

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown

Community Association

AGM Newsletter

April 2024

Community Association AGM

The Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association AGM will be held in the Horizon Hotel on Wednesday 8th May at 7pm and all residents in the Association area are invited to attend. Entry is free and no booking is required. A number of important community issues will be discussed. Your voice is important!

Art and Heritage Trail

The main event of the evening will be a presentation by consultant Fergus Sutherland of 'Icosse Heritage and Media' who will outline plans to create an Art and Heritage Trail taking in the South Harbour and esplanade. He will be seeking ideas from residents on what they wish included in the project. Discussion will take place on environmental enhancements, how to support access to water sport and ways of providing educational facilities to learn about the heritage of the area.



Removal of the 'Watchful'



The issue of the 'Watchful' fishing boat has been a bone of contention for years. As this memorial to fishermen lost at sea decayed in the South Harbour there appeared to be little positive action at Council or any other level to save it. Following a campaign by the Community Association and others however the Council decided that, as the boat could not be effectively repaired, it would be removed and a suitable memorial would be left in its place. Recently family members and others associated with the 'Watchful' joined a large community gathering at a moving decommissioning ceremony conducted by the Rev David Gemmell. Council Leader Martin Dowey underlined the Council's commitment to have a memorial erected. The Community Association's AGM on 8th May will be updated on all plans for the South Harbour and we hope the community's voice will be heard and that this area becomes an attraction rather than an eyesore.

Ward Councillors

We have invited our four ward councillors, Bob Shields, George Weir, Lee Lyons and Council Leader Martin Dowey to the AGM. Political support is essential if the various initiatives we are pursuing are to come to fruition and it is important that the councillors hear a collective community voice. We hope as many residents as possible will attend this AGM.

Your Community Needs You

As the FSWCA moves forward with its various projects we find ourselves increasingly in need of new volunteers to help manage our workload. In particular our work on the Wallacetown Community Energy Project and the South Harbour Development Project see us in need of people who can help in both organisational and practical capacities with the development and delivery of these projects. Your participation could involve joining us as a committee member, but if that's not for you, you can still provide support either by joining one of our Project Sub-Groups or even just by occasionally helping out with a particular job or task. If you have some free time and a passion for helping improve your local community, why not drop us an e-mail and we can have a chat. fswcamember@gmail.com

Wallacetown Community Arts Festival

The first Wallacetown Arts Festival starts on Monday 15 April, and will include film screenings, art exhibitions, music events, a history walk and more. Info: <https://www.theirisayr.com/wallacetowncaf>

Agenda:

1. Welcome by Chairperson.
2. Apologies/ Proxy forms received.
3. Adoption of Minutes of last AGM - 28th June 2023.
4. Matters Arising: Minutes of 28th June 2023.
5. Association Initiatives: Updates:
 - Wallacetown Energy project.
 - Short Term Lets.
 - Seafront, South Harbour and the 'Watchful'.
 - Refurbishment of the Citadel Leisure Centre.
6. Presentation by Fergus Sutherland - 'The Arts and Heritage Trail'.
7. FSWCA financial Report.
8. FSWCA Constitution and objects explained.
9. Membership applications. (Note: Membership of the Association is free and membership forms will be available to complete at the AGM)
10. Election of 9 Management Committee members. (Note: A total of 9 committee members can be nominated. All existing members can nominate themselves. If more than 9 owners are nominated then an election will take place.)
11. Any Other Business: (Note: Items can be submitted to fswcamember@gmail.com or raised on the night)
12. Chairperson's closing remarks.

Community Association Committee

- Alan Roseweir – Chair
- John Allan - Vice Chair
- Iain McKie - Secretary
- Forbes Watson - Treasurer
- Frances Curran - Membership Secretary
- Allison Muraru - Minute Secretary
- Eric Armstrong - South Harbour Initiative
- Lynn Carleton - Short Term Lets Initiative
- Anthony D'Arcy - Website development

Contact: fswcamember@gmail.com

Wallacetown Energy Project: (Update)

We await the decision on an application made to Scottish Power Network, (NetZero), for capital funding for the Project. The core aim of the project is that the generated electricity will be used to offset energy costs in the schools and/or provide an income stream for use in Wallacetown, and reduce carbon emissions. A recent Newsletter to the residents of Wallacetown provided more details. The MSc Renewable and Sustainability students at the University of Strathclyde are completing a group project in relation to the Wallacetown Net Zero village plan. This will be presented in May 2024 at the University.

Seafront, South Harbour and the Watchful: The Association is fully engaged with South Ayrshire Council in relation to their plans to regenerate Ayr seafront. This co-operation between community groups and the Council is increasingly important. Plans to create an Arts and Heritage Trail will take in the South Harbour area and highlight Ayr's long-lasting and deep rooted relationship with the sea. We have also contributed to proposals to repair the South Harbour's decaying infrastructure including the bridge and surrounding area.

Short Term Lets: The Association has been in discussions with South Ayrshire Council for many years to try and ensure that residents are protected from the quality of life issues caused by some Short Term Lets. Unfortunately little action has resulted and expressions of political support from the current administration have melted away. With no planning permission required for existing Short Term Lets the Association has lost confidence in the existing licensing process and is awaiting the outcome of a complaint made in this respect.

Refurbishment of the Citadel Leisure Centre: Following their decision not to move the Citadel Leisure Centre to the town centre the Association is involved in discussions about refurbishing the existing building. High on our list of priorities are ways of ensuring that sustainable energy sources are created which we hope will follow many of the principles embedded in our ongoing Wallacetown Energy Project. At our AGM and through our newsletters we will be seeking views from the community to ensure the refurbished centre meets the needs of everyone in our communities.

The Association is committed to representing all permanent residents within the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown communities and welcomes all residents who wish to join as members or assist in any other way. This newsletter is published in good faith. Comment on the content or ideas for initiatives which could benefit the community? Please contact us at: fswcamember@gmail.com