



# Clydebelt Newsletter - November 2007

## Late News

About 140 people attended a meeting in Dalmuir C.E. Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> November, to protest about the proposed removal of Dalmuir Park, golf course and Auchentoshan estate, from green belt. Attending were Provost Denis Agnew and Steve Marshall from WDC forward planning. Hopefully they were 'sent homewards to think again.'

There is already a planning decision by the Scottish Executive awaited on proposed housing in Auchentoshan by the Council, despite its greenbelt status. (see over)

## REMEMBER US?

It may be a year since you last heard from us but we are still about, working away, hopefully 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.
- Lobbying councillors, MSP's and MP'S.
- Working with other like minded organisations.
- Influencing planning and environmental policies.
- Helping local communities express objections.
- Giving evidence and questioning witnesses at public enquiries.

## AGM

As a current member you are invited to our AGM. This will be on the **20th November 2007, at the Duntocher Trinity Church, 7.30pm.**

Non members are also welcome, please come along on the night and you can find out a bit more about what we've been up to and what we have planned. We do feel our organisation is needed and would like you to show your support by attending.

**Guest speaker - Gillian Telfer our new Biodiversity officer will talk about her post and Biodiversity plans after the meeting.**

**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
5. Current issues
6. Future plans
7. Election of committee members
8. AOCB

## 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

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>

**See also below**

## E-MAIL CONTACT

We make no apologies for repeating last years appeal for Email addresses. We have few expenses, the main being an annual donation to the Trinity Church for use for meetings and for postage. Several members responded and have been kept informed on meetings and current events, we would appreciate if more subscribed. The message last year read :-

"When Clydebelt was first founded membership was £1 and over 500 joined. As we are still in funds from the monies collected at that time there has been no need to charge any further annual charges. However it is expensive to post to all our members and this is only done with our annual newsletter /AGM notice, many of which are hand delivered by committee members. It is intended that we should have a list of members with e-mail addresses so that we could at least inform them of any current events. If you want to receive these could you please send an e-mail to Clydebelt Information at :- [assist@clydebelt.org.uk](mailto:assist@clydebelt.org.uk)"

Also you can have a look at our website at :- [www.clydebelt.org.uk](http://www.clydebelt.org.uk), which we try to keep up to date.

***"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"***



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**Local Plan  
Achnacraig Estate  
Biodiversity Officer  
Access Officer**

**PLANNING MATTERS**

In the last year we made representation by letter on five planning applications and spoke at three.

**1. Thor Ceramics Site** - Flats for 88 homes were proposed for this site on the canal bank at Whitecrook. We commented that there was no access to the canal from Stanford Street to allow off road pedestrian access to the tow path and the shopping centre. There was only hard landscaping yet the canal bank is a listed wildlife corridor. The plans were altered to accommodate this but no one told us and the unamended plans were still on display one week before the hearing. The application was refused but is going to appeal.

**2. Auchentoshan / Bobath** - This has become a saga. The application first made some 18 months ago, was for a Bobath treatment centre, a new Adult handicapped day care centre and housing for a possible 35 units. The ground is currently in greenbelt. We opposed the application but it was passed last December. However as the ground will be sold by the council and it will profit from its own decision, the application had to be ratified by the Scottish Executive. They 'called it in' and the application judged at a public inquiry held recently, the decision should be made shortly. We were concerned with the way this application was made and that housing on this greenbelt wedge would start a precedent. Clydebelt along with the Parkhall, Kilbowie and Central Community Council opposed the council at the inquiry. We take no satisfaction in opposing the council in such cases; we have much more enjoyable ways of spending the considerable time this application has taken up.

**3. Davie Cooper Day Care Centre** - This proposed centre is on the Boulevard adjacent to the Golf Driving Range. It is on green belt, creates ribbon development and is accessed directly from the busy A82. Application was passed despite the WDC planners recommendation for refusal.

**4. Cochno House Stables** - Application by Glasgow University to demolish these listed buildings. We objected as the university did not provide evidence to comply with the rules laid down by Historic Scotland for demolition. The application was refused and we can only hope that money can be found for a restoration which compliments Cochno House, now renovated but once also threatened by demolition by the university. See website: [www.gla.ac.uk/cochno/cochnohouse.html](http://www.gla.ac.uk/cochno/cochnohouse.html)

**5. Hospital Gate** - This was for 284 flats and 500 car parking spaces along the riverside, in the car park of the Jubilee Hospital and offices adjacent at Cable Depot Road. We objected on the grounds that the site was too valuable to be lost to housing and with proposed new departments in the hospital should be reserved for future hospital use and/or car parking. The site for offices should be reserved for health related business and not 'offices' of which there are many vacant in the area. The decision was deferred and later the application was withdrawn. A new application for Cable Depot Road has been submitted.

**LOCAL PLAN**

A year ago in May we made our Submission on the Consultative Local Plan. The Final Draft has now been published which has been adjusted to reflect the comments received earlier, should the planners feel they were appropriate. Our main objection, the removal of the 'Dalmuir Wedge' from greenbelt was overruled. Consultants were employed to review all the green belt areas and they concurred with the Council's view over the Dalmuir wedge but, there is an adage that 'he who pays the piper calls the tune'. We have till 16<sup>th</sup> November to make comment on the Final Draft Plan and argue our case for retaining this area in green belt. The next step is a Public Inquiry as developers always dispute the final draft plan and seek further removal of greenbelt for house building. In such cases Clydebelt may well speak in support of the Council while still opposing the Dalmuir Wedge issue. Once the inquiry reporter has given his verdict on the disputed points the Local Plan will be finalised. Our comments and the council's replies can be seen on our

**AUCHNACRAIG ESTATE**

This council owned estate had considerable sums of money spent on it about 15 years ago. Unfortunately no funds were set aside for its upkeep and it has been going downhill steadily since. One of our members, Dave Marks, raised the matter, in March 2006, with then council leader Andy White and a meeting with WDC Land Services was held. Several points for improvement were agreed and some have been completed. However the main concern as to the state of the paths has not been addressed and many are wet, muddy and partly inaccessible; it now seems there is no money available for this. Perhaps if they had a more regular attention over the years they would not be in their present state. The signage is also filthy and has not been cleaned, although if this was done by in house labour we cannot see a vast cost.

**BIODIVERSITY OFFICER**

This is a statutory post and W.D.C. must be about the last council to appoint one, or, at least half of one, as Gillian Telfer has been recently appointed to cover both East and West Dunbartonshire Councils. Gillian has to prepare a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) to try to protect not only the rare and threatened but to encompass all living species, including the commonplace. Gillian will explain the aims of LBAPs after the AGM. Most councils have theirs up and running, for examples put Lbap into Google.

**ACCESS OFFICER**

WDC have been without an access officer for some months but a new one should be in place shortly. The main objective will be to produce a Core Paths Plan which will map and show all the important routes for Walkers, Cyclists and Horse Riders. This will hopefully be completed sometime next year.