

Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Board

NOTE OF MEETING – 12 November 2025

Present:

Fiona McKenzie (Chair)
Councillor Douglas Reid
Councillor Barry Douglas
David Cameron
Inspector Stuart Dougan substituting Chief Superintendent Suzanne Chow Steven Jack substituting Lillian Jones MP
Jennifer Anderson substituting Angela Cox
Billy Bowie
Eddie Fraser

Apologies:

Lillian Jones MP
Angela Cox
Lynne McNiven
Chris McMail
Chief Superintendent Suzanne Chow

In Attendance:

Norman Gill, Karen Purves, Pamela Clifford

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made. **Actions Arising:** N/A

2. Chair Update

- The Chair noted we are now in the final countdown to submitting our revised plan; the product of months of hard work, challenge, and collaboration. Thanks were extended to those present for the time, insight, and belief in what We Make Kilmarnock can be.
- By the end of the meeting, the Chair conveyed her hope that we will be ready to move confidently into delivery, turning words on a page into visible, tangible change for our town.
- The recent announcement of Marks & Spencer's departure has added to narrative around what's been lost but the incredible success of the Bank Street Late Night event was a reminder that energy, creativity and pride are alive and well and ready to be unleashed and that we should elevate the message of all the great independent businesses across the town centre and beyond in our alliances whilst reimagining King Street to create a place that's safe, welcoming and connected; a place where people feel proud to live, work and invest.
- As we enter this next phase, the Chair offered reflections to frame our thoughts and actions moving forward:

1. Our papers set out a bold vision for a confident, community-led Kilmarnock. How will we protect the independence and integrity of We Make Kilmarnock; ensuring it remains led by and for the community, while still building strong, respectful partnerships with the Council and others?
 2. Awareness of WMK is growing, but so are expectations. There is a danger in being seen as a “fix-all” for every challenge. How do we communicate honestly about what’s possible, especially while UK Government funding remains pending, without losing momentum or public confidence?
 3. As election cycles approach, conversations can easily focus on changing people rather than changing systems. How can this Board model a different kind of leadership; one that reforms processes, empowers delivery through the private and third sectors, and builds a culture of trust, bravery and action?
 4. Our governance model is strong. But how will we keep it light-touch and enabling, not procedural and paralysing; ensuring that community energy remains our driving force?
- Ultimately, our task as a Board is clear: to deliver this strategy with clarity, bravery and autonomy’ enabling Kilmarnock to stand out nationally as a place where regeneration is led by us, not done to us. Kilmarnock’s motto- Virtute et Industria- “by virtue and industry” sums up our focus on working hard and doing the right thing, not the easy thing. We Make Kilmarnock won’t just be a plan — it’ll be a movement that inspires others across Scotland and beyond.

Actions Arising: N/A

3. Actions from Previous Meeting

- KP to liaise with RG re Greener Communities review and future presentation to Board
- Risk Management Centre visit took place in October 2025.
- Poll on meeting dates - NG

Actions Arising / ongoing actions:

BMcN will contact Scotland’s Towns Partnership again re parking study
Visit to be organised with Aberdeen Inspired
All to feed good news stories to NG or FMcK

4. Submission of 10 year vision

Submission of 4 year investment plan

NG and KP presented the Regeneration Plan to the Board for approval. Discussion was held around:

- Alignment with wider masterplanning work
- Retail interventions
- Parking strategy
- Comms strategy and a positive narrative and gathering momentum.

The Board agreed the Plan subject to final amendments which would be dealt with by email correspondence.

Actions Arising: NG to circulate final version of plan to Board members on Friday following Board meeting. Board members thereafter to return with any final comments by following Monday.

5. Initiative update

Fund manager – NG provided an update on the tender process. Due to delays to UK Govt funding procurement advised that this should be retendered nearer to the release of funding

Town Radios – NG provided an update on the town radio initiative, 30 new users have been supported by WMK. There is further demand which can be met once the UK Govt release delivery funding. Discussion was held around expansion of the scheme, filling in gaps in the areas covered by the radio network and the retail crime taskforce. SD discussed the success of the initiative and how it assists in tackling organised crime in the area. Thanks were remitted to Alan Foster for his work on this initiative.

Actions Arising: N/A

6. Decisions required

- Board agreed Regeneration Plan as circulated and agreed to submit any final comments

Actions Arising: As previous

7. Date of Next Meeting:

TBC

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