



Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association

AGM Newsletter

June 2023

Community Association Holds First AGM

The inaugural AGM of the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association (FSWCA) will be held in the Horizon Hotel on Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 7pm and all residents in the Association area are invited to attend. Entry is free and no booking is required. This AGM effectively establishes the body as a constituted representative organisation and gives residents the opportunity to contribute to discussion on matters of importance to Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown.

The Association

FSWCA is a politically neutral organisation constituted and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2021, with the following aims:

1. The advancement of Community Development within the communities of Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown.
2. The provision, maintenance and upgrade of recreational facilities, including the organisation of recreational activities, with the purpose of improving the conditions of life for the Community.
3. The advancement of Art, Heritage, Culture, Science and Technology within the Community.
4. The reduction of the Community's carbon footprint and environmental impact.

The FSWCA operates separately from the Community Council and it is important that we have the support of the communities we serve, are fully aware of the issues facing local residents and promote initiatives which will benefit them. This newsletter outlines some of the Association's main interests and in future we hope to develop a conversation with residents living in the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown.

Want To Be Updated

The Community Association will shortly launch its website to inform and develop a dialogue with residents. If you want updated about the Association's activities, or have any comments for our next newsletter, please send them to fswcamember@gmail.com

Calling All Residents

To ensure a broad representation of resident's opinions you are invited to join the committee at the AGM.

Community Association Projects

The Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association is involved in a number of important projects in our area. These include:

Energy Poverty: This project is proceeding as planned and feasibility studies have been completed. We are now moving into the project's capital funding stage.

Seafront Regeneration: South Ayrshire Council is looking at ways of making the most effective and efficient use of its assets in the vicinity of Ayr Esplanade. The Association is contributing to the discussion.

Citadel Leisure Centre: South Ayrshire Council has decided to retain and update the existing Citadel Leisure Centre and the Association will be involved in the coming consultation process and will encourage community involvement.

Inner Harbour: The Association has been in discussion with the council seeking regeneration of the inner harbour which houses the 'Watchful' fishing boat memorial to fishermen lost at sea. The bridge, lighting and existing infrastructure in this area requires urgent remedial action.

Wallacetown Community Hub: This Association is in discussion with South Ayrshire Council to establish a Wallacetown Community Hub as a resource for, and use by, the community.

Short Term Lets: As from 1st October 2022, a new host or operator must have a licence before operating a Short Term Let. Existing owners have until 1st October 2023 to apply. The deadline for all hosts and properties to be licensed is 1st July 2024. Discussions with South Ayrshire Council have centred on ensuring that the implementation of the planning and licensing processes is efficient and takes account of negative issues being experienced by some residents living near to these lets.

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association AGM

Wednesday, 28th June @ 7pm
Horizon Hotel

ENTRY FREE: ALL RESIDENTS IN FORT, SEAFIELD AND WALLACETOWN WELCOME

FSWCA AGM 7PM ON 28TH JUNE 2023 - HORIZON HOTEL

Agenda:

- Welcome and Overview of the Association
- Apologies and proxies
- Association Initiatives: Updates on Fuel Poverty; Short Term Lets; Seafront and South Harbour; Hustings.
- FSWCA Constitution and objects explained.
- Adoption of the constitution and general discussion.
- FSWCA financial Report.
- Membership applications.
- Election of 9 Management Committee members.
- AOB.

Your Support is Needed

This is the Community Association's first AGM and it is hoped that residents in the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown areas will take the opportunity to find out more about the Association and consider becoming a member. Membership is free and involves no commitment other than to agree with the aims and objects of the Association and take an interest in its activities. Membership forms will be available at the AGM.

The Association's interests are many and varied. With the rising cost of energy and the impact and growth of fuel poverty in our communities something has to be done. In April 2021 the idea of an energy project in Wallacetown was presented to the Fort Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council. Following agreement, the Community Association was born. An Energy Working Group was established to take the project forward. It is hoped that as the project develops it will be able to be replicated in other areas. An excellent working relationship has been developed with South Ayrshire Council and the Energy Working Group is made up of Association members and Lead Officers from the council. The future is looking good. We as an Association have the opportunity to apply for funding that is not available to the Council. It will allow us to develop and implement sustainable energy solutions for the Communities we serve. We believe we have developed a model that can be shared not only across other community areas in South Ayrshire but across other Local Authorities.

Ayr seafront, which borders our Fort and Seafield communities, has long attracted thousands of day-trippers and holiday makers annually. Again, working with the local council we have been active in making recommendations to improve and develop the area for the benefit of our residents and visitors alike. An often forgotten part of the seafront is the inner harbour to the north, which many of the seafront flats face onto. This area houses the 'Watchful' fishing boat memorial to fishermen lost at sea. Between 1880 and 1882 a slip dock was constructed in this Inner Harbour area with an adjacent shipyard. The slip dock was equipped for the repair and maintenance of larger vessels. In these days there was a swing bridge on the north end of the dock allowing vessels access. The extent to which this area has been allowed to decay is worrying and the Association is in discussion with South Ayrshire Council looking for investment in the infrastructure. The history of Ayr is rich and varied and the port of Ayr was once the third most important in Scotland. Over the centuries ships from almost every continent have passed through this port and although greatly declining over the years it is still a busy and expanding development. We cannot allow it to decay and die.

It is hoped that via quarterly newsletters the Association will be able to keep in touch with members and residents. Without community support however there can be no guarantee that we are aware of the community priorities. Without community support it is unlikely that the above projects will be brought to a successful conclusion. Clearly what is required to bring the above to fruition is community support.

The Community Association is committed to representing all permanent residents within the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown communities and will welcome offers from residents to join the Association Committee or assist in any other way. This newsletter is published in good faith by the Community Association committee. If you have any comment on the content, or its accuracy, or have ideas for initiatives which could benefit the community, please contact us at: fswcamember@gmail.com