



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Kilwinning Locality Partnership

Wednesday 13 March 2024, 7.00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Davidson	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and action log and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 5	Enclosed	Rhonda Leith	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.10 – 7.25 pm
3.	Place Framework The Locality Partnership will receive an update from Alex Mackenzie, Regeneration and Development Manager	Pg 7		Claire Fitzsimmons /Graham Ross	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.35 – 8.50 pm
4.	Locality Plan Progress Receive update from Locality Officer.	Pg 57	Enclosed	Louise Riddex	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
5.	Youth and Education Overview The Locality Partnership will receive an overview from Head Teachers and the Community Development Team.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
6.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships Officers to discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by SFRS and Police Scotland in Kilwinning.	-	Verbal	David Cameron Neil Shearer	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
7.	KA Leisure The Locality Partnership will receive an update on work in Kilwinning.	-	Verbal	Fiona Comrie	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
8.	Locality Officer Update The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Kilwinning Locality Team during the last quarter.	Pg 60	Enclosed	Louise Riddex	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.

AOCB				8.50 – 9.00 pm	
9.	AOCB			Cllr Davidson	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
	CLD Strategic Quarterly Update	Pg 79		Cllr Davidson	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

Elected Members

Councillor Scott Davidson (**Chair**)
Councillor Joe Cullinane
Councillor Donald Reid

Community Representative

Colin Hedley, Kilwinning Community Council (**Vice Chair**)
Peter Marshall, Community Representative
Alison Stell, Community Representative

CPP/Council Representatives

Stephen McGovern, Senior Lead Officer
Rhonda Leith, Lead Officer
Louise Riddex, Locality Officer
Ann Wilson, Third Sector Interface
Craig McFie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
David Cameron, Police Scotland

Kilwinning Locality Partnership

**Supporting
Skills and
Work**

**Improving our
Local
Environment**

**Alleviating Poverty
and Promoting
Equality of Access
to Opportunities**

**Improving
Community
Wellbeing**



Kilwinning Locality Partnership – Community Investment Fund

The Kilwinning Locality Partnership CIF allocation to date:	£646,000
Funded Projects	Total Funding Awarded
Kilwinning McGavin Park	£35,000
Multi-Purpose Youth and Community Hub	£41,190
Multi-Purpose Youth and Community Hub – Phase 2	£15,000
Kilwinning McGavin Park – Phase 3	£45,000
Almswell Park Pitch replacement	£45,000
Corsehill Playpark	£50,000
Kilwinning Tennis Club	£55,000
Corra Foundation	£33,000
Remaining CIF Balance	£323,810

Meeting:	Kilwinning Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	11 December 2023 at 7.00 p.m. Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Present:	Councillor Scott Davidson (Chair) Councillor Donald Reid Colin Hedley, Community Representative (Vice-Chair) Louise Riddex, Locality Officer (NAC) Claire Fitzsimmons, Senior Manager Regeneration (NAC) Tim Swan, Head Teacher, Kilwinning Academy Paula Lacy, Head Teacher, Pennyburn Primary School Jim Watson, Kilwinning Community Council Gary Moore, Active Schools and Community Partner Martyn Rae, Active Schools Co-ordinator Gillian Jennings, AA Public Health (NHS) Fiona Comrie, KA Leisure Kimberley O'Neill, Community Development Worker (NAC) Diane McCaw, Committee Services Officer (NAC)
Apologies:	Councillor John Glover Stephen McGovern, Scottish Fire & Rescue Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire & Rescue David Cameron, Police Scotland Rhonda Leith, Lead Officer (NAC)

