



Clydebelt News

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

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

Laboratories and Houses in Greenbelt

Local Plan OK...

Clydebelt has been consulted at all stages as the Clydebank District Council forms its new Local Plan. We are pleased that this important document firmly incorporates the Greenbelt and hills policies for which we have fought. But we were mobilised into action when we discovered over a holiday weekend that Councillors intended to hurry through a change to the Local Plan immediately prior to last year's District Council Elections. This would have allowed release of an area of Greenbelt land to developers. Clydebelt made its views known, turning out in strength at the Council meeting on Tuesday 5th May, and the proposed change was deleted from the agenda.

...but Builders Appeal

We have now been told that John Lynch (Builders) Ltd has forced a Public Inquiry on their appeal to have Greenbelt land around Carleith Farm released for building. The Reporters to similar previous Inquiries rejected all the builders' arguments. We must press for the same decision this time.

We know there is constant pressure from housebuilders to acquire the countryside we want to protect, despite brownfield sites being available for their purpose. If we as an organisation do not fight to protect even small pockets of Greenbelt land, and Councils give way to pressure from a developer, others will take this as a precedent making it harder for Councils to refuse future applications.

80,000 m² Lab in Hills

An outline planning application has been lodged this month by Dunbartonshire Enterprise for a Medical Technology Campus on Cochno Estate, owned by Glasgow University. It proposes dozens of buildings including two 300-car multistory car-parks.

Previous reports that this complex would be linked to Health Care International's private hospital in Dalmuir led us to believe that an acceptable brownfield site by the Clyde was envisaged. Targeting the Greenbelt for this massive development conflicts directly with the District Local Plan, which was only recently drawn up to protect the local environment on the hills.

We are also worried by the recent Scotland on Sunday warning that the laboratories would concentrate on dangerous genetic engineering research for Japanese and American companies which is not permitted in those countries.

What Next ?

you can help to decide what we do about all these threats -

See the back page for details of our next meeting

and Yet More Cars ?

We hear of plans for a 20-place car park at Muirhouses Farm, and making the private road public. We suspect non-Greenbelt motives, and want to know more.

Edinbarnet Inquiry

Clydebelt objected to and CDC refused permission for an ugly extension to Edinbarnet House which would destroy valuable features of this listed building. A Public Inquiry hearing the owner's appeal will take place in the Clydebank Lesser Town Hall, on 16th March at 10am. We urge members to go and show the strength of feeling against such development in the Greenbelt.

Ski Slopes Again

Again developers want to put an artificial ski slope in the Kilpatrick Hills, with road, cars and a building. The Council suggested that the developers ask our opinion, which was firmly against it.

The Saltings

Clydebelt members are pleased that the Old Kilpatrick saltings are being protected as a wildlife area.

Forbidden Britain

Last year the Rambler's association organised a "Forbidden Britain" day to highlight problems about rights of way. Their action involved mass trespass on local farmland, and on this occasion Clydebelt did not support it. We felt that their action was inappropriate in this area and would be counterproductive.

Raving Mad

Many Clydebelt members were horrified at the thought of a winter's night rave in the hills. The full danger of the proposed event was made public at a meeting that we hosted on 12th December. We thank the Police Inspector and Councillors Cairney and Sweeney for answering the questions. Fortunately the rave was stopped.

you are invited to the Clydebelt Members'

Extraordinary General Meeting

7.30pm on Monday 22nd March 1993 in the
Trinity Church, Roman Road, Duntocher

to anyone
who has supported
the Clydebelt campaigns

Although we will discuss recent threats, the main business of this meeting will be to decide on what Clydebelt should do in the future.

Come along to make your feelings known.

We are holding a general meeting at the same place as our first one, when 400 came out to show the strength of feeling against developers taking away our local heritage. The meeting is for all those who are members - all who receive this newsletter - to decide the way forward.

The existing ad-hoc Committee will propose setting up a formal structure for Clydebelt, with a constitution and official Committee.

Many of the existing Committee are willing to continue, but we hope that at least 10 fresh faces volunteer to form the new Committee. Nominations will be accepted at the meeting for post-holders - chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, minutes secretary, publicity officer, and others. We need people with skills and people with time, but above all people who care. It would help if anyone will indicate or discuss their willingness in advance, by phoning the Newsletter Editor (Dun 73606) preferably by Monday 15th March.

Where next ?

It was agreed soon after we started that Clydebelt should continue beyond the Kilpatrick Estates' threat, and play an active role in the community. The exact nature of this role has yet to be defined, but a number of issues of common concern were identified by Committee members and could form the basic backbone of Clydebelt for the future.

- should Clydebelt concentrate on environmental protection ?
- is vandalism something we should guard against, perhaps identifying and reporting on such occurrences ?
- should Clydebelt press for the many "brownfield" sites to be cleared and developed before considering the use of Greenbelt land ? All land usage in the Clydebank District should be of concern to Clydebelt which could become a forum for consultation

Agenda

1. Minutes of previous meeting
2. News since previous meeting
3. Financial Report
4. Future direction for Clydebelt
5. Adoption of a Constitution
6. Election of a Committee
7. Any other competent business

with planning departments and other bodies concerned with land usage.

- should closer relationships with landowners be fostered, perhaps forming a partnership in the management and improved use of land ?
- should Clydebelt seek to purchase a strategic plot of land which might block future large-scale exploitation ?
- should Clydebelt hold discussions with Enterprise Trusts, Chambers of Commerce, MPs, MEPs, officials of District and Regional Councils, the STUC and other conservation and amenity organisations to explore possibilities and protections ?
- how can Clydebelt work productively with Kilpatrick's Project Ltd?
- should funds be sought for supporting farmers who wish to work the land for managing the area to benefit the environment and local people with the assistance of the various agencies and pressure groups ?
- one idea floated is the establishment of a "Peoples' Trust" to purchase land to protect it from damaging exploitation.
- should Clydebelt work in harmony with landowners and the public to encourage people who want access to the hills to behave responsibly and respect farmers' concerns ?

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

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.
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.
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 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 fifty 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. 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 one 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 21 days public notice.