

# THE HELENSBURGH PARTNERSHIP

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **Local produce and vibrant events to add sparkle to the town centre**

The Helensburgh Partnership, along with Argyll and Bute Council, has organised a series of exciting events that will take place over the next year in Helensburgh.

They will kick off with the first of a monthly farmer's market on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 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 farmer's 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, says, "Much care and attention has gone into the planning of these events to ensure that they will bring maximum benefit to the town and its retailers, whilst providing a pleasant and vibrant experience for residents and visitors.

"They are set to attract new people into the town centre and the added benefit is that they will draw in purchasers who don't often visit the town centre but usually choose to shop in out-of-town superstores."

Councillor James Robb, Chair of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee added, "These events have already proved successful in many towns and I'm confident that they will bring wider economic benefits to existing retailers, hotels, restaurants and other commercial attractions."

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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 Helensburgh's reputation begins to develop as a vibrant retail centre.

The Helensburgh Partnership, through its events operator, Forum Event Management Ltd, has now applied for a temporary occupation permit to enable the events to happen. They are set to take place in Colquhoun Square and careful consideration has been given to ensure that the closure will not have an impact on traffic around the town. Pedestrians will be able to browse the stalls and surrounding shops safely, whilst drivers will still be able to gain access and won't face major parking restrictions.

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](http://www.helensburghpartnership.co.uk) to find out how to get behind the Partnership to shape a positive future for Helensburgh.

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For more information, please contact Derek Anderson at The Helensburgh Partnership on 01436 679495 or email [derek@helensburghpartnership.co.uk](mailto:derek@helensburghpartnership.co.uk)