

# Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Board

## NOTE OF MEETING – 04 March 2026 Draft pending formal approval

### Present:

Fiona McKenzie (Chair)  
Councillor Douglas Reid  
Councillor Graham Boyd substituting Councillor Barry Douglas  
David Cameron  
Barry Morton substituting Angela Cox  
Billy Bowie  
Chris McMail  
Craig Hume  
Eddie Fraser

### Apologies:

Lillian Jones MP  
Angela Cox  
Lynne McNiven  
Chief Superintendent Suzanne Chow

### In Attendance:

Norman Gill, Karen Purves, Pamela Clifford, Barbara McNaughton

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and introductions were made.

**Actions Arising:** N/A

### 2. Chair Update

- We are awaiting final written sign-off from the UK Government, but the Chair received verbal feedback which has been extremely positive. Today is about readiness – making sure that when the green light comes, we move immediately, decisively, and with purpose.
- The Chair stated that our plan has also been requested by the Scottish Government to inform their understanding of what is emerging from communities involved in “Pride in Place”. This recognition shows that our work is not only locally significant – it is shaping a national conversation about genuine community-led regeneration.
- Even while awaiting formal approval, the Chair noted that our grassroots work continues. Relationships with local people, organisations, and places are being maintained and strengthened. We are engaging at a realistic pace – managing expectations carefully while preparing to deliver visible outcomes as soon as we can. It is essential to be clear about the model we are building; this is community-led and Council-enabled. That distinction matters. It is a new way of working, rooted in trust, accountability, and shared responsibility. With this approach comes challenge. We will encounter tensions, barriers, and tough conversations. We must continue to talk openly, confront the hard questions, and act with honesty and courage. And above all, we must listen – not just to

the usual voices, but to those rarely invited to the table. If our actions are to reflect the will of the majority, participation must be broad, inclusive, and representative.

- The Chair reflected that this next phase is not about programmes being delivered *to* a community. It is about enabling communities to do the work themselves – building social capital and involving existing services only when necessary. That requires commitment:
  - To reducing the need for services, not simply sustaining demand.
  - To real change, not churn, ensuring lasting impact.
  - To looking first to communities for solutions, protecting and nurturing local sparks of growth from over-enthusiastic service intervention.

It is about living the message: “We Make Kilmarnock” – not “They Make Kilmarnock”. And it is about reframing the Kilmarnock story – moving beyond deficit narratives to focus on pride, capability, and potential.

- Momentum continues on the ground. Our third Kilmarnock Fair Festival is in its final stages of organisation. It will take place on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June under the theme “Live and Local” celebrating our town’s rich musical heritage and giving new local talent the change to perform alongside well-established performers.
- So today is about preparedness and ensuring that when approval arrives, we move swiftly into delivery. Because this is more than a plan. It is a cultural shift. And it will only succeed if we lead it together – with bravery, openness, commitment to real change, and a genuine focus on community voice.

**Actions Arising:** N/A

### **3. Actions from Previous Meeting**

- Minutes passed and no final comments were received.

**Actions Arising / ongoing actions:** N/A

### **4. Submission of 10 year vision Submission of 4 year investment plan**

NG and KP stated that the plan goes through a number of ‘gates’ as it is assessed one of which is benchmarking across plans. It will probably be around end of March before we receive any confirmation, but East Ayrshire Council will go into a pre-election period on the 16 March. Any publicity on the Plan will have to be done via We Make Kilmarnock independently. Funding would be expected early April.

**Actions Arising:** N/A

### **5. Masterplan Update**

- PC provided an update that the plan is at the evidence gathering stage with a briefing document to follow end of March/beginning of April and on completion will form the basis of the Master Plan.
- Looking at the “vision” is really important and We Make Kilmarnock will be required to help form that vision.
- Phase 1 will look at the North end of Kilmarnock (Foregate/Palace / Viaduct) and a 3D digital model has been created which PC will show at the next meeting.

- A very productive meeting was held with Scottish Water who are really keen to work with the Masterplan team.
- KP has contacted SEPA to ask for their input, and she is awaiting dates to be confirmed.
- Siobhan is working with Police Scotland who have been very helpful.
- Network Rail will be contacted to establish a working relationship going forward.
- Reclaim the Night event provided good intelligence on the feeling of safety felt by women around the town centre, especially at night.
- The Repurposing and Retrofit team have met with the owners of the former Fraser's building. Working with Architecture and Design Scotland, the team are looking at the possibilities for town centre living. Other owners have contacted PC separately to register an interest for potential future partnership working.
- The Masterplan team are looking to work closely with the Kilmarnock Business Association to do joint working and the Board will be updated as that progresses.
- Be Inspired seminars are open to Councillors and the Board to attend and take place monthly.
- Work on the Foregate is currently going through Procurement and engagement is due to take place soon with Foregate traders.
- Poet's Corner has been challenging but work is due to start on site shortly.
- A request for a Board member to join the Lead Officer Taskforce group linked to the Masterplan was made
- BM suggested college students could help with consultations and will link with PC
- EF confirmed that a new NHS walk-in GP centre will be based in Kilmarnock but will also focus on well-being.
- CH stated that a vision for Kilmarnock and the town it wants to be is important, so no opportunities are missed. Fiona suggested Kilmarnock is suited to be creative, entrepreneurial and family focused.
- CH made a declaration of interest in respect of the work of SEPA as he is on SEPA's Board.

**Actions Arising:**

Board to identify rep for Taksforce lead officer group      ALL

**6. Workstream Update**

NG updated on the business case timetable

**Alliance Funding** – Feedback from UK Government is positive. Guidelines will be prepared for Alliance funding with the emphasis on a light touch process with decision making owned locally with delegated authority. KP and NG are working on criteria and guidelines for the Alliances. Board will be updated in future meetings. BB updated at the end of the meeting that he is launching Killie Skips which could be offered to local communities for clean-ups and this could tie in with the Alliances.

**Town Centre (Shop Front Pilot)** – a pilot of the Foregate for shop front funding is one of the first projects scheduled to progress. A request of £20k to progress feasibility work was approved.

**Town Centre (Shop Front Development Grants)** – Updated guidance and timelines will be produced and will tie in with the Kilmarnock Business Association.

**Town Centre (Tidy Up/Brighten Up)** – £5,300 approved for spend on a street furniture tidy up subject to further discussions with East Ayrshire Council where assets are publicly owned / maintained. KP will speak to Blair Millar regarding issues of litter/bins in Council ownership.

**Public Art** – NG to produce a business case based on Frame PRs public art suggestions. BM suggested a Malky McCormack mural and also stated that the Head of Department at Ayrshire College has given approval to approach students as long as funding for materials is provided. GB has owner permission to showcase public art at No Name Lane and will liaise with Planning to attempt to progress. Business case for feasibility work on colour bomb proposal for Sandbed Street approved.

**Actions Arising:**

KP to speak to Blair Millar regarding NLK Church

**7. Decisions required**

**Actions Arising:** As previous

**8. Date of Next Meeting: 15/05/2026**

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