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present to the Kilwinning Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded.</p> <p>It was noted there were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 11 September 2023 was approved.</p>	
3.	<p>B714 Upgrade</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Claire Fitzsimmons regarding the B714 upgrade, including information on the revised phased approach approved by the Cabinet on 29 August 2023 as below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase One commencing at Girthill to the Hillend Roundabout, with on-line improvements between Meiklelaught and Muirlaught, with construction of a roundabout to connect the upgraded road to the Hillend roundabout; and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase Two, between Sharphill roundabout and Muirlaught, to be carried out at a later date, subject to funding. <p>Public exhibitions will take place in late January to update on the adjusted phased approach and in terms of revisions in connection with electric vehicle charging facilities and the active travel infrastructure.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to how community participatory budgeting could influence the overall project in terms of planting and landscaping, cultural or heritage projects alongside the current project.</p> <p>The Partnership asked questions and received clarification in relation to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the path to be followed in connection with any participatory budgeting input; and the intention for NAC to apply to have the A737 detrunked between Dalry and Kilwinning when the full route is complete. <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Locality Action Plan</p> <p>The Partnership received an update on the Draft Locality Action Plan 2023/2024.</p> <p>The Locality Officer provided information on the background and basis for the Action Plan, how the proposed schedule of actions related to the Partnership’s priorities, and how it would operate as a dynamic document.</p> <p>The Partnership requested that feedback be provided to Community Planning in terms of maintaining up-to-date mailing lists regarding Partner representation.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to (a) approve the Locality Action Plan 2023/24; and (b) note that a 2024/25 Plan would be prepared and presented in due course.</p>	<p><i>Jennifer McGee/ Lesley Dunlop</i></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Youth and Education Overview</p> <p>The Partnership received verbal updates from Kilwinning Academy and Pennyburn Primary School Head Teachers and from Active Schools Co-ordinators which linked in with Locality priorities.</p> <p>The verbal updates included information on a number of areas including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tackling behavioural and vandalism issues within schools; the focus on attendance levels over the last 3 to 4 week period; the ongoing national issue of young people accessing vapes and bringing them into school; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagement with young people, including the Columba 1400 value based leadership academy, to develop potential; • recent attendance at parents evenings; • the Kilwinning Academy Parent Council funding award of £1,000; • the forthcoming prelim exams; and • the extensive plan for cluster collegiate working this session. <p>Due to technical difficulties, Paula Lacy of Pennyburn Primary School lost connection to the meeting and would be asked to submit a typed version of the Primary School update for circulation to the Partnership for information.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p><i>Jennifer McGee/ Lesley Dunlop</i></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue – Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>In the absence of representatives from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue, the Chair highlighted the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue free Drive-through Santa’s Grotto event taking place at Kilwinning Community Fire Station on Sunday 17 December from 2-4pm and 6.30-8pm.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>KA Leisure</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Fiona Comrie, Health and Wellbeing Manager with KA Leisure, on work with the Health and Wellbeing Alliance to help people access services and activities, identify gaps in provision and apply for funding.</p> <p>The Partnership asked a question regarding the longer closure of the Kilwinning Campus which had been due to asbestos and structural works resulting in more work needing to be carried out than originally anticipated.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a written report and verbal update by the Locality Officer, on the work which had been undertaken in the Locality since the last meeting including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with Kilwinning Academy to deliver interventions in relation to citizenship, confidence building, literacy and numeracy; • inter-generational activities through Corsehill Community Association and Primary school including the ‘No Knives Better Lives’ programme delivered to P7s; • the Multiply Project targeting numeracy for those ages 19+; • National Youth Work Week which took place across North Ayrshire during November; and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The well attended Older People’s Conference providing education and advice in terms of scamming. <p>The Partnership was further updated regarding Kilwinning Community Events where Councillor Reid highlighted the ongoing difficulty in terms of engagement. A plan for engagement across communities will be developed for the year ahead.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p><i>Louise Riddex</i></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>CIF Process Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from the Locality Officer on the revised process for CIF applications to streamline this procedure across all localities.</p> <p>The Partnership discussed the process and highlighted matters including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that chit chats had not been successful in encouraging applications for funding; the time taken for volunteers to complete the application process; guidance required in terms of 100% funding allocations; and that CIF priorities should move towards longer term outcomes. <p>The Partnership asked that the CIF Guidance be recirculated to all Partnership members.</p> <p>Fiona Comrie then advised the Partnership on the Doorstep Programme run previously by KA Leisure from the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing funding. A continuation of the Doorstep Programme to target frail and vulnerable people would be welcomed. Fiona will contact Louise Riddex once more information is available in terms of the impact report and demographics for Kilwinning and on whether there is potential for a CIF funding application in this regard.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p><i>Jennifer McGee/ Lesley Dunlop</i></p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>TRO Kilwinning</p> <p>Colin Hedley advised that the TRO in Kilwinning Town Centre is due for review and that community engagement has been carried out which closed on 30 November 2023. 504 responses had been received with 61% of respondents wanting pedestrianisation to remain as it is and 39% wanting it changed in some shape or form.</p> <p>Information on the consultation will be shared with Louise Riddex to take forward to appropriate Roads officers in terms of the TRO review.</p>	<p><i>Colin Hedley/ Louise Riddex</i></p>

	<p>Public Health Update Gillian Jennings gave a verbal update in terms of public health and advised that the information would be shared with the Partnership as this contained useful links as part of the document.</p>	<p><i>Gillian Jennings/ Jennifer McGee/ Lesley Dunlop</i></p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Reports for Information - Quarterly CLD Report</p> <p>Noted.</p>	

Meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Kilwinning

Place Framework

June 2023

DRAFT

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ACTION PLAN

This document should be read in conjunction with the Shared Action Plan

CREDITS

CLIENT:

North Ayrshire Council

CONSULTANTS:

Austin-Smith:Lord
Lead Consultant, Urban Design,
Landscape, Architecture,
Conservation, Engagement

WAVEparticle
Engagement,
Community Animation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Place Framework seeks to identify priority issues and bring together and co-ordinate place-based actions and initiatives to improve the quality of life in the historic town of Kilwinning

Kilwinning was one of three towns in North Ayrshire selected as part of a pilot to develop a Place Framework approach, with funding and support from Scottish Government.

This place-based approach seeks to enable and support socio-economic and environmental regeneration in response to local priorities and need, and in line with Council and Government policy objectives. The Kilwinning Place Framework is deliberately aligned with the strategic objectives of the Kilwinning Locality Planning Partnership. The Place Framework also supports, and should be read in conjunction with, relevant local and national policies to help deliver local impact and outcomes.

The Kilwinning Place Framework draws upon extensive community and stakeholder engagement involving local residents, businesses, community organisations and relevant departments from across North Ayrshire Council. This participatory approach helped identify a set of priorities and actions that call upon all stakeholders with a responsibility for Kilwinning to work together to coordinate impactful action. This is deliberately in line with the collaborative ethos of the 'Place Principle' and promotes community-led action and capacity building where appropriate.

Many of the local challenges and opportunities are well known and documented, not least in the Kilwinning Charrette (2019). The impact of the Covid pandemic has accelerated the urgency to address many long-standing trends affecting Kilwinning. However this situation has also inspired local community action which has already delivered tangible impact, whilst local and national policies promoting community wealth building and '20 min neighbourhoods' supporting convenient access to local amenities and facilities are well aligned with the needs of Kilwinning.

