

A large crowd of people, mostly young women, is gathered outdoors. In the foreground, a person is wearing a long, shaggy purple furry costume. The background shows a dense crowd of people, some holding up phones to take pictures. The scene is set outdoors with trees and colorful decorations visible in the distance.

WE MAKE  
KILMARNOCK

# Neighbourhood Board Meeting for Kilmarnock

CentreStage, Circle Lounge  
3:00 – 5:00pm 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

# Attendees

WE MAKE  
KILMARNOCK

Fiona McKenzie (Chair)

Billy Bowie

Craig Hume

Lilian Jones MP

Councillor Barry Douglas

Councillor Douglas Reid

Joe McLachlan (Deputy for Eddie Fraser)

Chris McMail

Barry Morton (Deputy for Angela Cox)

Lynne McNiven

Stuart Dougan (Deputy for Susie Chow)

Also Attending:

Pamela Clifford

Norman Gill

Karen Purves

## Apologies:

Angela Cox

David Cameron

Eddie Fraser

- |   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| 1 | Welcome                                     | FMc  |
| 2 | Chair Update                                | FMc  |
| 3 | Actions from Previous Meeting               | FMc  |
| 4 | Masterplan Update                           | PC   |
| 5 | Workstream Update                           | NG   |
|   | - 5a Town Centre (Shop Development Grants)* |      |
|   | - 5b Town Centre (Shop Front Pilot)         |      |
|   | - 5c Public Art                             |      |
|   | - 5d Brighten Up / Tidy Up                  |      |
|   | - 5e Events                                 |      |
| 6 | Accountability Governance                   | JMcL |
| 7 | Decisions Required                          | All  |
|   | - Resourcing Model                          |      |
| 8 | AOB   | All  |
|   | - Meeting Schedule to Jan 2027              |      |

\* Business Case included in pack

## Item 3 - Actions Arising From Previous Meeting

- PC to demonstrate 3D model at next meeting
- KP to ensure date organised with SEPA (now arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> May)
- BM to link with PC regarding college students
- KP to speak to Blair Millar regarding bins outside New Laigh Kirk
- NG to produce a business case on Public Art and Frame suggestions

## Item 5 – Workstream Update

Town Centre (Shop Development Grants)	Business case brought for approval	Slide 7
Town Centre (Shop Front Pilot)	Update	Slide 8
Public Art	Update	Slide 9
Brighten Up / Tidy Up	Update	Slide 10
Events – Kilmarnock Fair Festival	Update	Slide 11

# 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 – Shop Development Grant (Business Case also in pack)

- **New WMK Shop Development Grant Scheme proposed** to support improvement, adaptation and activation of town centre units (internal and external), moving beyond shopfront-only approaches.
- **Grants of up to £10k per unit**, targeted at businesses, landlords and property owners to improve viability and bring vacant or underused units back into use.
- **Pilot year in 2026/27 (£50k)**, followed by scaled delivery (£100k p.a.) over three further years, allowing a test-and-learn approach.
- **Designed to complement (not duplicate) the Shop Front Pilot**, providing flexible, unit-by-unit support alongside block-level interventions.
- **Supports a wider mix of uses** (retail, hospitality, services and creative), helping diversify and strengthen the town centre.
- **Focus on outcomes:** increased occupancy, improved quality of units, higher footfall and stronger business confidence.
- **Simple, accessible process with retrospective funding**, encouraging co-investment and ensuring value for money.
- **Acts as a feeder into the £7m+ Retail Revival programme**, generating insight on what works and building a pipeline for future investment.

## Item 5b – Town Centre (Shop Front Pilot)

**Update provided at meeting**

- **Initial focus area identified** – a cluster of buildings on Sandbed Street (riverside) selected for early colourwashing activation.
- **Property engagement underway** – work in progress to identify and secure agreement from building owners across the proposed sites.
- **Technical specification received** – including surface preparation and materials, enabling accurate cost estimation and contractor engagement.
- **Key stakeholder engagement progressing** – meeting being arranged with Hugh Mulgrew (White Tile Building) to explore alignment with wider activity.
- **Planning requirements being assessed** – including considerations for listed buildings to ensure compliance and avoid delays.

## Item 5d – Brighten Up/Tidy Up Update

- **20 priority locations identified** across the town centre for repainting of railings, benches, bins and other metal assets in high-footfall areas, targeting visible early impact.
- **Permissions and access being progressed** with property owners and relevant stakeholders to enable delivery across all sites.
- **Materials and procurement aligned with EAC frameworks**, with required products (including PPE) identified to ensure compliance and consistency.
- **Volunteer delivery model being mobilised**, with c.10 volunteers expected to be available on any given day to support phased rollout.
- **Phased delivery approach planned**, starting with smaller areas to generate quick wins, build momentum and support communications, with full programme expected to run over c.6 months.

- **Fair Festival confirmed for Saturday 27 June (Howard Park)** – planning progressing well, with a full day programme from 1pm–9pm including Kilmarnock’s Got Talent final, local bands and headline act *Colonel Mustard and the Dijon 5*.
- **Expanded offer this year** – including a bar (4pm–9pm), food trucks, free funfair for children, and a wide range of stalls (food, crafts, charities, college and public services).
- **Strengthened partnerships and promotion** – working with Now Ayrshire Radio (live broadcast, on-site presence and promotion); adverts to generate sponsorship running to 8 May, followed by full event promotion through June.
- **Community engagement and participation** – strong mix of local performers, organisations and public-facing partners, reinforcing the festival’s role as a key community cohesion event.
- **Event safety and compliance progressing well** – anti-terror planning completed with partners, enhanced security measures in place, and Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting scheduled for end of May.

## Item 8 – AOB

Proposed dates of future meetings:

- Wednesday 15 July 2026
- Friday 4 September 2026
- Wednesday 11 November 2026
- Friday 22 January 2027