

**HELENSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE FOR THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
MEETING MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

- The Community Clubs event held at Hermitage Academy was a great success. More than fifty local clubs attended along with a steady flow of residents throughout the day. Feedback was positive from both. The Community Council used it as a chance to engage with the public re the current plans for the Waterfront. Thanks to the Garelohead Rotary who worked jointly with us on this event.
- The HCC conducted a survey with the community with regards to the proposed development on the waterfront. We received more than 1200 replies. The ideas for development were varied but there was an overwhelming desire to retain the site for leisure activities and in particular those for youth activities including the development and retention of the skatepark. There was a desire for a more varied provision of shops in particular a budget supermarket, not on this site but elsewhere in the town.
- As a result of the survey the HCC has submitted an expression of interest for the Waterfront Site on behalf of the community.
- A meeting of local business owners was held at Victoria Halls. This was attended by more than 30 local shops and businesses, the Federation of Small Businesses and Destination Helensburgh. An excellent discussion was held on how we as the HCC and local businesses can work together to support each other through the current difficult times. A What's App group was set up to improve communication and the group will meet again in June.
- Our monthly Beach Cleans returned in February we are now regularly getting 25 plus members of the community volunteering. An extra clean was held at The East Bay Beach and promenade to clear the huge amount of debris which had accumulated on the grass area and beach following the winter storms. More than 40 volunteers adults and children heeded the call and 611 kilos of rubbish including a large amount of plastic was removed. Thanks to Plastic Free Helensburgh, the Helensburgh Community Hub and Jean's Bothy for their support with this
- The HCC has applied to the Supporting Communities Fund for a grant to pay for skips to continue to remove the marine litter from Helensburgh beaches and the Clyde .
- HCC volunteers cleaned and tidied the shrub beds in Colquhoun Square in preparation for the Easter Weekend
- The HCC wrote to Argyll and Bute Council with regards to problems with maintenance and repair of the infrastructure in the town. Concerns included damaged rubbish bins, unrepaired street furniture and repairs to the outdoor museum. It also highlighted the problem of rubbish bins promised in last years budget not materializing. A meeting to discuss these issues will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> with Tom Murphy, which we hope will begin to find permanent solutions.
- A delegation of seven visitors from Le Taillin near Bordeaux France visited and were entertained by members of the HCC and local community during April. They visited places of interest and local schools with a view to setting up a new twinning arrangement. They were entertained by a local dance school and a Town Ceilidh at the Civic Centre. Thanks to the Civic Centre and Argyll and Bute for their support with this. Preparations are being made for a return visit.
- Visiting speakers at HCC meetings have included the NTS re the Hill House, The Mackintosh Club, The Winter Festival and Virgin Broadband.
- The group working on the redevelopment of Helensburgh Pier reported on their current work and plans at the April Meeting.