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REMEMBER US?

It may be a while since you last heard from us but we are still diligently working away on your behalf dealing with the likes of :-

- Making people aware of threats to their heritage.
- Holding public and members meetings.
- Producing newsletters and web pages.
- Questioning local authority planning departments.
- Objecting to undesirable planning applications.
- Giving evidence and questioning witnesses at public enquiries.
- Lobbying councillors, MSPs and MPs.
- Working with other like minded organisations.
- Influencing planning and environmental policies.
- Helping local communities express objections

AGM

As a current member you are invited to our AGM. This will be on the **21st September 2004, at the Duntocher Trinity Church, 7.30pm.**

Non members are also welcome so if you're a bit shy about coming on your own, why not bring a friend? On the night you can find out a bit more about what we've been up to and what we have planned.

There will also be a short talk on "**Restoring Native Woodland**" by Karen Bell. Come along and find out how you can help by lending your time and/or sponsoring a tree.

Refreshments will be provided.

AGENDA FOR THE AGM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Secretary's report on activities since the last AGM
5. Current Issues
6. Future plans
7. Election of committee members
8. AOCB
9. Talk on "Restoring Native Woodland"

SUCCESSES IN 2004

Clydebelt presented concerns on Green Belt and housing at the Public Inquiry into the Clydebank Local Plan in November 2003. We won some and lost some. Most disputed sites will remain as Green Belt, but not land at Cochno Road, now scheduled for 40 houses. The Council intends to adopt the new Local Plan in September 2004 unless Scottish Ministers direct otherwise.

Saved Yarrows playing field from being re-zoned for housing.

Dunclutha, We again objected to a revised plan for flats on a prominent site adjacent to Dalmuir Golf Course as an over development of the site. The application was refused.

Tesco Superstore on Knowes at Hardgate, This development would have drawn trade from and worsened the viability of the Clydebank Shopping Centre. The site was a Greenfield site, a wildlife corridor and the burn, which Tesco intended to culvert, is the home to the endangered and protected water vole as well as occasional otters. After a two year 'battle', the council refused permission and Tesco dropped the appeal they had planned.

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

Kilpatricks Windfarm, The largest planning application objected to was Airtricity's proposals for 24x100m.high turbines to be erected to the north of Loch Humphrey, along with associated access roads and buildings. The decision to object was not taken lightly. We are a 'green' organisation and appreciate the dangers of the carbon dioxide being produced by power production from fossil fuels. Due to the fact that wind power only produces power for 35% of the time and needs 100% back-up from other sources for the remaining 65% of the time it can only ever be a marginal factor in reducing total CO2 emissions. Our objections can be seen on the website. Currently with the Scottish Executive for deliberation.

Houses at Roman Bridge, This application is adjacent to the bridge and partly on infill into the bed of the burn. Part of the arch of the bridge is being obstructed and garden rubbish dumped down the slope. The bridge may soon be listed as being a building of historic interest along the line of the Roman Wall which itself may get World Heritage status in the near future. We feel this building is inappropriate for this setting. It also obstructs the Wildlife Corridor provided by the Duntocher Burn. Still to come before the council.



SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES

Members attended and represented Clydebelt at meetings held by Clydebank Rebuilt, Access Forum and the Firth of Clyde Forum a meeting on mobile phone masts.

Took part in Lowland Canals clean up - 27 bin bags of rubbish removed from the Dalmuir area of the Forth and Clyde canal.

Took part in 2 beach clean ups - removing rubbish from the beaches along the Clyde at Old Kilpatrick.

Cochnohill Equestrian Centre, We objected to the erection of a block of 28 stables and a managers house as we considered the buildings would be very prominent in the landscape (greenbelt) Also, planning permission had already been given for a house adjacent to the new proposal. This first house was only granted on the condition it was to be the only one and would be associated with agricultural activity. The application was granted.

We made representation on council land (greenbelt) being sold at Auchentoshan Wood.

Asked that action be taken on the felling of trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order at Oceanfield/Auchentohan. Two men are to be prosecuted.

We made comment when the council tried to sell a flat in Dalmuir Park. The sale would have been in conflict with the original agreement set down by the Trustees of the park.

We asked that wildlife corridors be kept along the Canal and former railway line and made several comments on a proposal to build on a Greenfield site at Beardmore Place Dalmuir.

Scottish ministers announced on 11/08/04 that a new Scottish Planning Policy on green belts will be prepared, the draft probably appearing next spring. The Scottish Executive had sponsored research on Green Belts, to assess the operation and application of the present policy, and advise on changes. First impressions of the results and reactions were worrying, but Clydebelt joined members of other green belt groups to submit a document to the Executive, which seems to have been influential.

FUTURE PLANS

Continuing to campaign on "green issues" and protecting our greenbelt and "green areas" from development as much as possible:

- A walk to the March Stones in the Old Kilpatrick Hills.
- Days out to local places of environmental/historical interest.*
- Beach and Canal clean ups.*
- Environmental studies and surveys.*

Details of all of these will be found on our website once we have dates finalised. All items marked * are not organised by Clydebelt, however our members are involved and anyone who wants to join in will be more than welcome.

CLYDEBELT NEEDS YOU

Do you have any spare time or are you passionate about the countryside and environmental issues?

If so CLYDEBELT needs you.

We have a few vacancies on our committee that we need to fill in order to continue our work so if you can help please come along to the AGM and offer your services or if you are unable to make it on the night you can contact us via our website.

REMEMBER we can't continue without support.

HOW TO JOIN

Life Membership is only £1 for an individual or £2 for a household.

All we need from you apart from the money is your name and address and you can either join at the AGM or you can contact us via our website: <http://www.clydebelt.org.uk>.

Newsletters are very occasional, but Clydebelt's web site <http://www.clydebelt.org.uk>, has up-to-date news, notices of activities, dates of meetings, links to related organisations etc.

Please send your email address to assist@clydebelt.org.uk if you would like notification of urgent issues, eg the opportunity to write to the council on a plan for your neighbourhood.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AGM

"Clydebelt tries to be legal, decent, honest and truthful, and has made every effort to present fair opinions and accurate facts. Please let us know of any corrections."