

**MINUTES of MEETING of HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP held  
by SKYPE  
on THURSDAY, 20 MAY 2021**

**Present:** Laura Cameron (Chair), Gibson Hall  
Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council  
Kirsty Moyes, Community Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council  
Rhona Grant, Community Learning Team Leader, Argyll and Bute Council  
Councillor Lorna Douglas  
Councillor Gemma Penfold  
Councillor Iain Shonny Paterson  
Morevain Martin, Garelochhead Station Trust  
Duncan MacLachlan, Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust  
Sergeant Marcus Littlejohn, Police Scotland  
PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland  
James Sullivan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Allan Comrie, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport  
Alasdair MacCuish, Helensburgh Gaelic Group  
Faye Tudor, Argyll College UHI  
Sarah Davies, Helensburgh Community Council and Fun First  
Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland  
Eddie Cusick, Helensburgh Community Hub  
Kenny Auld, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park  
Angela Anderson, Plastic Free Helensburgh and Time for Change Argyll and Bute

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the procedure for the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Samantha Somers, Community Planning Officer, Argyll and Bute Council  
Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland  
Janice Kennedy, Scottish Enterprise  
Sophia McArdle, Ministry of Defence  
Inspector Roderick MacNeill, Police Scotland  
Jayne Burnett, Visiting Friends  
Carole-Anne McDade, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership  
Sephton MacQuire, Dunbritton Housing Association  
Vivien Dance, Helensburgh and Lomond Chamber of Commerce  
Lynn Campbell, Department for Work and Pensions

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**3. MINUTES**

- (a) **Meeting of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group held on Thursday, 11th of February 2021**

The Minute of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group meeting held on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 was approved as a correct record.

#### **4. PARTNERS UPDATES**

##### **(a) Transport Scotland Update**

Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, provided information to the Group around roadworks which had been completed within the previous month on the A82 and A83, as well as information around roadworks scheduled to be carried out within the following month on the A82 Taret to Inverarnan which would result in a road closure for 5 nights from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of May to allow resurfacing, drainage and landscaping works.

Neil also provided an update to the Group on a Visitor Management Strategy for the area which was being worked on in conjunction with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Police Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council to monitor and manage traffic as lockdown restrictions eased and the level of staycationing in the area increased.

Neil noted that he was aware of a recent issue where cars were parking along the verge at Sloy power station and confirmed that possible solutions were being investigated. Neil also highlighted work being carried out by the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs and partnership working taking place around litter bins in laybys and signage for temporary toilet facilities in the area.

##### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

##### **(b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Helensburgh and Lomond FQ4 2020/21 Update**

The Group considered a report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) FQ4 review of local performance across Helensburgh and Lomond for 2020-21.

##### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by James Sullivan, Watch Commander/Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, submitted)

##### **(c) Police Scotland Update**

The Group considered a written update from Police Scotland, providing information around increased fraud activity; a likely increase in visitors to the National Park in light of lockdown restrictions easing and preparations to combat any issues around this; work to prevent issues around 'wild camping'; police resources and activity in

the area; and mitigation measures being considered and implemented in response to concerns around speeding.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Inspector Roderick MacNeill, Police Scotland, submitted)

#### **(d) Department for Work and Pensions Update**

The Group considered a written update from the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) which detailed statistical information in relation to Universal Credit claimants and customers searching for work in the Argyll & Bute area, as well as information on the Kickstart scheme; Virtual Youth Hubs, local Job Centres; benefits; the Universal Credit benefits checker; Post Office card accounts; and Help to Save saving accounts.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. noted that in the absence of a representative from Department of Work and Pensions, any questions could be sent to Lynn Campbell following the meeting.

(Reference: Update by Lynn Campbell, Customer Service Leader WS Inverclyde/Argyll and Bute, Department for Work and Pensions, dated March 2021, submitted)

#### **(e) Argyll College UHI Update**

The Group considered an update from Argyll College UHI which detailed the changes made to the operation of Argyll College UHI in light of the Covid-19 pandemic; a move to the online provision of learning, information sessions and open days; participation in online school events; virtual events planned to attract new students; and ways in which people could locate further information around Argyll College UHI and their prospectus.

