

HOLME HILL COMMUNITY BUYOUT
MEETING HELD ON 6 APRIL 2005, SCOTTISH CHURCHES HOUSE

Attendees at 6 April Meeting:

Steve Mason (Chair), Rosemary Bland, Deirdre Wilson, Paul Jones, David Totten, Ian Adam, Iain Watt, John Seddon, Caroline Crawford, Andrew Gould, Liz Law, John Veitch, Malcolm Wilson, Heather Brennan, Alan Booth.

Apologies

Jim Bennett, Gerard Hastings

Agenda

1. Introductions

A list was circulated for attendees to enter names.

2. General Update – Steve Mason

2. 1 The Scottish Executive have decided that our application should not be entered in the Register of Community Interests in Land – i.e. they have rejected our application. The letter containing this news was dated 5 April 2005 and e-mailed to Caroline and Claire by SEERAD. The reasons related to sections 39(3)(a) and 39(3)(c) of the Act. There was also mention of the ‘thwarting of the planning process’.

2. 2 By virtue of section 61 of the Act we have a right of Appeal against this decision. The appeal has to be lodged within 28 days.

2. 3 Richard Frew is the officer at SEERAD dealing with the case. Steve has spoken to him on the phone and he was open and approachable – he seemed willing to come and talk to the group.

2. 4. It was unanimously agreed that we should lodge an appeal against the decision.

2. 5. We would need legal advice to take forward an appeal to the Stirling Sheriff – Douglas Brodie may be able to advise. Also legal adviser to Park of Keir may be a useful contact – Rosemary to look into this. Ian Watt may also know someone who may be able to offer legal assistance.

2.1 The status of the site in planning terms is important, particularly as this is alluded to in the response from the Scottish Executive.

2.7 We could also negotiate directly with the Hilton over the sale of the land – if we did this (i.e. without being registered through the Land Reform Act) we would apparently still be eligible to apply to the Scottish Land Fund for financial support. We would need a valuation of the land – this may cost around £700. Brian Greive may be able to help.

2.8 DDT could potentially reapply to register a community interest in the land if they amend their articles and memorandum. John Seddon to take this forward with DDT.

2.9 Ian Watt will draft a press release about the news, but it will be upbeat in tone.

3. Open Meeting - 13 April

3.1 The proposed meeting has been widely publicised already – i.e. Community View, Stirling Observer – so there was agreement that we should go ahead with it as planned, though with a slightly different agenda. We should be positive and maintain enthusiasm, but relay information about the Minister's decision.

3.2 People attending the meeting could be encouraged to write to MPs and question them about their stand on Holmehill. Information/handouts could be provided as background – Ian W to organise. The Community View editor also plans to canvas opinion on the matter from MPs on behalf of the editorial team.

3.3 A small group agreed to meet on Sunday at 5pm to plan further details of the public meeting. There will be presentations to provide updates, followed by group discussion about future plans and proposals for the area.

4. Finance – Treasurer's Report

4.1 Steve reported that the Bank Account is nearly set up. Steve also provided a table showing projected cash flows. We are likely to have around £800 by the end of the ceilidh.

4.2 Charitable status is being investigated, as is public liability insurance.

5. Ballot – update

5.1 Deirdre will tell the Electoral Reform Society, who have been very helpful, that all is on hold meantime following the SE decision. The likely cost of the ballot is £7-10,000. The leaflets about Holmehill and the ballot are to be delivered to households in any case.

6. Events – update

6.1 Steve McGrail has kindly agreed to lead a guided tour of Holmehill on Saturday morning at 11am. Meet at the 'For Sale' sign at Braeport side.

6.2 The Teddy Bears' Picnic will go ahead as advertised. The publicity letters about Holmehill, drafted to go out to all Dunblane groups, are on hold meantime.

6.3 A suggestion was made of a 'Local Gardens' Open Day' as a fundraiser – this idea has apparently worked well elsewhere.

6.4 Other ideas are Karaoke Nights and Bands Nights – however it seems there are very few available dates at the Victoria Hall over the next few months.

7. Communications – update

7.1 The leaflets have been printed and are ready for distribution. The revised logo has been included. Everything else is reported as being on hold meantime.

7.2 The latest edition of the Dunblane Community View has just appeared and carries an article on Holmehill on the front page. It will go out to each household in Dunblane tomorrow.

8 Ceilidh – organisational requirements for Saturday 9th

8.1 Caroline had discussed this with Gerard, who was unable to attend the meeting. He has passed on information re volunteers etc required for various tasks on Saturday in order to ensure the smooth running of the event. Names were taken of those able to undertake the various necessary tasks – further details will be available from Gerard who will be at the Victoria Hall from 6pm onwards on Saturday night.

8.2 Steve reported that ticket sales were going pretty well with almost 100 tickets sold to date.

Caroline Crawford
Secretary