategic Development Framework– waiting on update from A&B Council.

Launch HCC beach cleans 14 March Ardencaple, 21 March Helensburgh Pier both 10am

Pharmacy appeal granted for the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. Public urged to get in touch with experiences and views on existing and proposed pharmacy provision. HCC survey running until 10<sup>th</sup> Feb online.

Lomond Rotary club planning an awareness program on the application of AI benefits and downsides. More info will be given at next meeting.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 26 February 2026 7pm Civic Centre.