



Clydebelt News

Number five

October 1993

Clydebelt is the organisation dedicated to protecting our Greenbelt heritage in the Kilpatrick Hills.

It is non-political, non-sectarian, and non-profit-making

Dunbartonshire Enterprise Lifts Cochno Threat

Dunbartonshire Enterprise announced at the end of August that they would withdraw their outline planning application for building a Medical Technology Campus at Cochno Estate, and will seek to locate it away from the Kilpatrick Hills Greenbelt.

Dunbartonshire Enterprise requested a meeting with Clydebelt to explain the withdrawal of their planning application.

This took place in the evening of Wednesday, 25 August, between committee members of Clydebelt and a team from Dunbartonshire Enterprise led by chief executive Donald MacInnes.

They explained that they withdrew the application because they could not ignore the considerable objections to the Cochno site. They now felt it is important to consider the concerns of the local community, and to work together with Clydebelt.

It was made clear by Clydebelt chairman George Campbell that "Clydebelt is not against the establishment of a Medical Technology Campus in Clydebank, and we will support Dunbartonshire Enterprise in considering alternative sites outwith the greenbelt"

Our campaign

Our campaign against using Cochno Estate started in February this year. In contrast to our previous campaign against Kilpatrick Estates Ltd, we were this time able to have meetings with Dunbartonshire Enterprise to argue our case.

The defeat of this proposal was helped considerably by another public body, as Strathclyde Regional Council "called in" the application in May. They doubted whether it would conform with their Regional Structure Plan.

Clydebelt lobbied the public, officials, councillors and MPs, and found a great deal of support for making Dunbartonshire Enterprise find a better site for the development.

Although our main objection was to the spoiling of a greenbelt site, there was considerable opposition to constructing new roads in the area, with much extra traffic.

After many serious objections were received by the Regional Council, Dunbartonshire Enterprise withdrew their outline planning application at the end of May.

try, try again

But they put it back in again on July 12th with just a reduction in the number of buildings. This, of course, didn't satisfy any of our objections. And the reduced size of the Campus eliminated Dunbartonshire Enterprise's objections to many of the previously-rejected alternative sites.

There were also questions about whether the planning application had been put properly to consultation.

Eventually the force of argument from Clydebelt and others with like mind convinced Dunbartonshire Enterprise of the futility of their Cochno proposal. We hope that they won't change their minds again.

the good news

- Clydebelt is glad that in this issue the Regional Council appeared to be upholding its greenbelt policies.
- Agreement has been reached between Clydebelt and Dunbartonshire Enterprise to hold regular consultations on environmental issues.
- Clydebelt thanks all those who supported our objections to these outline planning applications.

Local Plan to permit houses?

A Public Enquiry starts on Nov 15th on appeals against the Clydebank District Local Plan.

The main item concerning Clydebelt is that John Lynch (Builders) Ltd has appealed to have Greenbelt land around Carleith Farm released for building. Developers also want land freed for house

building in the "green finger" right down into Dalmuir Park.

Clydebelt will go to the Enquiry to support the Council on this issue, but we are opposed to a clause that the Council wants to put into the Local Plan that seems to permit extensions, of any size, around Estate houses such as Cochno and Edinbarnet.

It seems that the Regional Council doesn't want this clause in their plans, but the Clydebank District Council does want to make it that bit easier for developers to build in the greenbelt.

Meeting

8pm 4th October 1993

see back page for details

Edinbarnet Saved

Clydebelt objected to and Clydebank District Council refused permission for an ugly extension to Edinbarnet House which would destroy valuable features of this listed building.

Clydebelt took part in the Public Inquiry hearing the owner's appeal on 16th March 1993, and persuaded the Reporter that the owners should rebuild the former roof space rather than have their extension.

Community Woods

Clydebelt has been attempting to follow the complex ever-changing stories about woodlands being developed in the Kilpatrick Hills.

Members have been invited by the Forestry Authority to visit woods near Dundee for full details of the Community Woodlands scheme.

The Forestry Authority assures us that no landowner will receive a grant under this scheme until the local community, including Clydebelt, is satisfied with the plans.

The Saltings

Many members are keen that the Old Kilpatrick saltings - which recently attracted £200,000 of EC money - are safely protected as a wildlife area. This area, and Auchnacraig,

you are invited to the
Clydebelt Members'

General Meeting

8pm 4th October 1993

in the Trinity Church,
Roman Road, Duntocher

We will discuss the issues raised in this Newsletter, and any more that arise. The meeting is for all those who are members - all who receive this newsletter - to decide the way forward. Come and make your feelings known.

Agenda

1. Minutes of 22nd March meeting
2. Financial Report
3. Membership fee next year?
4. News since previous meeting
5. Current issues (as in this Newsletter)
6. Future directions?
7. Any other competent business

more information from Clydebelt Chairman/Secretary George Campbell,
1c Burnbrae Street, Faifley, Clydebank G81 5BY 0389 76540

North of Faifley, are under threat of overdevelopment by well-meaning, but insensitive plans.

We have made representations to the Clydebank District Council, and to Dunbartonshire Enterprise, who provide some of the funds for these projects.

Dumping

Members are worried about derelict eyesores where dumping has taken place. In some of these places developers may be trying to get permission for change of land use. Can Clydebelt help to get these places cleaned up?

Local Government Reform

Will water "franchisation" restrict access to the hills ?

What will happen when Clydebank Council joins Dumbarton, and the Strathclyde Regional Council is removed, together with its wider perspective and undoubted strong desire for environmental protection ?

Should Clydebelt try to take action to limit any dilution of greenbelt policies that many members fear may arise from these "reforms" ?

CLYDEBELT CONSTITUTION adopted at the general meeting on 22nd March 1993

- 1 The name of this organisation shall be Clydebelt.
- 2 The aims and objectives of this organisation shall be to retain and enhance the natural heritage and Greenbelt status of the Kilpatrick Hills and surrounding areas.
- 3 Membership shall be open to anyone who agrees with and accepts the aims and objectives of this organisation regardless of race, creed or political persuasion.
- 4 Membership fees shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and shall endure for one year.
- 5 Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and shall be circulated to all Committee members and Clydebank public libraries.
- 6 A financial report shall be made at every membership and Committee meeting and full accounts will be presented at the AGM. Full financial records shall be available for inspection to any member on written request. Financial records shall be audited annually by two auditors (who shall not be Committee members) appointed by the AGM.
- 7 Membership meetings shall be held on a regular basis not less than four times a year and shall be called under public notice.
- 8 A Committee shall be elected from the membership at the AGM, or at a special general meeting called for that purpose, and shall be responsible for carrying out the decisions of the membership. The Committee shall meet regularly as required and not less than six times a year.
- 9 The Committee shall consist of twenty member, including office bearers. The office bearers shall be: chairperson, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, minute-secretary, and publicity-officer.
- 10 A decision-making quorum shall require forty members at a membership meeting, and seven Committee members at a Committee meeting.
- 11 Voting shall be by a show of hands and open to all members. The Chairman has a casting vote. At a Committee meeting only elected members shall be eligible to vote.
- 12 Clydebelt can be dissolved only at a quorate AGM or EGM, providing twenty-eight days notice of this proposal has been given in writing to the membership. Such a proposal should include provision for disposal of any assets after discharge of liabilities held by, or in the name of the organisation, and any excess will be passed to an organisation with objectives similar to those of Clydebelt.
- 13 This constitution shall only be amended at a quorate AGM
- 14 An EGM can be called by the Committee or by a written resolution signed by 20 members, and requires 28 days public notice.