

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association

Newsletter

April 2022

The Community Association

Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown Community Association (FSWCA) is a politically neutral organisation. We were constituted and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2021, with the following aims:

1. The advancement of Community Development within the Community 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, as a new organisation, 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 includes an in-depth assessment of our '*Wallacetown Community Energy Project.*' In subsequent editions we will highlight other important initiatives and visions for the future of Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown.

Want To Be Updated

The Community Association will shortly launching their website and use it to encourage an exchange of information to generally develop a dialogue with residents about the positives and negatives of living in West Ayr. If you want updated about the Association's activities, or have any comments for our next newsletter, please send them to info@launchayr.org.uk.

Association AGM

Plans are being made to hold an Association AGM this Autumn. Attendance is open to everyone in the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown communities and we look forward to the opportunity to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest to us all.

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:

info@launchayr.org.uk

Fire Alarms

The law on fire and smoke alarms has been changed. It is now an offence not to have interlinked alarms and if you have a carbon-fuelled appliance – like a boiler, fire, heater or flue – in any room, you must also have a carbon monoxide detector in that room, but this does not need to be linked to the fire alarms. If a fire occurs and the owner has not complied with the law residents lives will be put at risk and there could be serious financial consequences.

See: <https://www.mygov.scot/home-fire-safety>

Dog Fouling: Bag it! Bin it!

Sadly, it has become evident that there is an increasing amount of dog waste and bags of dog waste being discarded on our footpaths and public areas. Families, including young children enjoying their daily exercise are being exposed to risk of further disease and infection from dumped dog waste. This could potentially put additional strain on our already stretched NHS. Please respect South Ayrshire and the community you live in. Put your bagged waste into any public waste bin or green bin at home.

• Be a responsible dog owner! Bag it! – Bin it!

If you have concerns about dog fouling in a particular area, please contact Trading Standards and Environmental Health on 0300 123 0900 or email: environmental.health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Community Association Committee

Eric Armstrong (Chair)

Lewis Costley

Gordon Kelly

Iain McKie

Katherine McNab (Secretary)

Alan Roseweir (Vice Chair)

Denise Sommerville

Forbes Watson (Finance)



Wallacetown Community Energy Project



Background and Overview

The rising cost of energy and the impact and growth of fuel poverty in our communities must be tackled. Therefore, in April 2021 the idea of an energy project was presented to the Fort Seafield and Wallacetown Community Council. Following agreement, the Community Association was born. The Energy Working Group was established to take the project forward.

Why Wallacetown?

Wallacetown is impacted by issues of multi-generational deprivation and poverty. It has a combined population of 3,107 and falls within the 5% Most Deprived Areas in Scotland. It is the 75th (out of 6,976) most Income Deprived Data Zone in Scotland, the 23rd most Employment Deprived and 18th most Health Deprived areas in Scotland. (*Source SIMD 2020*) The Community Association, therefore identified Wallacetown as the area of greatest need. However, this is only the beginning. It is our ambition to develop further projects across all of our community area.

What is the project and what are the aims?

We have identified three publicly owned buildings, all school buildings, in Wallacetown. The plan is to carry out a Technology Feasibility Study to ascertain their suitability to host PV panels on their roofs. This will provide the opportunity to generate energy that will offset the energy costs and reduce the carbon emissions and/or provide an income stream by selling any excess energy back to the grid. It is anticipated this income source can then be used by the community of Wallacetown to mitigate some of the impact of fuel poverty.

Funding the project?

We have been able to secure funding through a successful bid to South Ayrshire Coastal Community Fund. This has allowed us to commission a feasibility study to identify fuel poverty baseline data for Wallacetown and the Technology Feasibility Studies of the three buildings. Once these have been completed we will then seek capital funding to commission the installation.

Is there Educational involvement?

One of our key aims is to have educational involvement. The starting point was with Newton Primary School where we recently held a competition to design an energy logo for our project. A judging panel consisting of membership from the Wallacetown Community, Education Scotland and Home Energy Scotland. The winner was a pupil from the P3/4 class, (See above). As a prize the winner and the class will experience a STEM day out at Dumfries House. We have also engaged with the University of Strathclyde who recognise this as an important community project and are providing support and advice. Ayrshire College are also providing support. Education will be a key sustainable element of all our energy projects.

What is the relationship with South Ayrshire Council?

We have an excellent relationship with South Ayrshire Council. The project has their full support. The Energy Working Group membership is made up of association members and Lead Officers from the Council. We frequently meet with the Multi-disciplinary Team based in Wallacetown and with the Directorate.

Will this be the only Project?

The short answer is no. Our initial aim is to complete this project for Wallacetown. We are in discussions with the Council to identify our potential projects. We will keep you posted.

What's in the future?

The future is looking good. We have built a sustainable partnership with the Council. 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.

Alan Roseweir, Chair Energy Working Group

Other Issues of Interest:

- **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:** The Association is liaising with South Ayrshire Council to monitor its implementation of the new Government legislation to regulate 'AirBnB' type short term lets. Particular concern has been expressed at safety, noise and disturbance issues caused by some of these lets.
- **Seafront:** South Ayrshire Council is reported to be looking at ways of making the most effective and efficient use of its assets in the vicinity of Ayr Esplanade but opinions differ on the value and relevance of some of their proposals.
- **South Harbour:** The Community Association, along with other groups, has had extensive discussions with South Ayrshire Council about the failure to maintain the 'Watchful' fishing boat, the bridge, lighting and existing infrastructure in the inner harbour area. While the recent planting and lighting upgrades have been welcome, much more is required to protect this area into the future.
- **Citadel Leisure Centre:** South Ayrshire Council's decision to demolish the current Citadel Leisure Centre and re-site it in the town centre will have a major impact on the residents of the Community Association area. Is this the best way forward?

Membership of FSWCA is open to all residents of the Fort, Seafield and Wallacetown communities and an inaugural Annual General Meeting is being planned for autumn 2022. We will also be launching our website soon. To register interest in becoming a member or to make suggestions that will benefit our community, please contact the Committee via info@launchayr.org.uk.