



Clydebelt Newsletter and AGM Agenda November 2009

Dear Members,

The AGM of Clydebelt will be held in Trinity Church Hall Roman Road Duntocher at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17th November

Dedicated to protecting the environment of the KILPATRICK HILLS and surrounding area.

www.clydebelt.org.uk

The past year has been relatively uneventful committee wise but there has been good news and bad news as usual.

Good News

The West Dunbartonshire Access Officer, Donald Petrie, has got his Core Path Plan completed and approved. Also Gillian Telfer, Biodiversity Officer for both East and West Dunbartonshire, has completed her Bio-diversity Action Plan (LBAP) this only requires final consultations. The W.D. Local plan only awaits consultation on points changed by the reporter at the public inquiry

Bad News

Although only a small organisation W.D. Greenspace were instrumental in getting environmental projects done that would not have seen the light of day if left to the usual WDC departments. Now that money is even tighter, they have been axed. We hope that some of their type of projects will be continued through the planning dept., perhaps aided by the two officers mentioned above

Membership of Clydebelt

The main piece of bad news is that we can no longer continue to mail out newsletters to members at the addresses we have used since Clydebelt was first formed. Many of these may well have moved away. Membership was/is £1 and membership for 19 years for a pound has been an exceptional bargain. Below is a cut off application form to enable us to update and confirm our membership list. The large sum gathered through the efforts of the original committee has been steadily eroding.

We have some email addresses and these members have had newsletters during the year. If possible, please give an email address in order that we can keep you easily and cheaply informed of current happenings.

Please return the cut off form or send an email if you wish to continue your Membership

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Name.....

Address.....

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Postcode E mail.....

Please send to Clydebelt , Fairhills, Station Road Old Kilpatrick G 605LT

Or send these details by email to elizabethpitts@btinternet.com
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Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Sederunt
3. Minutes of last AGM
4. Matters arising
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Election of committee
8. Current Issues
9. Future Plans & Membership
10. A.O.C.B.

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Tea, coffee and biscuits

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Talk by Rebecca Whitley on the Woodland Trust and plans for Maryland Farm

The Woodland Trust & Maryland Farm (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/langcraigs)

Another item of good news is that The Woodland Trust are hoping to acquire Maryland Farm above Overtoun including the Lang Craigs. We are distributing their donation form leaflet explaining their aspirations Rebecca Whitley from the Trust will be speaking at the AGM. If possible, go to the above website read about the about the plans and watch the video.

A Kilpatrick's Walk at Maryland Farm

Anyone looking for a good walk in the Kilpatricks can do no better than start at Milton or the car park at Overtoun House, go past the house and follow the burn upstream to the open fields, turn east and uphill following the path below the Craigs to the Black Linn reservoir. An extra loop can be walked by also climbing north to the top of Doughnot Hill above the reservoir. Returning to the dam end, turn back towards the Craigs on a new/ improved forestry road and then follow the path along the top of the Craigs and at the end descend the steep slope back to Overtoun and to Milton.

Glorious views down the Firth of Clyde and birdwatchers the chance to see, among many others, Ravens, Green Woodpeckers, Buzzards Kestrels and even Peregrine, Merlin, Hen Harriers and Black Grouse are in the vicinity. The Craigs are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) mainly for their rare selection of plant life.

We are hoping to put some of the popular Kilpatrick Hill walks on our website and the Access Officer may print a booklet with these.

Off Road Motor Cycling

We have had numerous complaints of the noise and damage that can be created by motor bikes and quad bikes.

At the new Forestry Commission site at Cochnohill steel gate posts have been cut with angle grinders to get access.

The problem is widespread. In an attempt to regulate this and contain it in one place a meeting was held with the 'bikers', the police and officers from the council. It was suggested that a club, similar to one in North Lanarkshire (see www.nisqbc.com) be formed. The following three sites were looked at for creating a track - old quarry workings above Carman, Renton- Pappertwell Hill, Bonhill and Cochnohill, Hardgate. No decision as to a site has been reached but a steering committee has been formed to start the West Dunbartonshire off Road Club. Will this solve the problem? Should youth not be being encouraged to 'greener' pastimes like mountain biking?

Woodlands in and about Town (WIAG)

WDC have applied for money from this scheme to improve paths, remove litter, and plant some trees at the following council owned woodlands.-Auchnacraig/Edinbarnet, Auchentoshan, Luset Glen, the Saltings, Crosslet, Overtoun and Pappertwell Community Woodland. Hopefully they will be successful and we will see some improvements to these long neglected woodlands.

Dalmuir Park is subject to a separate grant application and it is hoped to get £600k to be matched with £600k that the council has set aside. It is hoped to give the park a complete 'make-over.'

The Green Dream

Clydebelt advertised two events to compliment others run by the council, under this heading, We were underwhelmed by the response- no one applied to come on a walk to 'Solve the Mystery of the Stones' on Carleith Muir. The walk round historical points of interest at Cochno did go ahead and was very much enjoyed by those attending. We will offer to repeat both of these again next May.

Wind Farm

Clydebelt objected some years ago to a planning application by Airtricity, for a wind farm between Loch Humphrey and Duncolm. This was withdrawn and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan directed that wind farms should be directed to the Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire Hills. However we hear that another application is imminent at Merkins Muir, which is north of the Kilpatricks towards Gartocharn. Where should we stand on this one?

If you have any interest in these topics or any other aspects of the Kilpatrick Hills and the environment of surrounding areas, please come along to the AGM, **November 17th Trinity Church Duntocher**, member or not we will be glad of your support and are willing to listen to your concerns and value your suggestions.