On this basis the Kilwinning Place Framework identifies 5 Areas of Focus:

1. Town Centre and 'High Street' Projects
2. Bringing the Whole Town Together – Enhancing Connections, Cohesion and Collaboration
3. Celebrating Kilwinning's Heritage and Identities
4. Reducing Inequalities and Improving Health and Wellbeing
5. Providing Convenient Access to Good Local Services, Amenities and Opportunities

To address these Areas of Focus the Place Framework outlines a series of projects and tasks, set out within an Action Plan. It is intended this becomes a shared term of reference for all stakeholders to help co-ordinate action to secure buy-in, permission and (where necessary) funding to enable delivery.

Some projects and actions are community-led, others Council-led, others rely on other stakeholders to promote and deliver projects. All require coordination and partnership working to succeed. It is intended that the Kilwinning Place Framework Action Plan is regularly monitored and updated to record achievements, plan next steps and future action and identify new priorities and ideas.

In response a selection of headline projects include:

- Activate vacant / under-used buildings in Town Centre (notably former Job Centre, Police Station, Clydesdale Bank, Howgate)
- Support more activities and a Town Centre venue for young people
- Establish a community venue / space in the Town Centre
- Promote and improve awareness / appreciation / accessibility of local heritage (including enhancements to the Heritage Centre)
- Consider an art trail connecting to Eglinton Park along the River Garnock
- Enhance the Abbey Grounds - Improved security, maintenance of heritage buildings, structures and visitor facilities
- Improve connections to and between the College and Academy campuses
- Reduce the impact of traffic on key pedestrian streets (e.g. Dalry Road, Lauchlan Way, Howgate / Byres Road)
- Continue enhancements to McGavin Park
- Explore establishing a Kilwinning Community Development Trust and progress a Local Business Group

01 ■ Introduction

PROJECT INTRODUCTION / BRIEF

Place Frameworks are a new concept in regeneration in North Ayrshire. Kilwinning is one of three settlements included in a Pilot to progress Place Frameworks for these towns. Following on from the Pilot it is intended to produce Place Frameworks for other towns and settlements in North Ayrshire.

The Place Frameworks support and are integral to the NAC Regeneration Delivery Plan (RDP) which was adopted in March 2021. This sets out priorities for delivering on the regeneration ambitions of the Council Plan and Community Wealth Building strategy, working in partnership with communities.

The RDP focuses on the delivery of physical regeneration across North Ayrshire through an ambitious project based rolling action programme. It is intended that the Place Framework inform this action programme, helping set priorities for securing and delivering against external funding sources including Scottish and UK Government funds.

Each Place Framework is to inform local action and consider the following:

- Build on earlier planning and community engagement work (including recent charrettes)
- Moving on from the identification of need and issues to generate solutions and new initiatives
- Interpret and articulate commitments made in the strategic plans of Community Planning Partners
- Community led regeneration opportunities/action
- Community capacity to develop and deliver local regeneration
- 20-minute neighbourhoods
- Active Travel networks
- Vacant & Derelict Land sites
- Town Centre Living
- Green/ Open spaces
- Heritage assets
- Tourism
- Locality priorities

The Place Frameworks will inform short-, medium- and long-term Council and community led action and regeneration activity to create attractive and successful places.

The Place Frameworks project will support the Community Wealth Building Strategy adopted in 2020 by North Ayrshire Council. This strategy puts local communities and economies at the heart of decision making and planning. In particular, the development of Place Frameworks aims to deliver on the Land and Assets pillar of the Community Wealth Building Strategy which recognises that the underutilisation of land and assets represents missed opportunities for towns and communities to achieve their full potential.

Funding has been secured from the UK Community Renewal Fund (21/22) and Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme (21/22).



PROCESS & TIMELINES

North Ayrshire Council appointed a consultant team in Spring 2022 to progress pilot Place Frameworks for three towns; Saltcoats, Kilwinning and Largs. The team was led by Austin-Smith:Lord, supported by WAVEparticle; selected due to their experience of town centre charrettes across Scotland.

In response to the NAC Brief the consultant team developed a 3 Stage process described below and illustrated opposite.

Stage 1 : Analysis and Pre-Engagement

Early activities included;

