

# COMMUNITY BUY-OUT NEWSLETTER NO 4

September 2018



## HCWG UPDATES CASTLE WOODS PLAN

Cut through from Rhu Road Higher behind Lomond School Sports Hall to West King Street, and you'll find yourself in Castle Woods. Just like Duchess Woods across the road, this is ancient semi-natural woodland that's been here long before Helensburgh. Although subject to a Tree Preservation Order, designated as an Open Space Protection Area, and with the northern half also recognised as a Local Nature Conservation Site, Castle Woods is badly neglected & is still threatened by the owners' proposal to replace it with a 72-unit housing estate.

HCWG has been campaigning to save Castle Woods since 2012. That year, we presented our initial proposals to a well-attended public meeting. Since then, the old adjacent Jutland Court has been demolished & new replacement homes are now being built. So we've updated our plans, to take account of public comments & link better into the new housing area.



**HCWG's latest plans for Castle Woods** (the new houses currently under construction are shown to the left of the woods)

### Our plans for Castle Woods include:

- Creating better quality footpaths & boardwalks & more welcoming access points
- Constructing quality timber fences to demarcate boundaries
- Encouraging suitable wildlife habitats to promote local biodiversity.
- Removing invasive laurel bushes & felling trees that are dead, dying or dangerous
- Felling some non-native trees to allow native shrubs & trees to prosper
- Planting native trees to ensure a stronger woodland structure

In 2016, the Scottish Government approved our applications to register a community interest in both Castle Woods and the land at Cumberland Avenue. Following a public consultation event held in May 2017, we have also produced a management plan for Cumberland Avenue (illustrated to the right). This site is also designated as an Open Space Protection Area & covered by Tree Preservation Order. You can find details of all our plans at [www.hcwg.co.uk](http://www.hcwg.co.uk).



**Registration means that the current owners must give us first option if they ever wish to sell. We have tried to buy the land, but so far without success. But the Scottish Government has now introduced new powers for ‘compulsory’ community buy-outs of abandoned or neglected land. We are now exploring this way forward.**

**[JOIN OUR CAMPAIGNS TO BRING THE LAND AT CUMBERLAND AVENUE AND CASTLE WOODS INTO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP](#)**

**The more members we have, the stronger we are and the better the chance of transforming & protecting these areas for everyone’s benefit!** HCWG membership costs just £15 per adult or £25 for two or more adults in the same household, from now until the end of 2019. Please support our campaigns by completing the details below:

**Name(s)**

**Address**

**E-mail**

**Landline**

**Mobile**

I/We are over the age of 16, eligible and registered to vote at the above address, and support the charitable purposes of Helensburgh Community Woodlands Group

**Signed:**

**Please return to HCWG, 31 Ardencaple Drive, Helensburgh, G84 8PT with the cheque for £15 or £25 made payable to Helensburgh Community Woodlands Group**

**Email:** [hcwg@outlook.com](mailto:hcwg@outlook.com)

**Website:** [www.hcwg.co.uk](http://www.hcwg.co.uk)

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