Faye Tudor encouraged everyone to engage with Argyll College UHI's social media profiles to stay up-to-date with their events and ongoing work.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Dr Faye Tudor, Learning Centre Manager, Argyll College UHI, submitted)

(f) **Argyll and Bute Council Community Learning Service Update**

The Group considered an update from Argyll and Bute Council's Community Learning Service which detailed information around the Scottish Youth Parliament Elections 2021; the Scottish Youth Parliament Awards 2021; the Argyll and Bute Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024; and preparations for coming out of lockdown restrictions. The Group noted that Cameron Garrett had been recognised as MSYP of the year 2021 for his commitment to the inspirational work of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Rhona Grant further highlighted the ways in which the team were working in line with the easing of lockdown restrictions and encouraged partners to engage with ongoing consultations such as the What Matters to You Survey, noting that there was a section in the survey where people could express an interest in being involved with future work. Rhona also provided details to the Group of the planned transfer of the Community Learning and Development Team to Live Argyll, scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

**Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Community Learning Team Leader, Argyll and Bute Council, submitted)

(g) **Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust**

The Group considered an update report from Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust which provided details of their activities. The update included information around the 3 Villages Hall and Community Café; a mobile post office service; Coronavirus vaccination clinics; changes to the Community Café and Post Office; a successful application for funding from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); and ongoing marketing and promotion works. The report also included details around West Loch Lomond stakeholder consultations and action plans; the Two Lochs Visitor Management Project; the Two Lochs Green Recovery project; Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) funding; plans for a potential upgrade of the A83 Railway Bridge; objections to a local planning application; the consultation in relation to possible route options at the Rest and Be Thankful; and updates on bridges being built at Arrochar and Succoth.

Duncan advised that he had also provided a further written update on the activities of Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust which had been circulated to the Group by e-mail in advance of the meeting. Discussion took place around the provision of litter bins and temporary toilets, with Duncan confirming that temporary toilet facilities were hoped to be in place by the end of May. Duncan confirmed that facilities would be in place at the Glen Loin number 1 car park, with discussions ongoing around other potential sites.

**Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

(Reference: Update by Duncan MacLachlan, Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust, submitted)

(h) **Opportunity for verbal updates by Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group Partners**

Angela Anderson, Plastic Free Helensburgh and Time for Change Argyll and Bute

Angela advised that Plastic Free Helensburgh were looking to run events throughout the national Green Week and were looking for partners to assist with this. Angela noted that an advert in relation to this would be circulated in the press shortly but encouraged anyone who was interested in helping to get in touch with her.

Angela provided details of a number of big litter picks which were being organised, as well as involvement in a one million mile beach clean project. Angela confirmed that the group were continuing with their progress towards plastic free town status.

Angela advised that successful and well attended hustings had taken place for Argyll and Bute and Dumbarton, where questions were submitted in advance to MSP candidates in relation to climate change. Angela noted that it was hoped to have standing groups who would regularly interact with local Councils, MPs and MSPs around this issue.

Morevain Martin, Garelochhead Station Trust

Morevain confirmed that the Garelochhead Station Trust had recently relaunched with a successful pop up café, with further events planned for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June and a Suicide Prevention Day event being planned for October. Morevain advised that the training programme was also being relaunched and a food hygiene course was scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, noting that spaces were available for anyone who wished to get in touch to book a place.

Morevain confirmed that plans to visit other veterans were also being reinstated, with the first visit scheduled to Skelmorlie for an event on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June for Armed Forces Day.

Sarah Davies, Helensburgh Community Council

Sarah highlighted work being carried out by Helensburgh Community Council, noting that a consultation around a cycle path from the Hermitage to the town centre had been hosted on the Helensburgh Community Council website, with 93% of people in favour of this. Sarah advised that the Community Council had also been monitoring the building of the new swimming pool; consulting on the new John Muir Art Way; and had received assurance that the skate park would return to its original site following the completion of building works following concerns from young people in relation to its removal.

Sarah advised that the Community Council were also researching broadband provision in the Helensburgh area; consulting with Taylor Wimpey in relation to planned building works; investigating the possibility of a top up tap in Helensburgh where people could fill up their water bottles when walking; running webinars on a

variety of topics; attempting to increase youth participation with the assistance of Rosie Sumsion MSYP; gardening in Colquhoun Square; re-instating monthly beach cleans; and discussing participation in a community lottery. Sarah noted that a sub-group had also been set up to plan for the John Logie Baird centenary celebrations.

#### Sarah Davies, Fun First

Sarah advised that Fun First sessions were being re-instated in line with the easing of lockdown restrictions, and with limited group numbers. Sarah confirmed that there had been a very good uptake of these sessions which were bookable online, however the number of sessions which could be held were restricted by the number of venues which were open to accommodate them. Councillor Penfold advised that she had attended some of the sessions and found them to be very well run, noting that the Guide Hall on John Street could be a potential venue for further sessions.

Sarah encouraged the Group to spread the word that Fun First was operating again, and advised that support was also being offered by Fun First via Zoom. Sarah noted that the Group had received a generous grant from the Armed Forces Covenant to assist them in carrying out their work.

#### Kenny Auld, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)

Kenny commended the work being carried out by the community and Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. Kenny noted that a lot of work had been carried out over the last year to get more funding and staff on the ground, the benefits of which should be seen over the Summer as there were more rangers and environment officers employed to deal with litter and human waste. Kenny encouraged partners to provide information to him around any particular sites which they felt required additional focus.