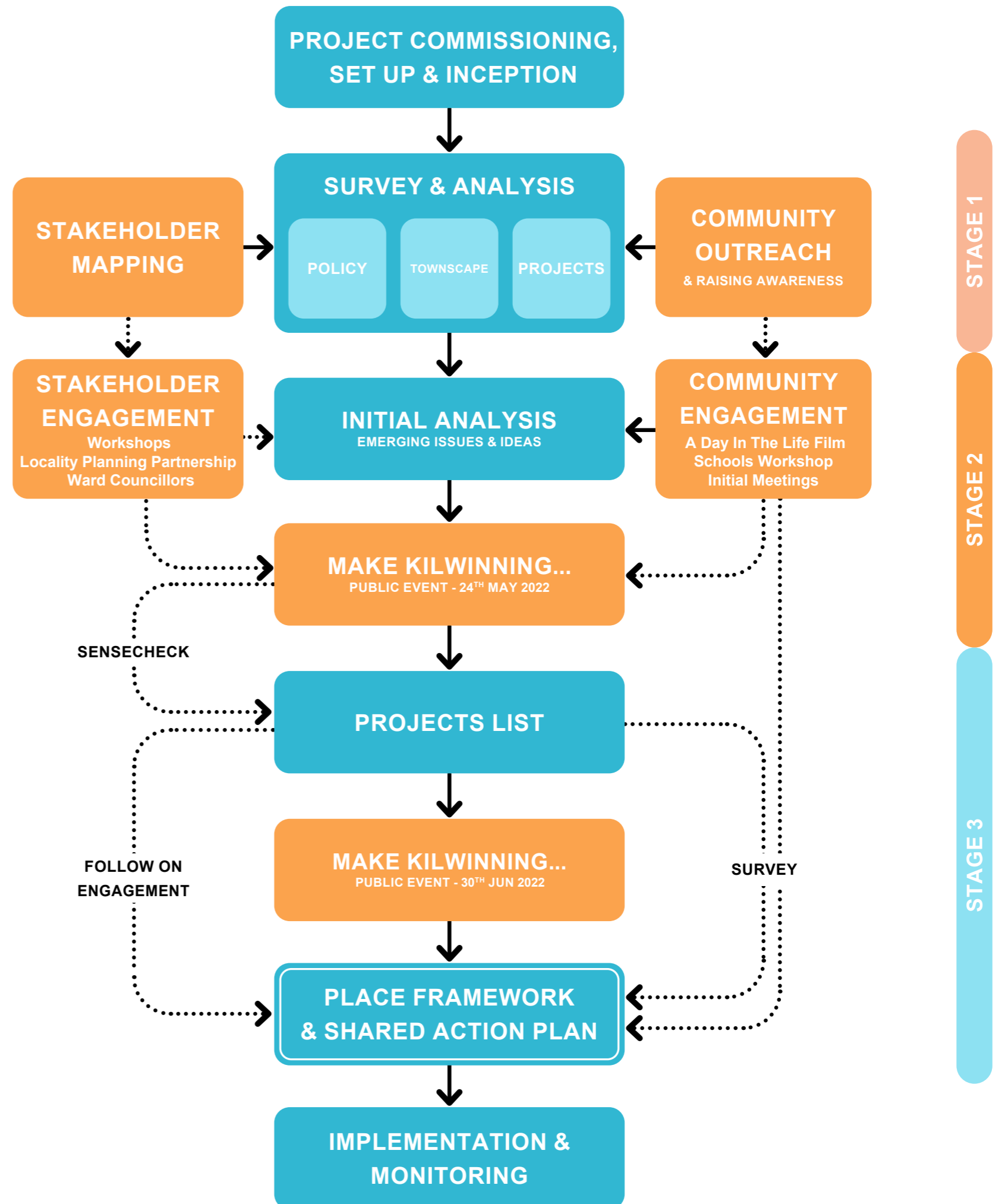
- collating and assessing an array of local and national policy and strategy documentation from the perspective of what it means for Kilwinning,
- developing a list of key stakeholders and preparing engagement activity
- engaging with Community Planning Partnership and local ward councillors pre May 2022 local elections.

Stage 2 : Engagement

The engagement approach sought to engage with a diverse cross section of local stakeholders in terms of demographics and interest in the town, including local residents, businesses, active community and civic groups, voluntary sector, Council departments and local and national agencies. Further details of engagement activity is outlined in more detail but included schools workshops, interviews with local community reps and businesses, public workshops (with walk and talk sessions, community chit-chats etc), preparation of a film capturing issues and ideas affecting the town, and an online survey of emerging ideas. These activities progressed either side of local Council elections, and summer holiday periods.

Stage 3 : Developing Place Framework

Based on the evidence emerging from the first 2 stages key objectives for the Place Framework were established, a list of emerging projects developed with an associated Action Plan outlining how to progress next steps and identifying 'quick wins' and priority projects and suggesting the partners who should collaborate to make progress.





HOW TO USE THIS PLACE FRAMEWORKS

This Place Framework Report is published as a guide for anyone with an interest in the future of Kilwinning. It is intended to provide a term of reference to help guide future efforts to enhance the place. It takes a local people-centred, action and project-driven approach, suggesting interventions and support required to sustain community action and promote and deliver projects (physical and non-physical).

This Place Framework report is accomplished by a Shared Action Plan that suggests projects aligned with stated objectives; with 'quick wins' and priority projects identified. Where possible potential partners who should consider collaborating to deliver projects are suggested. This is especially important given the Action Plan is 'shared' and is not the sole responsibility of any one organisation.

It is recommended that a group be established, with representatives from the Council, local resident and business community and other key stakeholders. This group should be tasked with reviewing progress against the Shared Action Plan; highlighting achievements and successful delivery, planning next steps and adding new items when deemed necessary. It should be maintained as a rolling programme of Actions.

Place Frameworks - Successful Delivery

This Place Framework, and the delivery of the projects and actions that emerge, have and should be;

- Developed by and with the Kilwinning community
- Adopted and delivered by the Kilwinning community, businesses, third and public sector partners

This Place Frameworks aims to be;

- Inclusive and participatory
- Feasible and realistic
- Flexible and responsive
- Action and project focused
- In line with the Locality Planning Priorities
- In line with the principles of Community Wealth Building
- In line with the transition to Net Zero

KEY CONCEPTS

The Place Principle

The overarching ethos of the Place Principle is embedded in the preparation and delivery of this Place Framework.

The Scottish Government and COSLA have adopted the Place Principle in order to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.

We commit to taking:

A collaborative, place-based approach with a shared purpose to support a clear way forward for all services, assets and investments which will maximise the impact of their combined resources.



THEREFORE

We're developing a **Shared Action Plan** as a common terms of reference for all; the **resident and business community, civic groups, the Council, voluntary sector and local and national agencies.**

20 Minute Towns

ScotGov National Planning Framework 4

"A method of achieving connected and often compact neighbourhoods designed in such a way that people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable walk, wheel or cycle (within approx. 800m) of their home."

Sustrans

"...ensure that it is easy for people to meet most of their everyday needs by a short, convenient and pleasant 20-minute return walk."

20-minute analysis has contributed to the basis of the Kilwinning Place Framework.



Community Wealth Building

North Ayrshire Council is recognised as being at the vanguard of promoting Community Wealth Building. The Place Frameworks are compatible with these aspirations and seek to encourage local business, skills development, promote local suppliers and community led regeneration and ownership of assets.

