

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board in Braeport Centre, Dunblane

Tuesday 22 January 2013

- 1 **Attendance:** The meeting was attended by Chris Spray [in the Chair], Caroline Crawford, Libby Hughes, Lorraine Stassin, Jean Marie Stassin, Alastair McCulloch, Guy Crawford, Chris Toop, Richard Bland, and Rosemary Bland.
- 2 **Apologies for absence:** Steve Mason, Christine and Robin Davies, Corrie McChord
- 3 **Minutes of meeting** 12 November were accepted.
- 4 **Matters arising:** We still need to arrange to meet Mike Robbins, Provost Stirling Council. We have made contact with the Woodlot Association, and need to follow that up. **Action LH**
- 5 **Finances:** SM not at meeting, but finances assumed satisfactory.
- 6 **Proposed Stirling Local Development Plan.** Representation was made to the Council by the Holmehill Community Buyout Group. We sought minor amendments to strengthen the designation of Holmehill as Open Green space in the Settlement Statement for Dunblane.
A separate response concerning the proposed building of affordable houses on the adjacent land at Bogside was submitted. This emphasised the importance of retaining the vista and landscape features of the hill. Both responses can be viewed at www.holmehillblog.org
Members were also encouraged to respond, and many did.
- 7 **Review of Land Reform Legislation.** DP prepared and submitted an excellent clear and concise response to this, in particular highlighting the experience of the Holmehill Group. This will be posted on www.holmehillblog.org
- 8 **Planning Application 12/00544/PPP:** has yet to be decided. Many members and parents of St Mary's school pupils have written to object to this application.
Legal advice was sought by Stirling Council in connection with the Section 75/50 agreement. The advice was that 'the Council is not bound to accept the current application on the basis of the Section 75 agreement, however the Council does have a duty to determine applications in accordance with the development plan and material considerations'.
The roads department made several reports which can be viewed on the Council website. The most recent suggested possible access to the site can be viewed at www.holmehillblog.org It suggests removing 'one-way' designation of a short section at the north end of Smithy Loan, allowing direct access to Holmehill from Perth Road. Local residents and parents have written to say that they consider this dangerous and unworkable.
- 9 **Environmental surveys:** on going, always interesting and informative. Posted on www.holmehillblog.org and species numbers on BTO website. **Action CS**
- 10 **Events/initiatives/fundraising** We need new, fresh ideas. CC and LS agreed to lead this. We should build on the successful Dawn Chorus [May], Flora Day [June] and Dunblane Council of Churches-led St Blane's Day [August] events.
We do need some funds to cover on-going expenses.
RoB has written an article about Holmehill for St Mary's church magazine, and she will seek to have it published in the Cathedral Newsletter, Holy Family church Newsletter and 'The Wire'.
Action CC/LS/RoB

- 11 **Website and blog:** Richard Bland does a great job keeping this up to date. Grant, who set it up, has moved to Sheffield. RB will liaise with Grant so that Holmehill pays for its own domain name and hosting, which will make it easier for him to manage the site.
Action RiB
- 12 **AOCB** Guy Crawford reported on a recent article in the Financial Times. It suggested changes in regulation of the Banks may make loans for commercial development more expensive, and reduce property values. This may make Holmehill a less attractive asset for a property developer.
- 13 **Date of next meeting** Wednesday 17 April at 7.30 pm, Braeport Centre. LH 2013-01-23