

# COMMUNITY BUY-OUT NEWSLETTER NO 9

January 2020



## COMMUNITY BALLOT – RESULTS

If you haven't already heard the results of the community ballot held in September: there was a 43.5% response rate with 92% of votes in favour of a community acquisition of Castle Woods, and 90% in favour of the acquisition of the open ground at Cumberland Avenue. We are delighted with the results - sincere thanks to everyone that took part. Posting those envelopes was really, really important. Well done all of you that voted.

## APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

This strong endorsement by the community gave us the backing we needed to move ahead with our applications to acquire the land under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. We applied to the Scottish Government in December 2019.

The formal review process has begun, and all of the documentation can be viewed online at <https://roacbl.ros.gov.uk/viewRegister.html>

Click on **AB00001** and **AB00002** to view the documents. Having number 1 and 2 in the list confirms our applications are the first to be received under this legislation; ground-breaking stuff from Helensburgh!

The application process takes a minimum of 180 days, so we expect a decision by the Scottish Ministers this coming May/June. We will keep you informed about any significant news.

## RESIDENTS RECEIVE LETTERS FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Some residents will have received a letter from the Scottish Government asking for their views about the land and the proposed community acquisition. If you have received one, you can make a real difference by responding. The Scottish Ministers value the input from the local community, so please take the time to respond.

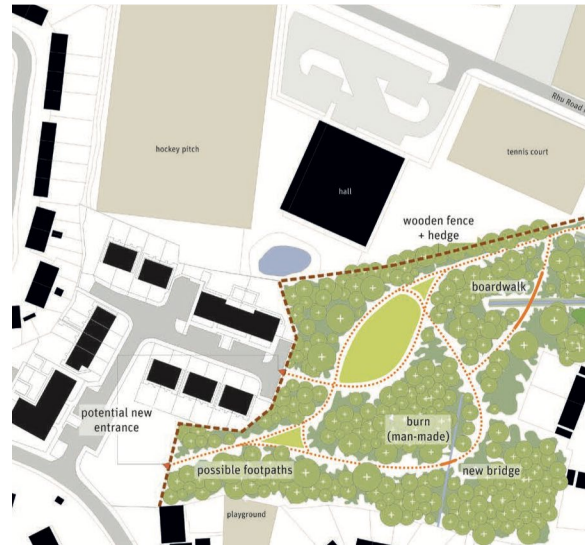
## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEB

If you would like to understand more of the details about our plans for Castle Woods or the open ground at Cumberland Avenue please come along to the AGM of the Helensburgh Community Woodlands Group held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Helensburgh Parish Church hall in Colquhoun Square.

**WHAT DO WE PLAN TO DO WITH THE LAND? Please turn over.....**

## Castle Woods

- Resolve problems relating to tree and public safety
- Improve site drainage
- Tackle invasive species
- Clear fly-tipping and other rubbish
- Construct robust footpaths and boardwalks
- Create welcoming access points with signs
- Construct quality timber fences where appropriate
- Encourage suitable wildlife habitats to promote biodiversity
- Plant new native trees to ensure a stronger woodland structure



## Cumberland Avenue

- Carry out site clearance to cut back tall ruderal vegetation and scrub growth
- Clear up debris from previous felling operations
- Deal with invasive species, particularly Himalayan Balsam
- Manage site boundaries to ensure on-going security and privacy of neighbouring properties.
- Construct robust pathway through the site and reinstate public access
- Reinststate low-level broadleaf woodland

## **PLEASE JOIN US**

**The more members we have, the better the chance of transforming & protecting these areas for everyone's benefit.**

Your membership fees have been vital in helping us get to this stage. HCWG membership costs £15 per adult or £25 for two or more adults in the same household, from now until the end of 2020. 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, OR – contact us by email [hcwg@outlook.com](mailto:hcwg@outlook.com) with your details and pay by using the “Donate” button on our website [www.hcwg.co.uk](http://www.hcwg.co.uk) – please include your email address for reference. Helensburgh Community Woodlands Group is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) Charity Number SC044648. Visit us on Facebook: “helensburgh community woodlands group”**