

H & L Area CPP April 2022 Report: Plastic Free Helensburgh.

Steering group meets on zoom once a month and additionally as required.

Contact plasticfreehelensburgh@gmail.com new members welcome.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=plastic%20free%20helensburgh%20-%20community>

As a Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) Community,

- **Plastic Free Helensburgh has achieved accredited Plastic Free Town Status.**

We are the 9th community in Scotland to attain this status.

PFH accomplished, this by working with some 30 plus businesses and 20 plus community groups to reduce their single use plastics and become more sustainable, running events and working with Helensburgh Community Council. We work with partners throughout Helensburgh and Lomond.

Meetings

- With Helensburgh Community Council and Scottish Water
- With Jackie Baillie to discuss how our group works, general matters and the high number of overflows and combined sewer overflows (CSO) from the sewage system in Helensburgh.
- On the 8th of April (report to follow) with Jackie Baillie, Scottish Water, SEPA and Marine Scotland to discuss the origins of sewage related litter and litter sinks, the safety of the water quality for bathing and marine leisure and the strategy to keep our beaches clean and disseminate our findings from our clean up work and observations, over the year, to facilitate a strategic plan.
- **Work Shop.** Keep Scotland Beautiful and Scottish Water. "litter and its impact on the marine environment"

Work and Projects

- **Public Litter Bins** on Sea front. Following our bin usage survey last summer we are working with HCC on the state and suitability of the public bin provision and monitoring over flow. We have a very high regard for the care and from attention Paddy and the local street gang, however bin provision is woefully inadequate for the number of visitors.
- **Take A Ways.** We are continuing last years work with the local take a ways surveying and giving information on the legislative change banning single use plastic items such as cutlery, cups and polystyrene food boxes. We will also distribute the leaflets produced by A&B through the GRAB Trust.
- **Litter Picking Station** installed at Stepping Stones Nursery. More two minute pick stations to come, in conjunction with the GRAB Trust.
- **Water Fill Up Station,** this is still waiting on work completion at the pier.

Events

- Stall at Vision for Helensburgh, There was a high degree of interest in what we are doing in the community and with beach cleans.
- And announcement to the hall of accredited town status and presentation by Jackie Baillie.

Beach Cleans

- **Pier to Henry Bell Monument.** Monthly beach cleans with HCC.

10.00 12.00 every last Saturday in the month from March to September. All helpers welcome.

Around 30 TONS of DEBRIS in March.

For the March clean around 30 people using PFH and GRAB Trust litter pickers, filled 80 bin bags weighing around 960kgs of mainly old plastic litter and filled a 6ft by 12 foot trailer with driftwood including pier timbers that required the fork attachment of the Drumfork Farm tractor to lift.

With the tractor, David Howie then cleared the plastic choked seaweed and filled the 20 Ton Skip provided by the council and pushed another half load against the pier wall.

It should be noted that due to the high equinox-al tides and still air a large portion of the marine litter that had pushed up over the winter had floated back into the Clyde at the beginning of March.

- **East Bay** In conjunction with our Plastic Free Communities Champions Jean's Bothy and the Community Hub **second Saturday of the month, 9th April, 11th June and 10th September.** East Bay meet across from Tesco Garage refreshments afterwards at the Hub.

- **Around the town, beaches and roadsides.**

There is a host of people throughout the area litter picking on beaches, verges, open and public spaces. Follow us or post your picks on the Helensburgh Litter Pickers facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/729373511080067>

Work with Other Organisations

- **We share litter collection data with Beach Watch and KSP Clean Up Scotland**
- **The Big Plastic Count 16th to 22nd May**

We are encouraging everyone to sign up and collect, count and report the plastic they have used in a week. Collated by Green Peace, this helps inform big business, retailers and decision makers on and the public on the volume of plastic used and needing dealt with.

[https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-](https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up?source=FB&subsource=OCPOPSOAFB02KQ&utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Thank+you+page+share&utm_campaign=BPC+-+Household+sign+up++OA+20220221)

[up?source=FB&subsource=OCPOPSOAFB02KQ&utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Thank+you+page+share&utm_campaign=BPC+-+Household+sign+up++OA+20220221](https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up?source=FB&subsource=OCPOPSOAFB02KQ&utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Thank+you+page+share&utm_campaign=BPC+-+Household+sign+up++OA+20220221)

Consultations and Planning Responses

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-litter-strategy-scotland-consultation/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-litter-flytipping-consultation/>

Locally on fish farms and wetland.