Climate and Biodiversity Emergencies

North Ayrshire Council has declared a Climate Emergency.

It is vital that the Place Framework helps proactively inspire climate action at a local level. This needs to include supporting enhanced open space, promotion of active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) and public transport (optimising the presence of a town centre train station and improving bus coverage). In addition there is scope to promote retrofitting of existing under occupied buildings, increased town centre living and increased climate literacy and new skills to support a local green economy.

Prioritising Sustainable Transport



Hierarchy of Modes

The Place Frameworks emphatically promote the national hierarchy of modes of travel and transport. In line with Scottish Planning Policy and local policy active travel (walking, wheeling and then cycling) is prioritised. Public Transport is also encouraged, maximising the existing train service and supporting improve bus service provision, perhaps via a Community Bus initiative.

02. ■ Context



KILWINNING NOW

Kilwinning enjoys many assets, not least its location at the convergence of two of Ayrshire's principal rail lines. Kilwinning's neighbourhoods are dispersed and surround the historic Town Centre; each with their own identity, community facilities and boundaries. However the Town Centre feels fragile and at risk of decline. Prominent and long term vacant buildings blight the look and feel of the town centre which lacks an evening economy and community facilities.

Yet the Town Centre has a strong sense of place. The Abbey and the historic Main Street running to the River Garnock is an attractive setting with a rich, yet under-appreciated history. The nearby College has the potential to help sustain activity in and around the Town Centre, alongside the determination of local community groups to restore heritage buildings and repurpose vacant retail units for new community and leisure functions.

Developing a 'new narrative' for the town centre that sustains local businesses and is enlivened by local community, events, activities and culture remains critical. Socio-economic and health inequalities persist in Kilwinning, despite longstanding and ongoing initiatives to address endemic issues.

Beyond the Town Centre significant open spaces including McGavin Park and Eglinton Country Park provide access to nature. Elsewhere community growing and ladders address local needs and restore connections between the land and community.

However much green space is of a low standard, or is vacant and derelict land. Many walking, wheeling and cycling routes are inadequate and need improvement.

Kilwinning, as with many of Ayrshire's towns, has a strong sense of pride in its place. Community groups across Kilwinning are active with successful sports clubs, heritage groups and voluntary organisations helping address inequalities and promoting community health and wellbeing.

PLACE ANALYSIS

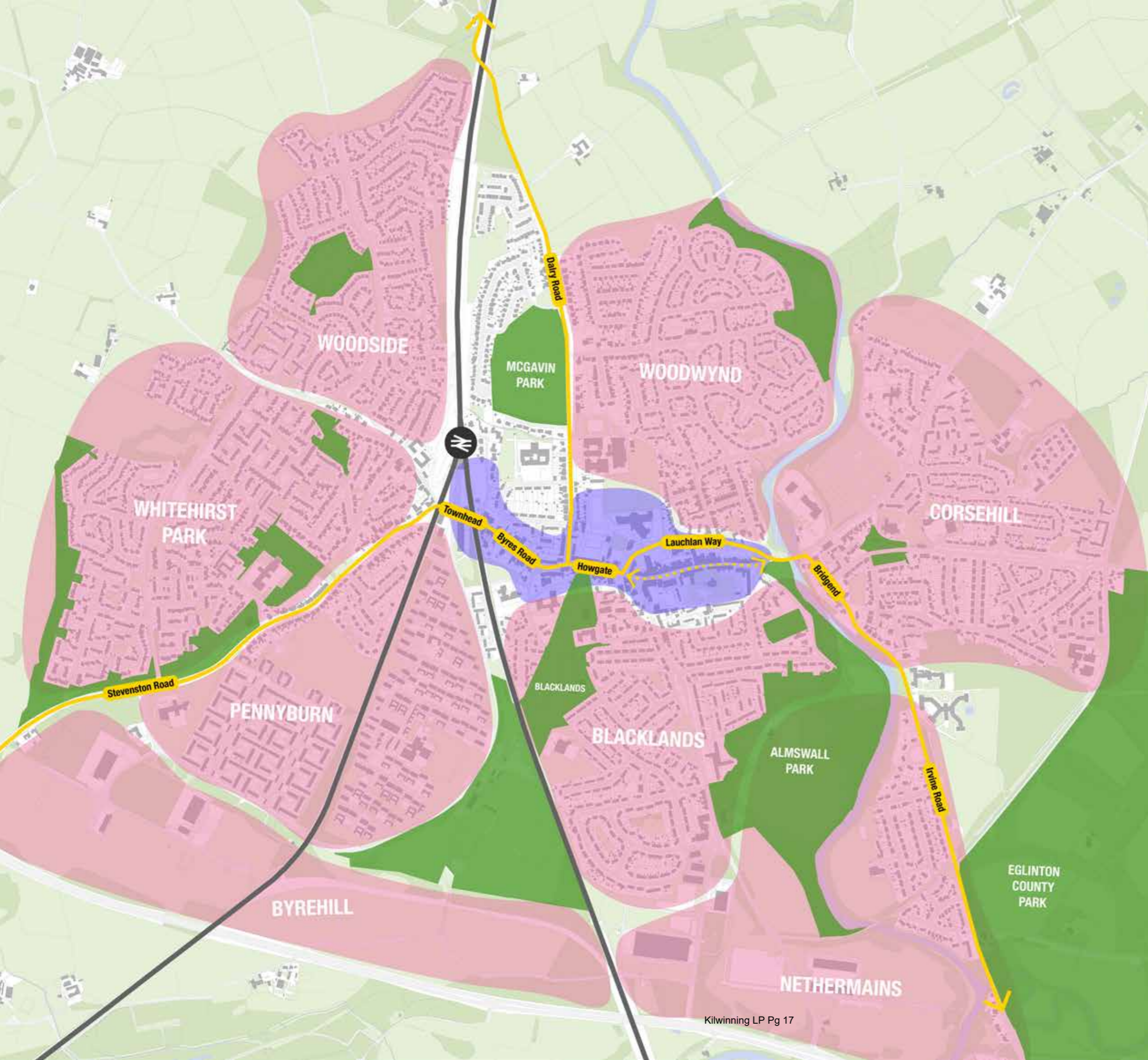
Kilwinning Today - Town Structure

Kilwinning's contemporary layout is very clearly defined by the River Garnock, historic routes crossing the River linking the historic Abbey town to nearby villages, the impact of the existing and redundant rail lines and the rapid expansion of the town in the past century.

