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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, MSP's and MP'S.
- 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 **11th October 2005, 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.

Guest speaker - Brian Griffin of the New Fort Trust will give a talk on the Old Kilpatrick Roman Fort.

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 the Old Kilpatrick Roman Fort**

ACCESS FORUMS

During the last year members of Clydebelt attended meetings on the new access laws. Disputes or other matters relating to access are first addressed to the access committee through the Access Officer Helen Lundie at WDC Dumbarton.

The Access Committee consists of lay people with various backgrounds such as rambles, farmers, disabled etc. They will try to resolve problems amicably before passing them on to the council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Our objection to one of the two houses proposed for a site close to the Roman Bridge in Duntocher fell on deaf ears and was passed by the planning committee.

We had objected to the layout of the proposed houses and the fact that greenbelt was being encroached on at Carleith Farm. Again passed by the planning department. Hopefully some of what we said at the planning meeting will be adopted in the final plan.

There is currently a plan to convert the former Duntocher East Church (latterly Hardgate Hall) into flats. We commented on the parking arrangements shown on the plans.

We objected to proposed housing (Hospital Gate) by Clydebank Rebuilt, immediately adjacent to the east side of the Jubilee Hospital in Dalmuir. It would reduce considerably the amount of car parking and any future expansion of the hospital complex. We asked that a riverside walkway should be provided along the river frontage of the hospital.

Forty houses are proposed for the east side of Cochno Road on what was greenbelt until the last planning revue. The developers have put some thought into screening with hedges trees and open space and we made only minor suggestions as to how this might be improved.

Proposed houses at Burnbrae Duntocher have never materialised. We have been putting some effort into having access to the adjoining Duntocher Glen made easier. The glen was at one time a local beauty spot and now completely neglected and overgrown.

We have also been in contact with the Scottish Civic trust as to what action, if any, could be taken on the planning application by the Link Housing Group, to demolish approx. 200 red sandstone houses in Dalmuir and replace with 114 new homes. These are the houses on the south side of Dumbarton Road opposite the shops and library. Some of the new brick houses are almost identical in size and appearance to those being demolished.

THE FUTURE OF GREEN BELTS

A new Scottish Planning Policy on green belts was released for public consultation in August 2005. First impressions are worrying. Clydebelt has joined members of other groups, in the Scottish Green Belts Alliance, to respond to the consultation and try to persuade others to join in. See www.greenbelts.ukos.com.

It is good that the draft policy shows concern to halt rogue planning applications and decisions contrary to development plans, making Green Belts more certain for 20 years. But the policy should say what a green belt is, and state more objectives than their three, eg adding to prevent coalescence of settlements, to avoid ribbon development and sprawl, to protect and enhance countryside around towns. It must give more guidance, and not leave so much to development plans. We don't want coalescence of settlements, ribbon development and sprawl. "Growth on the urban fringe or in a development corridor ... may represent the most sustainable solution" may be true from a transport point of view, but not from all others.

Excluding from green belt designations "major educational and research uses, major business and industrial operations and airports, to allow for growth and change" is far too generous. This might have let in the Medical Technology Campus at Cochno, which was really a Business Estate.

Enclosed is a tick box form in which you can express your views on the Scottish Planning Policy regarding Greenbelts. Please fill in and post to make your views heard.

UPDATED STRUCTURE PLAN

The Updated Structure Plan may permit more housing and wind farms. Alterations to the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan was under consultation until June 2005. We were glad that they propose to retain existing areas designated as Green Belt. But we objected to the requirement for Dumbarton to contribute to the growth of housing for the wider G&CV area.

We also thought that the plan should decide what size of windfarm is "significant", below which, if outwith designated areas, it would not be seen as a departure from the plan. We objected that part of the Kilpatrick Hills will be designated as a "potential area of search for wind-farms", but we agreed that there should be a 3km buffer from windfarms round all settlements (therefore excluding Airtricity's site). We are still waiting for Airtricity to come back with more information on the impact of their proposed wind farm on the Kilpatrick Hills.

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? Could you help us with our website and / or secretarial duties?

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."

Please also send your e-mail address if you would like to receive the newsletter in this manner rather by snail mail.

"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."

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AGM