Kenny advised that LLTNP were awaiting the outcome of a bid to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) for funding to assist with strategic work in researching how sites could integrate and better work together to identify where there are gaps in terms of toilets, litter bins, waste disposal facilities, water facilities, and general visitor needs.

Kenny noted that LLTNP were also working with partners and providing regular communications updates, including social media updates, to advise visitors of areas which were particularly busy. Discussion took place around active travel and public transport links to the National Park, including the use of water transport. Kenny advised that active travel and improved methods of transport to sites were being considered by LLTNP. Kenny highlighted that a new journey planning App would be available in August or September to identify ways in which people could travel without using their car.

Kenny confirmed that an issue with a faulty message board displaying outdated information had now been rectified.

#### Kirsty Moyes, Community Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council

Kirsty advised that the Community Development Team, in conjunction with Argyll TSI, were running 'Introduction to Evaluation Training' sessions. Kirsty encouraged anyone who would like a space for that evening's training to get in touch with her.

Kirsty confirmed that a report in relation to applications for the Supporting Communities Fund would be heard at the next Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee meeting, with a decision expected on applications in late June.

Kirsty advised that the Community Development team would continue to provide support and share information with communities as lockdown restrictions eased and facilities prepared to re-open, noting that the SCDC (Scottish Centre for Community Development) had provided information which may be of assistance to communities at the following link: <https://www.scdc.org.uk/supporting-communities-safely/13>. Kirsty highlighted that the Environmental Health team could also be a useful source of information and were contactable directly for support in this regard.

#### Allan Comrie, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)

Allan provided an update on ongoing cycle route works, noting that work was moving at a good pace, despite being beset by difficulties, to the credit of Argyll and Bute Council. Allan confirmed that a case for change option had been sent for approval in relation to a potential railway station at Faslane and an options assessment was being undertaken, noting that any railway services put in place would take into account current services and should not be detrimental to existing services or the community. Allan confirmed that the plans for a railway station at Faslane should not impact on the new facilities or ferries at Kilcreggan pier, noting that the bus service to and from the pier may also be reviewed in future if required.

Allan also provided updates on social distancing reducing public transport capacity across a number of services; the reinstatement of the West Highland line service; the reinstatement of late night services in Helensburgh; bus routes focusing on allowing people to get to and from vaccination centres; the capacity of trains on the West Highland line; and plans for the use of specially adapted trains on the West Highland line for bikes, which would not affect passenger numbers.

Allan explained to the Group the ways in which SPT were constrained by resources and legislation in terms of providing additional routes where commercial routes were already in existence, noting that he would encourage any requests for additional services to be directed to SPT's operational team for consideration. Councillor Paterson agreed to contact SPT in relation to a bus service for Arrochar and Tarbet.

## **5. POLICE SCOTLAND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM**

The Group considered a verbal update from Sergeant Marcus Littlejohn, Police Scotland, in relation to the work of the Police Scotland Community Engagement Team.

Sergeant Littlejohn advised that the Community Engagement Team and a Problem Solving Team had been created as a result of a restructure of community policing within Police Scotland, providing details of the aims of the Team and specialisms involved. He outlined information around a number of projects which the Team were involved in, particularly highlighting a recent online fraud event which had been hosted by Argyll TSI.

Sergeant Littlejohn confirmed that the Team could look at bicycle marking in Helensburgh in the future.

Following a query around when support and events could return on a face-to-face basis, PC Evans confirmed that this would be a decision made at a national level in line with the easing of restrictions and in the interim she would be happy to assist with anything required.

## **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

## **6. COMMUNITY FOCUS**

### **(a) Helensburgh Community Hub**

Eddie Cusick, Helensburgh Community Hub, provided the Group with information around the background of Helensburgh Community Hall Ltd/Helensburgh Community Hub and their ongoing work. Eddie advised that the Hub had received funding and the building was undergoing adaptations to bring it up to a good standard, noting that it would hopefully re-open for community use in early July. Eddie noted that a number of community organisations providing key services in the area leased office space within the building and the money raised from this helped to sustain the operation of the building, with space in the hall also being available for hire by community groups and other organisations. Eddie advised that it was also hoped that land to the side of the building could be transformed into a community garden in due course.

Eddie noted that community engagement exercises were planned to raise awareness of the space being available and it was hoped that partnership working would ensure that the space would be at the heart of the community and would provide volunteering opportunities as well as services which were needed in the area. Eddie confirmed that he would be happy to offer support and link up with organisations who would be interested in doing so.

## **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group:

1. considered and noted the information provided; and
2. agreed that Helensburgh Community Hub would be invited to join the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group Basecamp site to share information with the Group.