The River, railways and main roads all create severance and thereby clearly define segments of the town. This has resulted in a series of disparate neighbourhoods with very distinct identities, attributes and issues each separated by railways, the River, main roads and significant green and open space (of very varied quality – from Country Park to vacant and derelict land).

The main barriers in Kilwinning run north-south; the River, mainline railways and trunk road (Dalry Road). These cut across the historic east-west emphasis of the original settlement of the Abbey at the River crossing. As the town has grown the introduction of Lauchlan Way as a relief road around the tight historic core has compounded severance in created by the Stevenston Road and Irvine Road.

The extensive open spaces (many alongside the River, main roads and existing and former railways) provide easy access to open space, albeit much of it is not of high standard. Between this network of significant transport and blue-green infrastructure each neighbourhood has a strong identity and local facilities (of varying quality) but almost all lack good connections to the rest of the town, and especially the town centre.



PLACE ANALYSIS - INITIAL OBSERVATIONS



Abbey, Heritage and Identity

Kilwinning has a rich and interesting history which is central to its strong sense of place, local pride and identity. Cherishing, restoring and interpreting this long and rich history is therefore crucial. Challenges and issues are well known regarding the maintenance of key heritage buildings and sites, alongside ambitions to improve the access and interpretation of the town's heritage linking to Eglinton Country Park and beyond.



Roads, Traffic Management and Connections

Kilwinning comprises a collection of distinctive neighbourhoods clustered around the historic Town Centre. There is a pressing need to improve the physical connections between these communities to enable convenient and safe access to local amenities destination and facilities. The impact of traffic (notably on trunk roads) diminishes safe access to the Town Centre and local schools / facilities. Promoting better walking, wheeling and cycling routes, alongside better bus services and access to the well served train station is therefore critical to a sustainable, connected place.



Main Street and Town Centre Vacant Spaces

Kilwinning shares the challenges many towns face; how to revive and sustain the Town Centre, attract footfall and encourage mixed uses. There are several longstanding and prominent vacant spaces in the Town Centre, notably on Main Street. Bringing these spaces back as local business, community, community or public service functions is critical and requires innovative, creativity and unwavering resolve. Solving the perennial issues of landownership and leasing, viability, funding and the wherewithal to reoccupy and sustain activity requires coordinated action.



Open Spaces, Parks and Activities

Kilwinning has extensive open space; some very well used and benefitting from recent investment whilst other areas are vacant, derelict and diminish the quality of everyday life, accessibility and amenity in the town. McGavin Park has benefitted from recent enhancements whilst local sports clubs have also secured significant investment to enhance participation. Local initiatives to promote community growing, active travel and improvements to links to the Country Park can help promote positive wellbeing, healthy and active living.

PLACE ANALYSIS - INITIAL OBSERVATIONS



College

Kilwinning is a College town. There is significant scope to explore ways in which the College can play a substantial role in the Town's revival. Improving connections between the Town Centre and the campus, encouraging increased cultural, social and economic benefit from having a regional Further Education facility in the Town and by enabling the College students and staff to help progress regeneration of the place could have mutual benefit and positive impact – perhaps through curriculum alignment or by establishing space for the Town Centre to be enlivened by new enterprise, creativity and learning spaces.

POLICY CONTEXT

The Place Framework approach, as outlined earlier, sought to bring together evidence and analysis based upon;

- **Consultation and Engagement (with local communities)** – resident, business, civic, voluntary / 3rd sector – and key stakeholders – including NAC departments and local and national agencies)
- **Place Analysis** – utilising on site surveys and observations as well as map based analysis and data review
- **Policy Context** – assimilating local, regional and national policies aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Scottish Governments draft National Planning Framework 4 and the Town Centre Action Plan Review (2021).

North Ayrshire Council provided an array of relevant background policy and strategy documentation. This included the predecessor 'Three Towns Charrette' (2017) and the Regeneration Delivery Plan (2021).

Other key documentation included;

- North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019 -2024
- Local Development Plan (LDP 2019)
- Three Towns Locality Partnership Priorities
- Your Town Audit
- Economic Development + Regeneration Strategy
- Economic Recovery & Renewal Approach
- Tourism Action Plan
- Open Space Audit (2022)

Key issues arising from this analysis include;

- An ongoing emphasis on mixed-use town centre, including mixed-tenure housing
- Focus on local economic and community benefits as part of the Community Wealth Building agenda
- Advocating 'Living Well, Locally' promoting the 20 min neighbourhoods concept as a place planning principle to ensure convenient accessibility to everyday services, amenities and opportunities (jobs, learning, active life) local to all,
- Promotion of active travel and public transport modes to reduce car trip generation and prioritise pedestrian and cycle accessibility
- Promotion of the Place Principle calling for partnership working and coordinated delivery
- Health and wellbeing benefits of quality open space and well connected active travel networks

KEY OBJECTIVES

There's an array of local and national policy influencing place-based decisions. To provide the Place Framework with local focus as well as alignment with key local policy it was proposed, in consultation with key stakeholders, to specifically focus on three documents;

- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2022 - 2030
- The Local Development Plan (2019)
- Locality Partnership Priorities > <http://northayrshire.community/your-community/three-towns/our-local-priorities/>

The **Local Outcomes Improvement Plan** was published in October 2022 and focusses on delivering on the vision of "North Ayrshire – Fair for All" and has three key themes, declaring that;

Wellbeing – We will address health inequalities. We will promote children and young people's wellbeing. We will enable community wellbeing.

