

Plans for flagship Burgh market make progress

MOVES to bring European style continental and farmers' markets to Helensburgh have taken a step forward.

After the scheme was first mooted a year ago, the plan to go ahead with the market was rubber-stamped last week.

Organisers were given the green light to establish stalls at the south-east corner of Colquhoun Square, and they could be up and running "within a matter of weeks."

Members of Helensburgh and Lochnod Area Committee unanimously supported a recommendation for the necessary agreements to be obtained, so that the regular markets can be held in the town.

Before the stalls can be set up, the organising committee need permission for road closures and must obtain authority from Scottish Ministers.

Helensburgh Partnership also needs to secure an agreement with an operator who will hold the markets.

Committee chairman Councillor James Robb said: "This was where we were in the autumn of last year and we need ev-

eryone to drive it forward to get something within a matter of weeks. There have been extensive discussions with the Partnership on the scheme and this proposal is to tie up loose ends."

Alan Kerr, Roads and Amenity Services Area Manager, said he was still waiting to see how big the markets are to see if there would be enough room.

He said: "The continental market could spread into West Princes Street which would give us more serious safety problems, but it would be a fall-back option."

Mr Kerr said planning permission and neighbour notification must be sought — taking a minimum of six weeks, providing there are no objections.

There are 25 dates proposed, starting on May 22 with a continental market. Farmers' markets will also go ahead on a regular basis including during town festivals in July, August and November.

Planning permission to hold a regular farmers' market was obtained in February 2007 in the north west corner of Colquhoun Square, but approval expired.