

**Minute of the Parkhall, North Kilbowie & Central Community Council meeting
held on Wednesday 24th October 2007 in the Parkhall Tenants Hall,
Parkhall Road, Clydebank**

Councillors Present:

Neil Etherington	Anne Hickey	Alex MacFarlane
Walter Graham	Gilbert Howatson	Drummond McNair
	Jim Lindsay	Jim Paisley

Ex Officio: WDC Provost Denis Agnew

C1.0 Remarks & Introductions:

C1.01 Comm Cllr Chair Jim Lindsay opened the meeting at 7.30pm and reminded the Community Councillors that the purpose of the closed meeting was to discuss the 'Local Plan – Finalised Draft', and in particular the section referring to the 'Western Wedge' Green Belt. This consisted of Auchentoshan Woods & Parkland, Dalmuir Park and Dalmuir Golf Course. The WDC Planning Officers wish to change the classification of these areas. He asked Comm Cllr Gilbert Howatson, Planning Delegate, to explain why the Community Council should consider opposing such changes.

C2.0 Local Plan – Finalised Draft – Proposed Changes to Western Wedge:

C2.01 Gilbert explained that every Local Authority must produce a Local Plan for their administrative area which categorises every acre of land and defines its usability. Every so often the Local Plan is reviewed and the WDC Planning Officers propose amending previously categorised areas of land from, for example, industrial to residential housing, or business to retail use. Before any changes can be made the Local Plan must go through a series of drafts, and consultation exercises. The West Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2007 has now reached its final draft stage and is out for public consultation. The deadline for objections is the 16th November 2007.

Green Belt categorisation has a built-in protection in that any strong opposition to planning applications that may violate the green belt can be referred to the Reporter for the Scottish Parliament to make a final decision. Public Open Space [Retention of Open Space – Policy R1] status does not have this safeguard and therefore the Council become the ultimate decision makers. Public Open Space land also attracts the attention of property speculators, who regard these areas as future development opportunities.

He said that, in addition to opposing the change to the 'Western Wedge' from Green Belt to Retention of Open Space the Community Council should consider objecting to the rezoning of Auchentoshan Parkland to Public Service Opportunity category, and to the introduction of housing on the site of the present Occupational Centre.

C2.02 Various aspects were discussed by the Councillors and Provost Denis Agnew such as the quality of the woodland in this area, migratory animals crossing the A82, WDC ownership of Auchentoshan, the demands of the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan and Planning Guidance SPP21.

C2.03 It was unanimously decided that the Community Council should oppose what is considered a down grading of the Western Wedge and the rezoning proposal, and the introduction of housing on the site of the Occupational Centre. It was also decided that action should be taken as soon as possible to engage the residents of Clydebank with a view to getting the maximum number of informed individual objections as possible.

It was acknowledge that following on from this current period of public consultation, WDC Planning Department will consider all responses made to the Plan and these will be reported to the Council's Planning Committee in Spring 2008. A list of modifications to the Plan will then be published for further public consultation. Any unresolved objections to the Plan will then be considered at a Public Local Inquiry before a Reporter from the Scottish Government. This is unlikely to be held before October/November 2008

C2.04 The meeting decided to organise and hold an Open Public Meeting on the 5th November in the Dalmuir CE Centre, Duntocher Rd, starting at 7.30pm. **Action**

C2.05 Representatives from WDC Planning Dept and WDC Cllr Ronnie McColl, Planning Committee Chair to be invited. **Action**

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| C2.05 | A standard letter to be compiled and copied for distribution at, and after, the public meeting. | Action |
| C2.06 | An advertisement placed in the Clydebank Post. A letter sent to the 'Editors Letters' section. | Action |
| C2.07 | Posters printed and posted in the area around the Western Wedge and elsewhere. | Action |
| C2.08 | Special page added to the Community Council website advising of the public meeting and the ability to download the std letter, together with suggested answers to the WDC Online Form. | Action |
| C2.09 | A Statement submitted to the WDC Online Forum, advising of public meeting, the Community Council website, and encouraging comments and discussion. | Action |

C3.0 Any Other Competent Business:

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| C3.01 | Comm Cllr Walter Graham had received correspondence referring to the proposed Post Office closures in Glasgow & Western Scotland. The list had been released by the Post Office the previous day. It confirmed that Kilbowie Rd [Radnor Park] PO is on the closure list and Parkhall PO [Hawthorn St] is not to be reopened. The Post Office is inviting public consultation until the 3 rd December. Any written responses should be received by the Post Office before this date. | Noted |
| | The PO's at Hardgate [Co-op], Dalmuir [Dunn St] and the Clyde Shopping Centre [Co-op] are not affected. | |
| C3.02 | WDC has decided to oppose any PO closures, and the meeting unanimously decided to follow suit. A strategy will be considered at the next Community Council meeting. | |

C4.0 Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting: Open Community Council Meeting:

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| C4.01 | Tuesday 13 th November 2007 7.30pm Parkhall Tenants Hall, Parkhall Road, Clydebank |
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