



Clydebelt News

Number thirteen

October 2000

Clydebelt is the organisation dedicated to protecting our Greenbelt heritage in the Kilpatrick Hills and is concerned with other "undeveloped" areas nearby
It is non-political, non-sectarian, and non-profit-making

Celebrate our 10 years on the hills



Then ...

Clydebelt started on 26 November 1990 when 400 people met to oppose a horrendous planning application for the hills.



MP Tony Worthington at a 1991 event

... Now

Cochnohill trees

After many years of neglect, most of Cochnohill Farm has a new owner who has planted 250 acres with native broadleaved trees. Responsible access is welcomed. If you spot any damage please inform the owner through Clydebelt.

House plan persisted

Clydebelt members had convinced West Dunbartonshire Council to refuse planning permission for converting a garage in the Greenbelt above Old Kilpatrick into a large house. But the developer appealed to the Scottish Executive. In September, fortunately, the appeal was dismissed by the Reporter.

Access & paths

Several Clydebelt members went to a workshop run by Land Use Consultants on the development of West Dunbartonshire's Access Strategy on 23 May. Farmers were well represented, some quite worried about vandalism and carelessness. We felt there had been too much emphasis on creating paths. The Strategy should be put to public consultation between November and the end of January.

It is hoped that West Dunbartonshire Council will employ a full-time Access Officer to help implement the Access Strategy.

The Kilpatricks Project still works on the Drumchapel Path Network - opened by Magnus Magnusson on 25 August - and the Access Alliance meets to discuss this and related issues.

We are also concerned about access to the Clyde waterfront - see back page.

Bowling harbour and Saltings

Clydebelt supported Bowling people against an application by Morrison Homes and British Waterways for houses plus a hotel by the canal basin near the Saltings. Although refused permission in 1996, Morrison's appeal to the Scottish Executive allowed them to build houses. But they didn't submit the required detailed plans until days after their 3 year deadline, and they were quite incomplete. Local planners still wanted to accept them, and Bowling Community Council has asked the Local Government Ombudsman to rule this out.

Golf ranges too far

Clydebelt didn't object to replacing derelict football pitches with a golf range, by the Drumry roundabout on the A82. But the amount of land being used is far greater than we had ever expected.

Plant around about

Clydebelt has asked Councillors for more planting, especially trees, eg at the two vacant sites adjoining the Kilbowie roundabout. As well as environmental improvement it should reduce annual grass cutting costs.

Future plans

Green belt

Clydebelt commented favourably on the Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan. The final version - accessible at www.gvcvcore.gov.uk - is now with the Scottish Executive. We hope it won't be held up by house builders claims using the Human Rights Act. It promotes the creation of a Green Network, and stresses "the presumption against development in the Green Belts", "priority being given to the recycling of urban land by using brownfield land in preference to greenfield sites". "... there are specific landscape resources that need to be recognised ... Kilpatricks ... have an amenity value which is of wider than local significance as does the landscape of the Green Belt."



Land for housing

No new housing land is expected to be released by West Dunbartonshire Council until 250 plots may be needed from 2006-2011. This should influence the current review of the Clydebank Local Plan - the final version may be ready next Spring.

The waterfront

One feature of the Structure Plan is the proposal of a Clyde Waterfront Initiative "to reclaim the Clyde waterfront for Communities and to restore the reputation of the Clyde as a centre of economic activity and high-tech quality economic productivity" by, among other things, "developing mixed use developments, including up to 500 additional houses ... in particular at ... Clydebank & Dumbarton" and "linking the Green Network through the heart of the Metropolitan area". Scottish Enterprise-Dunbarton have commissioned plans for the area between the Clyde and Dumbarton Rd. from Clydebank to Erskine Ferry Road, but will not reveal details yet.

Clydebelt is in the Firth of Clyde Forum which has produced a voluntary Integrated Management Strategy & Action Plan for the Firth of Clyde - www.clydeforum.org. There are proposals for nature conservation and to give special protection for wildlife. There is also a proposal "to promote appropriate access to the waterfront as a high priority in decisions of land use change, for all shoreline sites, except those where exclusive access is an essential requirement of the development". Clydebelt prefers access to walk all along the shore.

This Newsletter has been distributed to organisations, libraries, councillors, and to the last known address of a member (if they have moved on, but you are interested, you are very welcome to join us).

You are invited to the Clydebelt

10th birthday celebration Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Tuesday
14th November 2000

in the Trinity Church,
Roman Road, Duntocher

We will have more details of issues raised in this Newsletter, and any more that arise. The meeting is for all who are members, and you can join at the meeting. Come and make your feelings known.

Agenda

1. Minutes of previous meeting
2. Financial Report
3. News & current issues
4. Election of Committee
5. Any other competent business

followed by:

celebratory stories by those
involved in Kilpatrick Hills, Greenbelt
and planning issues, with answers to
your questions.

What does Clydebelt do?

makes people aware of threats to their heritage
holds public meetings, members meetings & special events
produces leaflets, newsletters and web pages
questions local authority planning departments
counteracts developers' expensive publicity
objects to undesirable planning applications
gives evidence and cross-questions witnesses at public inquiries
lobbies Councillors, MSPs and MPs
tries to get access obstructions removed
raises funds to pay costs
works with other interested organisations
helps local communities express objections effectively
supports alternative plans for managing the hills
influences planning and environmental policies

Join Clydebelt

at the meeting or send your name and address to:

Clydebelt, c/o 66 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow G12 8LS

or email assist@clydebelt.org.uk

Membership is for a once-only fee of £1 (or £2 for a household) which should last for years of printing and postage unless we need another big campaign.