

A large crowd of people, mostly young women, are gathered outdoors. In the foreground, a person is wearing a long, shaggy purple furry costume. The crowd is looking towards the camera or slightly to the side. The background shows trees and colorful decorations.

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Neighbourhood Board Meeting for Kilmarnock

CentreStage, Circle Lounge
11:00am – 1:00pm 24th July 2026

Attendees

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Fiona McKenzie (Chair)

Billy Bowie

Craig Hume

Lilian Jones MP

Councillor Barry Douglas

Councillor Douglas Reid

Joe McLachlan

David Cameron

Barry Morton (Deputy for Angela Cox)

Stuart Dougan (Deputy for Susie Chow)

Also Attending:

Pamela Clifford

Norman Gill

Karen Purves

Barbara McNaughton

David Mitchell

Martin McManus (for item 5g)

Apologies:

Angela Cox

Lynne McNiven

Chris McMail

Susie Chow

Agenda

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- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Welcome | FMc |
| 2 | Chair Update | FMc |
| 3 | Actions from Previous Meeting | FMc |
| 4 | Masterplan Update | PC |
| 5 | Workstream Update | NG |
| | - 5a Events | |
| | - 5b Town Centre (Shop Development Grants) | |
| | - 5c Town Centre (Shop Front Pilot) | |
| | - 5d Public Art | |
| | - 5e Brighten Up / Tidy Up | |
| | - 5f Street Furniture | |
| | - 5g Alliance Funding | |
| 7 | Decisions Required | All |
| 8 | AOB | All |
| | - Meeting Schedule to Jan 2027 | |

Item 3 - Actions Arising From Previous Meeting

- LJ will send partnership funding links to NG
- KP will ask UK Government regarding temporary contract of 3 staff.
- NG to produce a business case on Public Art and Frame suggestions

Item 5 – Workstream Update

Business Case Timetable

		Funding Starts	Y1 Funding	Mar-26	May-26	Jul-26	Sep-26	Nov-26	Jan-27	Mar-27	May-27
Platform Projects	Communications Strategy	26/27	£20k								
	Events	26/27	£50k								
	Neighbourhood Board Fund	26/27	£40k								
	Alliance Funding	26/27	£50k								
Early Impact Initiatives	Town Centre (Shop Front Pilot)	26/27	£100k		X						
	Town Centre (Shop Dev Grants)	26/27	£50k		X						
	Town Centre (Brighten Up)	26/27	£10k	X							
	Town Centre (Street Furniture)	26/27	£25k			X					
	Town Centre (Foregate)	26/27	£100k				?				
	Public Art	26/27	£25k		X						
	Addressing Anti Social Behaviour	27/28	£10k						X		
Major Projects	Town Centre (Retail Revival)	29/30	£1800k								
	Town Centre (Multi Storey Site)	28/29	£750k								
	Parks (Experiential Train)	27/28	£10k								
	Parks (Building Restoration)	28/29	£250k								
	Parks (Bandstand)	33/34	£100k								
	Parks (Youth Hub)	29/30	£40k								
Third Horizon Initiatives	Town Centre Living	28/29	£50k								
	River Development	34/35	£650k								

These are the board meetings to which we expect to bring the relevant Business Cases for Early Impact Initiatives