## **7. UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EU**

### **(a) UK-EU Post Transition**

The Group considered a report setting out the considerations of the EU Withdrawal Tactical Group with regard to identifying and assessing any risks relative to Argyll and Bute, following the UK exiting the EU and entering into a new agreement from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

It was agreed that Councillor Paterson would outline his concerns in relation to the report in an e-mail, which would then be forwarded to the relevant officer and a response circulated to the Group when available.

## **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group agreed to be assured that the Council and the HSCP are as well prepared as they can be with



regards to having exited the EU and are actively engaged with partners through the local and national resilience frameworks.

(Reference: Report by Chief Executive, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021, submitted)

(b) **Opportunity for verbal updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners in relation to the impact of the UK Withdrawal from the EU**

There were no verbal updates from Partners in relation to the impact of the UK withdrawal from the EU.

## **8. CAMPERVAN, MOTORHOME AND STAYCATIONS**

(a) **Campervan, Motorhome and Staycation Activity**

The Group considered a report which provided a brief update on campervan, motorhome and staycation activity in Argyll and Bute.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group agreed:

1. to note the contents of the paper and progress to date; and
2. that partners would continue to collaborate to try and address the challenges faced due to increased informal camping activity.

(Reference: Report by Head of Development and Economic Growth, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021, submitted)

(b) **Opportunity for verbal updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners in relation to campervan, motorhome and staycation activity**

Kenny Auld, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)

Kenny Auld advised that LLTNP were working with national partners to bring some consistency to licencing and planning approaches across the country, noting that LLTNP were also working with Stirling and Argyll and Bute Councils to understand their systems. Kenny provided details of the ways in which economic growth, visitor experience and visitor management were being considered and the need to be mindful of the ways in which local businesses and communities hoped to approach the situation and work with this particular market. He advised that a process was ongoing to understand the market and the needs arising from same, particularly noting the need to map out and signpost to waste disposal sites where appropriate.

Discussion took place around the positive aspects of campervan, motorhome and staycation activity as well as the increased opportunities for active travel and the use of public transport. Kenny confirmed that a lot of strategic work was ongoing around the positive trends which would hopefully allow better facilities for communities and residents as a result of the increased tourism.

## **9. COVID-19 RECOVERY**

(a) **Covid Infection Rates and Vaccination**

The Group considered a briefing note which provided information around the current Covid infection rates in Argyll and Bute and also provided some information on the uptake of Covid vaccinations.

**Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the briefing note.

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021, submitted)

(b) **Opportunity for verbal updates from Area Community Planning Group Partners in relation to Covid-19 recovery**

There were no verbal updates from Partners in relation to Covid-19 recovery.

**10. AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

In the absence of Samantha Somers, Community Planning Officer, the Chair provided an update to the Group in relation to the Area Community Planning Action Plan Update as follows:

“As members of the Area Community Planning Group will remember, we undertook the Place Standard engagement exercise over a 6 month period in 2019 and had a great response to this. The results were put onto the council website for all partners and communities to use as best suited them last February and we were due to develop the new Action Plans last year but Covid-19 happened and priorities meant that these plans were paused.

We’re now in a position to start work on developing these Action Plans again, and we can still use the Place Standard results, in addition to the response from the Building Back Better consultation and we’re in a good position to be starting to develop the plans now based on our knowledge of area priorities, both before and after the pandemic.

We are planning to hold a series of online workshops throughout June, August and possibly September, no more than 90 minutes in duration for each one. We will then be drafting the plans based on what comes out of the workshops throughout the Autumn with the potential for a further workshop at the end of the year to clarify things if required. We hope to have the draft plans brought to the February 2022 Area Community Planning Group for sign off, the Management Committee in March 2022 and then for the plan to go live in April 2022. These plans will then last for 3 years until 2025.

We’re really keen to have partner and community buy-in to help take forward the actions and look forward to working with all of you on this.”

**Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

## **11. BASECAMP TRIAL UPDATE**

In the absence of Samantha Somers, Community Planning Officer, the Chair provided an update to the Group in relation to the trial of Basecamp as follows:

“Basecamp is working well and log in details have been sent to everyone. If people have not received a log-in or have issues accessing the system please contact Samantha Somers – [Samantha.somers@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.somers@argyll-bute.gov.uk). There have been a wide range of posts by partners such as information campaigns from Police Scotland or the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and information from community partners as well giving information on what’s happening in the local area. I’d like to encourage you to keep using Basecamp so that we can evaluate its usefulness at the end of the year and see whether it works for Area Community Planning.”

Discussion took place around the notification settings for users of Basecamp and it was agreed that instructions around how to manage these settings would be circulated to the Group.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the information provided.

## **12. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Group considered a briefing note which provided information around matters discussed during a virtual meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee, held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Shona Barton agreed to pass Angela Anderson’s contact details to the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee team to offer her support in engaging with the Climate Change working group.

### **Decision**

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group considered and noted the briefing note.

(Reference: Report by Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021, submitted)

## **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group would take place on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.