

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Killean Place
High Street
CAMPBELTOWN
Argyll
PA28 6EA

Argyll and Bute Planning
MAKI
Kilmory
LOCHGILPHEAD
Argyll
PA318RT

28th May 2010

Dear Sir

LOCAL REVIEW BODY REFERENCE: 10/0008/LRB
PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 10/00249/PP
11 MAIN STREET CAMPBELTOWN

I write regarding the above notice of review.

Campbeltown Community Council notes the issues raised by the applicant in support of the appeal against refusal of the above application and wishes to make the following points:

Campbeltown Community Council disputes the number of retail units in the centre of Campbeltown claimed by the applicant to be vacant or unoccupied. Apparently there are 26 retail units in the centre of Campbeltown which are vacant or unoccupied. In addition within the immediate vicinity of 11 Main Street it is claimed there are 10 retail units which are to let, to purchase or are unoccupied.

A survey of the immediate vicinity of 11 Main Street, Campbeltown, carried out with a member of Campbeltown Trading Association very recently, failed to identify even half the number claimed within the immediate vicinity. In addition, a further survey of the town centre identified significantly fewer than 26 vacant or unoccupied retail units.

There was a significant problem with empty retail units in the past but there is a general perception that this situation is improving.

One vacant retail unit in Main Street will shortly reopen and another large retail unit in Longrow, which has been empty for several years, is about to open its doors for business; Main Street has seen a resurgence of trade with the opening of the Original Factory Shop, formerly Woolworths, which has had a positive knock-on effect for other retail businesses in Main Street. There are strong indications that other retail units will be occupied soon.

These are positive indications of significant improvement in the economy of Campbeltown which should be encouraged.

Campbeltown will benefit in the near future from several initiatives which should give a boost to the local economy eg the CHORD project including the regeneration of the harbour area and the realignment of Longrow and Kinloch Road. These projects will bring more money into Campbeltown and arguably encourage an increase in retail opportunities.

Campbeltown Community Council is represented on the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). These schemes are making good progress in tackling the centre of town properties which have suffered from 'long term neglect'.

We would wish to emphasise that Main Street is the main retail area in Campbeltown and Campbeltown Community Council is against infiltration of non-retail businesses in Campbeltown Town Centre for the above reasons.

Yours faithfully

NANCIE SMITH
Secretary