Work – We will increase employment. We will develop volunteering. We will better support our young people.

World – We will work together to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We will increase active travel. We will increase carbon literacy within our organisations and communities.

The Local Development Plan states that, "North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Vision is that every person in North Ayrshire is valued and should have the best opportunities to live their life to their full potential. This Vision looks forward 20 years and shows how development can help North Ayrshire become **Healthier, Working, Thriving and Safer.**"

The **Kilwinning Locality Partnership** priorities will be:

1. Supporting Skills and Work
2. Improving our Local Environment
3. Alleviating Poverty and Promoting Equality of Access to Opportunities
4. Improving Community Wellbeing

KEY CONCEPTS

Kilwinning's Future Charrette (2019)

The Charrette report from 2019 provided a strong platform and term of reference for the Kilwinning Place Framework. Many of the principal Themes / Programmes referred to in the Charrette report remain relevant and are therefore incorporated in to the 2022 Place Frameworks.

The Charrette Themes / Programme were;

1. Young People
2. The Abbey
3. Enterprise
4. Wellbeing
5. Calm Environments
6. Community Transport
7. Lifestyles
8. Community Support
9. Community Partnership
10. Eco-Friendly

Within these 10 themes 36 projects were outlined in the Charrette. Many of these projects have been reaffirmed through the Place Framework.

Neighbourhoods and Community Facilities



Source: Kilwinning's Future Making Place Charrette (2019)

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Noteworthy and recent successes in the town include:

- Restoring successful events programme in the wake of the Covid pandemic
- Community-led improvements to McGavin Park
- New membership in Heritage Society and funding secured to improve Heritage Centre
- Progress to maintain and increase participation in sports through the local Sports Club and Community Football Academy
- Initiatives to support innovative ways to build local community resilience and capacity (eg. Corra, System Changers)
- Progress with Community Larder projects (including the Wee Shoap)
- Innovative community-led initiatives (including Woody's community Diner)
- Delivery of housing developments: St Michael's Wynd & Willow Gardens



Restoration of the events programme



New Equipment at McGavin Park



Cranberry's Community Larder



Woody's Community Diner



Kilwinning Park
NorthAyrshireCouncil- Option 1



New Equipment at McGavin Park

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS - CASE STUDIES



McGavin Park Improvements

Kilwinning Community Events have delivered significant upgrades to McGavin Park including a new play area and outdoor gym. The group continue to seek improvements to the park and have recently been awarded funding from the Place Based Investment Programme to provide a new toddler play unit. The group also host the annual fireworks display, which attracts visitors from across the region to the town.



Choose Kilwinning

Choose Kilwinning is a voluntary group who wish to work together to make the town more vibrant. It will carry on the great work undertaken by Promoting Kilwinning. The group promotes local businesses and clubs as well as hosting events such as the Segdoune Gala.



Woody's Community Diner

ACES Woodwynd were awarded funding from the Place Based Investment Programme in 2022 for the installation of a community diner at the Woodwynd Community Centre. Woody's is an American 1950s themed diner which offers the local community fresh, good value meals.

ACES Woodwynd also operate the Wee Shoap. This community shop offers a variety of low-cost produce and personal hygiene products.

03 ■ Engagement

SUMMARY OF PROCESS & FINDING

Background

The Place Framework approach seeks to embed participatory planning as the basis of community and stakeholder engagement. The aim is to invite and enable local communities (resident, business, civic, voluntary / third sector) and agencies (local and national) to identify the priorities for each place and influence, to inform the decisions around project delivery and to foster partnership working.

The Place Frameworks engagement strategy sought to involve as wide and representative a cross section of the local community as was practical; speaking with well-established groups, businesses and organisations as well as proactively seeking out lesser heard voices. To this end a range of in-person and virtual activities took place involving a range of different tools and techniques, to enable wider participation whilst also taking cognisance of Covid restrictions and guidance.

Make Kilwinning...

To make the engagement activities more accessible the title (and associated social media hashtag) 'Make Kilwinning...' was adopted for the Place Framework project. To raise awareness of the project and to promote events and activities during all stages of the project North Ayrshire Council's communications team, supported by the Connected Communities and the Regeneration teams and the project consultant team, published web news items, print and digital media articles and social media postings, alongside a local poster and flier campaign.

Timeframe

The events and engagement activities described below commenced in Spring 2022 and continued through until early Autumn 2022. This period spanned the 2022 Council election period with engagement with Elected Members and the Locality Planning Partnership prior to the election campaigns and after the election of new Councillors. Community engagement activities also spanned the school Summer holiday period, with direct interaction with the schools and general public occurring during term time.



SUMMARY OF PROCESS & FINDING

Approach

The overall engagement approach followed 3 phases. These phases were;

Phase 1 (Discovery Phase) – mapping key stakeholders, making contact, facilitating early / initial engagement to establish key issues and ideas, commencing schools workshops and in-situ events / activities to raise awareness of the project and ‘Make Kilwinning...’ events. Key activities included WAVEparticle facilitating schools workshops, interviewing local people on-street and promoting key projects – all compiled in to ‘A Day in the Life of Kilwinning’ film capturing key issues, ideas and ambitions for the town.

