

Vibrant events to add sparkle to Helensburgh town centre

ARGYLL and Bute Council, the Helensburgh Partnership and various local organisations have put together a series of exciting events that will take place over the next year in Helensburgh.

The events will kick off with the first of a monthly farmers' market on Thursday July 24, followed immediately by a three day continental market set to give Helensburgh a taste of the Mediterranean in the heat of the summer. From sun-ripened olives and Swedish cider to Parisian clutch bags and Dutch flowers, the market is sure to have something for everyone.

The high quality local produce available at the farmers' market stalls will typically include a range of meats, cheeses and organic and free range produce to give a taste of Scotland on a local and regional level.

Derek Anderson, the partnership's chief executive, said: "This just goes to show what can be achieved when the partnership, the council and individuals from the local community work together. A lot of

work has gone on in the background to allow these events to take place. They will bring maximum benefit to the town and its retailers, whilst providing a pleasant and vibrant experience for residents and visitors."

Councillor James Robb, Chairman of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee, added: "I am delighted that the promised farmers' market has finally arrived. It has taken much perseverance and effort by the council and the partnership to make it happen.

"These events have already proved successful in many towns and I'm confident that they will improve the Helensburgh shopping experience and bring wider economic benefits that will help sustain a vibrant town centre."

A positive response from local businesses is an integral part of making these events a success. The enthusiasm and spirit of local people will help to encourage newcomers to return to Helensburgh time and time again, helping put Helensburgh on the map and broadening the range

of visitors coming into the town.

This will expand Helensburgh's consumer profile and will have a lasting impact on the area as the town's reputation begins to develop as a vibrant retail centre.

The Helensburgh Partnership has applied for a temporary occupation permit to enable the events to happen and in addition, an events operator - Forum Event Management, has applied for the necessary planning permission. The events are set to take place in Colquhoun Square and careful consideration has been given to ensure that there will be no adverse impact on this part of town.

There are further plans to run a variety of events in the town and details will be finalised and publicised in the near future. In the meantime, visit www.helensburghpartnership.co.uk to find out how to get behind the partnership to shape a positive future for Helensburgh.