

Helensburgh Common Good

Protecting Our Burgh's Assets

What is Common Good?

Historic burgh property held for community benefit

Historic ownership

Land, buildings, civic gifts
and funds of the former burgh

Community benefit

Administration for the benefit
of the burgh's inhabitants

Why the Waterfront is Common Good

Sasine titles

The 1838 Sasine records acquisition by Helensburgh Town Council.

Burgh minute books

The minutes record ownership of the quay in 1836.

Council recognition

Argyll & Bute Council recognises the site as Common Good.

The Law Protecting Common Good

1491

Common Good Act

Historic legal protection
for Common Good

1973 & 1994

Local Government (Scotland) Acts

Rules on disposal
and court approval

2015

Community Empowerment Act

Register, consultation
and Ministerial guidance

Council's Legal Duties

Register

Establish a public record of assets

Fund

Maintain a ring-fenced fund

Consultation

Consult residents and consider their views

“There are no current proposals to establish a common good fund.”

Council statement, 31 July 2026

Court approval for disposal where required

Helensburgh's Common Good Assets

Preliminary list of assets

Waterfront, parks and recreation grounds

Waterfront and Pier
Kidston Park
James Street Gardens
East King Street Park
Kirkmichael Recreation Ground
Skating Pond
Promenade
Railway Goods Yard car park
Helensburgh Lawn Tennis Club

Public buildings and civic gifts

Victoria Halls
Library
Municipal Buildings
War Memorial
Civic regalia and artworks
Anderson Trust Collection
Reservoirs
Old Parish Church
Victoria Infirmary
Centenary Cross
Henry Bell Monument
Comet Flywheel and Henry Bell's Anvil
Bust of JLB

What Has Already Been Lost

Municipal Buildings sold

No visible Common Good accounting

Victoria Halls and Library may be considered under threat

A register and fund will make asset decisions easier to scrutinise.

What Must Happen Now

01 Register

Publish a complete public record of Common Good assets.

02 Fund

Create a ring-fenced Common Good fund.

03 Transparency

Publish all income and expenditure.

04 Community voice

Follow statutory guidance and engage openly with residents.