Minutes of HCC Monthly Meeting – 24 September 2026 - Civic Centre Annex 7pm
The meeting was chaired by Convenor, Peter Brown
Welcome and Apologies
Present for HCC: Cameron Foy, David Sinclair, Elizabeth Lambert, Peter Brown, Dave Anderson, Ashley Rogers. Argyll and Bute Councillors present: Fiona Howard, Paul Kennedy
Apologies:Tariq Durrani. Norman McNally, Joanna Pryce, Paula McIntosh, Polly Jones, Argyll and Bute Cllr: Maurice Corry.
Public in person: 15
Declaration of interest/Minutes of Last Meeting
Dave Anderson declared he is a member of the Golf Club in relation to the Cala Homes proposal. August – approved
Guest Speakers
Cala Homes – Various surveys have been undertaken on peat, trees and biodiversity. Plans have been amended to mitigate the harm. The final layout and number of houses has not yet been decided. Other surveys are yet to be completed and they expect to have the planning application lodged in a few months. The golf club stated that the majority of its members are in support to safeguard the future of the club especially as they have a thriving youth section. In response to public questions Cala confirmed they expected the works to take two years, they would hold a meeting for residents before it begins and provide a contact. After build Scottish Water will be responsible for the suds station and a factor will manage the landscape. The plan is in accordance with the LDP2 allocation and does not take into account HSDF as that has not been adopted. The affordable housing will for Dunbritton housing on land they own. Access and drainage remain the concerns of the Helensburgh community present at the meeting and HCC.
Christmas Lights – Sat 21st Nov. Grant from the Festival fund will be used for the switch on event. Other costs for repair, storage and erection of the lights, training of volunteers among other costs are funded by fundraising throughout the year. Fundraising events in the summer were impacted by the charges for road closures making the funfair events unviable. The trust is grateful for donations from The Lions, Dennis Mundie and others, as well as support from council staff. However more support is needed for the Christmas lights to continue in future.
Reports
Police – Report was circulated to members. Police have identified the individual identified on CCTV on Social Media and are conducting enquiries. Police ask the community to document and report use of potentially illegal E-bikes and E-Scooters. Images and videos are particularly helpful, but advice is given to only do this when safe to and does not put you in any risk. Any images can be emailed to ArgyllDunbartonshireCommunityPoliceHelensburgh@scotland.police.uk PC Lynsey Oliver has been appointed as the new youth engagement officer. Neil Walden highlighted that if people are trying to make a silent call to 999 they need to press 55 when prompted. Also to be aware that police will not be able to identify the location of the caller.
Waterfront/Leisure Centre – 3,300 submissions were made to the Section 104 consultation. Under the Community Empowerment Act, the Council is required to “have regard to” the

community's views. HCC is awaiting the date of the Policy and Resources committee and have asked to be able to make a deputation to that meeting.
We continue to make Freedom of Information requests about the consultation process:

- We have received useful information about the Council's internal comms regarding the preparation of the consultation.
- We have been refused access to the Council's legal advice which stated the ground was not Common Good in 2019, and was Common Good in 2026, or why it has lost the character of Common Good.

The community is advised to attend or watch the P&R meeting and continue to share their views with district Councillors – in particular, to ask how they will ensure that the community's views will be reflected in the Section 104 consultation report.

Leisure centre – The work will not be completed until early 2027, and this is at risk from further new uncertainties.
Cllr Ross Moreland will visit the building to consider whether the pool can be opened in advance of the rest of the building.
More information is available on the Argyll and Bute Council website.
24th January 2027 will mark the 2-year anniversary of the closure of the leisure centre.

Treasurer
Treasurer's Report circulated and approved. There are no bills currently outstanding; all invoices received have been paid in full.

Secretary – Report circulated to members
Town Improvement
Pigeon Netting at Craigendoran – email from David Friels
The netting has come loose at one end and needs refixing otherwise birds might fly in and become trapped. Neither the Council or Network rail will take responsibility but as the onus seems to lie with Network Rail we will try to concentrate efforts on them to get it done.
Football Pitch Hire – Declan Lally
Highlighted that whenever events are on at Hermitage Academy pitches and gym hire is cancelled even if it wouldn't conflict with the event and they could park further away.
He would like other all weather pitch hire options for 5's or 7's ideally Parklands that is already all weather or develop East King Street or Hermitage Primary Annex into all weather pitches.
Town Map
Helensburgh CARS officer was looking to upgrade the map is this still being undertaken? Fiona Howard offered to follow up.
Comet Flywheel
The Comet Flywheel and Anvil are listed grade c Gifted to the town council in 1912 and moved from Hermitage Park to East Bay in 2009. The structure now has flaking paint and rust. Action needs to be taken before it is beyond repair. – Fiona Howard to follow up.
Current Consultations
Revised Draft Visitor Levy Scheme | Argyll and Bute Council open until 5th Oct 11:59pm
The future of care homes in Argyll and Bute | NHS Highland online community event on Monday 5th October 2026.
Argyll & Bute HSCP Care Home Engagement Survey | NHS Highland Engagement Hub Closes 14th October
Consultations | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Closes 15th October
What are your priorities for the council budget? Closes 30th October
New funding available to support community projects across Argyll and Bute

Dates for diary:
Community events
Colquhoun Square Shrub Beds – Saturday 3rd 10am

Future Meeting Dates

Helensburgh & Lomond Youth Action Council (HLYAC), Weds 30 Sept 5:00pm – 6:00pm
HCC Meeting Thursday 29th Oct 7pm Civic Centre.
Community Planning Partnership Meeting Tues 10th Nov 10am Civic Centre.
Helensburgh Local Area Meeting Mon 23th Nov 9:30am Civic Centre.

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Planning – The new planning group is currently looking at LDP3 and the golf course development.

Summary of September Activity

- **3 Helensburgh applications** in total
- **2 routine applications** (tree works + listed building maintenance)
- **1 major proposal** requiring ongoing monitoring
- No applications flagged as requiring immediate CC comment this month

No enforcement cases or retrospective applications noted in the extract

Date of Next Meeting

29th October 2026 Civic Centre 7pm