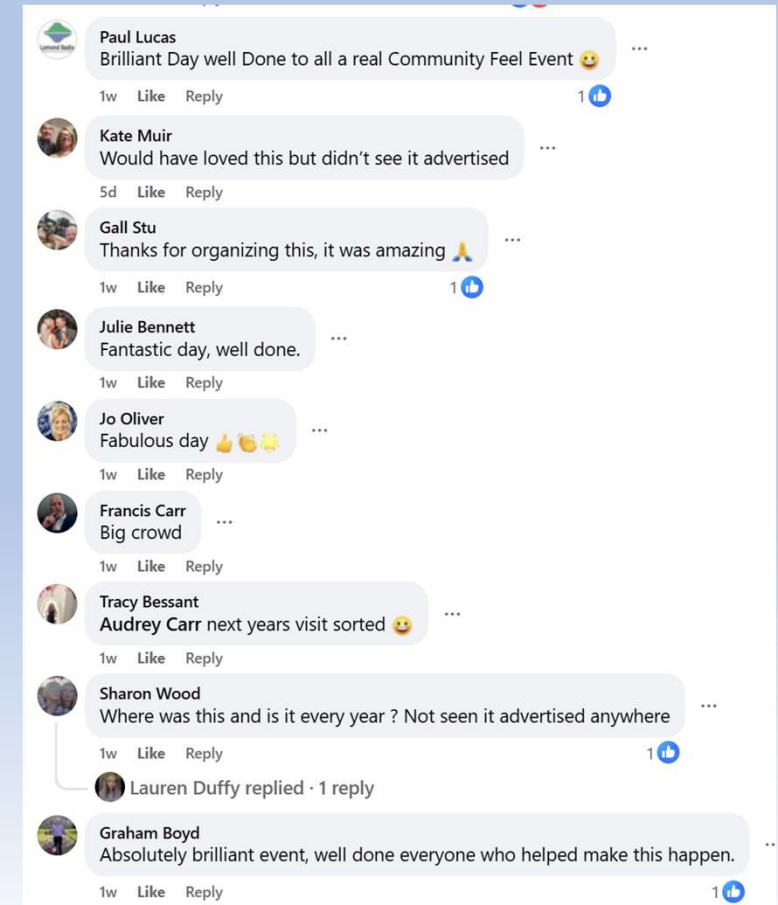
Item 5a Kilmarnock Fair Festival Update

- The Kilmarnock Fair Festival was a successful event overall, with an estimated 2,500-3,000 people attending throughout the day and generating overwhelmingly positive feedback from the public, performers, traders and partners.
- The event significantly increased awareness of We Make Kilmarnock, with the We Make Kilmarnock marquee and the Council's Masterplan engagement stand busy throughout the day, generating high levels of public interest, engagement and discussion.
- Social media engagement was very positive, while vendors reported strong trading, with several selling out completely. A valuable new partnership was also established with Now Ayrshire Radio, helping to extend the event's reach.
- The festival was delivered just under budget, the park was left in excellent condition, and no complaints were received following the event.
- There has already been considerable interest from traders, performers and partners in participating in the 2027 festival, providing a strong platform to build on this year's success.

Item 5a Kilmarnock Fair Festival Feedback

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- Generally positive feedback with a few people commenting that they had not see it advertised.



Item 5 Workstream Update

Item 5b – Shop Development Grants

- Approximately £30k of requests will be moved over from an existing scheme (assuming fit with our criteria)
- Launch within next month, work ongoing with Frame to publicise in line with plan

Item 5c – Retail Showcase Grant (Shop Front Pilot)

- Communication ongoing with shop owners via Martin McManus (two way dialogue)
- Survey instructed and Martin in close contact with surveyors to manage

Item 5d – Public Art

- Introduction made to Hugh Mulgrew, Alan Foster setting up time to discuss proposals
- Business Case will be produced and presented to board for approval

Item 5e – Brighten Up/Tidy Up

- All materials now in place
- Anticipate start before the end of July

Item 5f – Street Furniture

- Business Case being prepared and will be brought to board in September

Item 5g – Alliances

- The six Community Alliances provide a direct link between We Make Kilmarlock and neighbourhoods across the town, ensuring local voices influence priorities and investment.
- Alliances are designed to identify local opportunities, generate ideas and help shape projects that respond to the needs and aspirations of their communities.
- Year 1 funding has enabled each Alliance to begin building capacity, strengthening relationships and increasing community participation.
- A cross-Alliance forum will be established to encourage collaboration, share learning and feed into the Neighbourhood Board.
- During the coming year, the focus will be on supporting Alliances to develop stronger project pipelines, increase local leadership and bring forward proposals for investment through the We Make Kilmarlock programme.
- Over time, the Alliances will become an increasingly important mechanism for community engagement, helping to co-design, test and deliver neighbourhood improvements while ensuring the programme remains community-led.

Item 5h – Anti Social Behaviour

- The Town Radio Scheme has been well received since its launch, with 28 of the initial 50 radios now in circulation and consistently positive feedback from participating businesses. The scheme continues to attract new users, with additional retailers joining the network.
- Police Scotland have provided very positive feedback, highlighting that the radios have enabled retailers to prevent theft, deter known offenders from entering premises, support the rapid apprehension of suspects, and create a stronger sense of partnership and shared responsibility between businesses.
- The scheme provides a direct communication link between businesses, Police Scotland and East Ayrshire Council's CCTV network. Police Scotland has described the network as an important contributor to creating a safer town centre and is supportive of extending it to licensed premises.
- Feedback from local people at the Kilmarnock Fair Festival showed strong enthusiasm for expanding the scheme to licensed premises. A request has therefore been submitted to deploy the remaining 22 radios, broadening coverage across the town centre and creating a visible, practical early intervention.
- Subject to Board approval, it is proposed that £10,000 be reallocated from the Neighbourhood Board Fund to support the expansion of the Town Radio Scheme. The original proposal has not progressed during Year 1 due to economies of scale, making delivery currently unviable.
- Any remaining budget from the Neighbourhood Board Fund would be transferred to the Alliance Funding Programme, increasing resources available for community-led projects while ensuring the full Year 1 allocation continues to deliver local impact.

Item 8 – AOB

Proposed dates of future meetings:

- Friday 4 September 2026
- Wednesday 11 November 2026
- Friday 22 January 2027

Appendix I - Alliances

