

CAMPBELTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Killean Place  
High Street  
CAMPBELTOWN  
Argyll  
PA28 6EA

Argyll and Bute Planning  
MAKI  
Kilmory  
LOCHGILPHEAD  
Argyll  
PA318RT

28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Dear Sir

**LOCAL REVIEW BODY REFERENCE: 10/0007/LRB**  
**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 09/01423/PP**  
**9 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:

It is stated that there are 26 vacant or unoccupied retail units in the centre of Campbeltown. In addition, there are, apparently, 10 units in the immediate vicinity of 9 Main Street, Campbeltown which are to let, to purchase or are unoccupied.

A survey of the immediate vicinity of 9 Main Street, carried out very recently along with a member of Campbeltown Trading Association, failed to identify even half the number claimed in the immediate vicinity. A further survey of the town centre identified significantly fewer than 26 vacant or unoccupied retail units.

It is accepted that there was a problem with empty retail units in the past, but there is a strong perception that this situation is improving.

One retail unit in Main Street is about to reopen and another large retail unit in Longrow, which has been empty for several years, will shortly reopen; Main Street has seen a resurgence of trade with the opening of the Original Factory Shop, formerly Woolworths; two shops selling children's clothes and toys have opened recently in Cross Street and Longrow and an empty shop in Kirk Street reopened earlier this year; Springbank Distillery will be opening a new shop in Bolgam Street in the near future.

In addition, there is good reason to believe that the empty shop in Main Street which was formerly Victoria Wine will reopen shortly.

These are positive indicators of an important improvement in the economy of Campbeltown.

As previously stated Campbeltown town centre is a conservation area with many listed buildings and it is presently benefiting from a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and a Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). These initiatives are targeting properties in Main Street which suffer from 'water ingress, inadequate guttering and lack of roof maintenance'.

Similarly, through CARS and THI private sector grants will benefit properties in the conservation area within the town centre.

We would wish to emphasise that Campbeltown's Main Street is the main retail area in Campbeltown and Campbeltown Community Council remains opposed to infiltration of non-retail businesses in Campbeltown town centre for the above reasons.

Yours faithfully

NANCIE SMITH  
Secretary