Phase 2 (Public Events Day – ‘Make Kilwinning...’) - Community and Stakeholder Engagement focused around a set-piece day of public workshops and events in Erskine Church Hall on 24 May 2022, under the ‘Make Kilwinning...’ banner. The day involved school workshops, public workshop sessions, a walk, wheel and talk tour around the town centre. A follow-up event was held on 30 August 2022 and included a funding workshop and culminated in a community ‘chit chat’ show and tell session.

Phase 3 (Follow Up Engagement + Project Development) – following on from the issues and idea generation focused on the two ‘Make Kilwinning...’ events days the project team conducted a follow up online and in-person survey inviting participants to feedback on the emerging Place Framework projects. Meetings with potential key project sponsors in the community were also conducted to progress projects and seek alignment and assess eligibility for Community Renewal Fund and Place Based Investment Programme support.

Engagement Process

During Phase 1 – Discovery, prior to the ‘Make Kilwinning...’ events day, the project consultant team, supported by NAC Regeneration and Connected Communities teams mapped out the existing network of community groups and key stakeholders in the town, across the Council and within partner organisations.

A full list of events, meetings and consultees is included in the Appendices for the record.

A summary of some of the key stakeholder groups and significant engagement activity is outlined in the following pages.

Local Community Engagement

The legacy of extensive work by NAC Connected Communities ensured that there was good connections with key local community groups and a good level of participation and engagement. Key activities included;

- Local schools workshops
- On-street interviews and 1-to-1 meetings with key community organisations
- Preparation of ‘A Day in the Life of Kilwinning’ film capturing the key ideas from the previous two bullet points



During the Walk, Wheel and Talk tour the group stopped by the Heritage Centre



During the same Walk, Wheel and Talk tour the group stopped in Kilwinning high street in front of the former job centre

SUMMARY OF PROCESS & FINDING

- The 'Make Kilwinning...' events day on 24 May and 30 August 2022
- Online and in person survey of emerging projects
- Engagement with key project sponsors.

Local residents, businesses, community groups and local agencies were represented at a series of events and activities throughout the 'Make Kilwinning...' events days. This was bolstered by an update on the Place Framework and further community chit-chat event held at the Erskine Church Hall on 8 March 2023. This event also included a 'pop-up' event in the former Kilwinning Police Station featuring the work of a local student artist / model maker and enabling public access to consider scope for Community Asset Transfer.

Elected Members and Locality Planning Partnership

Local Ward Councillors and the Kilwinning Locality Planning Partnership were briefed on the project at the inception stage, prior to the Local Elections in May 2022. The new Councillors and the Locality Planning Partnership were given a briefing on progress and the emerging priorities and projects emerging from the engagement process in Autumn 2022. The Place Framework sought to embed the Locality Planning Partnership priorities in to the assessment of key projects and action for Kilwinning.

North Ayrshire Council and Partner Agencies

NAC officers from relevant departments, alongside key agencies and partners including NHS, have been involved in engagement activity at all stages. In parallel with early townscape, policy and data analysis a series of thematic workshops were facilitated in Spring 2022 considering key issues relating to the following topics;

- Communities, Health and Wellbeing
- Local Economy (incl Tourism)
- Getting Around (incl Active Travel)
- Open Space
- Key Sites, Buildings and Assets

Key issues emerging from these thematic workshops included;

- continuing to be proactive in supporting town centre and 'high street' regeneration including repurposing vacant properties,
- enhancing and enforcing maintenance of properties and streets / open space,
- supporting local activities to promote Community Wealth Building,
- sustaining the encouraging levels of community activism and capacity emerging during the Covid pandemic,
- helping support local businesses and foster a stronger sense of business community,
- supporting local initiatives to adopt and maintain open spaces,
- an emphasis on celebrating local heritage, culture and amenity to sustain heightened appreciation by locals and visitors.

Following on from the 'Make Kilwinning...' events days all of these key stakeholders / NAC officers were brought together in August 2022 to 'sensecheck' the emerging projects and priorities, to ensure alignment with local and national policy and funding.



Local school pupils watching the 'A day in the life of Kilwinning' film



The council team holding a group discussion with local residents

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY

A Day in the Life of Kilwinning

The first engagement event in Kilwinning took place over the 16th and 17th May 2022. The WAVEparticle team visited and stayed in the town to film the 'A Day in the Life of Kilwinning' film.

The day started with a Collective Schools Workshop hosted by Kilwinning Academy, attended by 34 pupils from the Academy and from seven of the local primary schools including, Corsehill, Pennyburn, Blacklands, St. Lukes, St. Winnings, Whitehirst Park and Abbey PS. The pupils got active around the 'big floor map' and wrote 'postcards from the future' to themselves, imagining how Kilwinning should be in 2032. The group discussed what they thought would help 'Make Kilwinning...' even better and to identify the key issues for them, their friends and families and develop ideas about how to make a positive difference.

These initial conversations instructed where the WAVEparticle team would visit next, and every subsequent meeting (planned and unplanned) concluded with asking to be directed to an individual or organisation to meet up with and film next.

The WAVEparticle team met with, and filmed, a range of individuals and organisations including:

- Kilwinning Community Sports Club
- Sports Scotland
- the Rose Foundation which supports local schoolchildren and young people with regard to their education
- an officer with the local Credit Union
- the Family Support Unit, who is working with local families and young people
- Kilwinning Academy
- a waitress in local restaurant The Corner House.



Local primary school students presenting their 'Postcards from the future'



Kilwinning Community Sports Club in the Kilwinning film

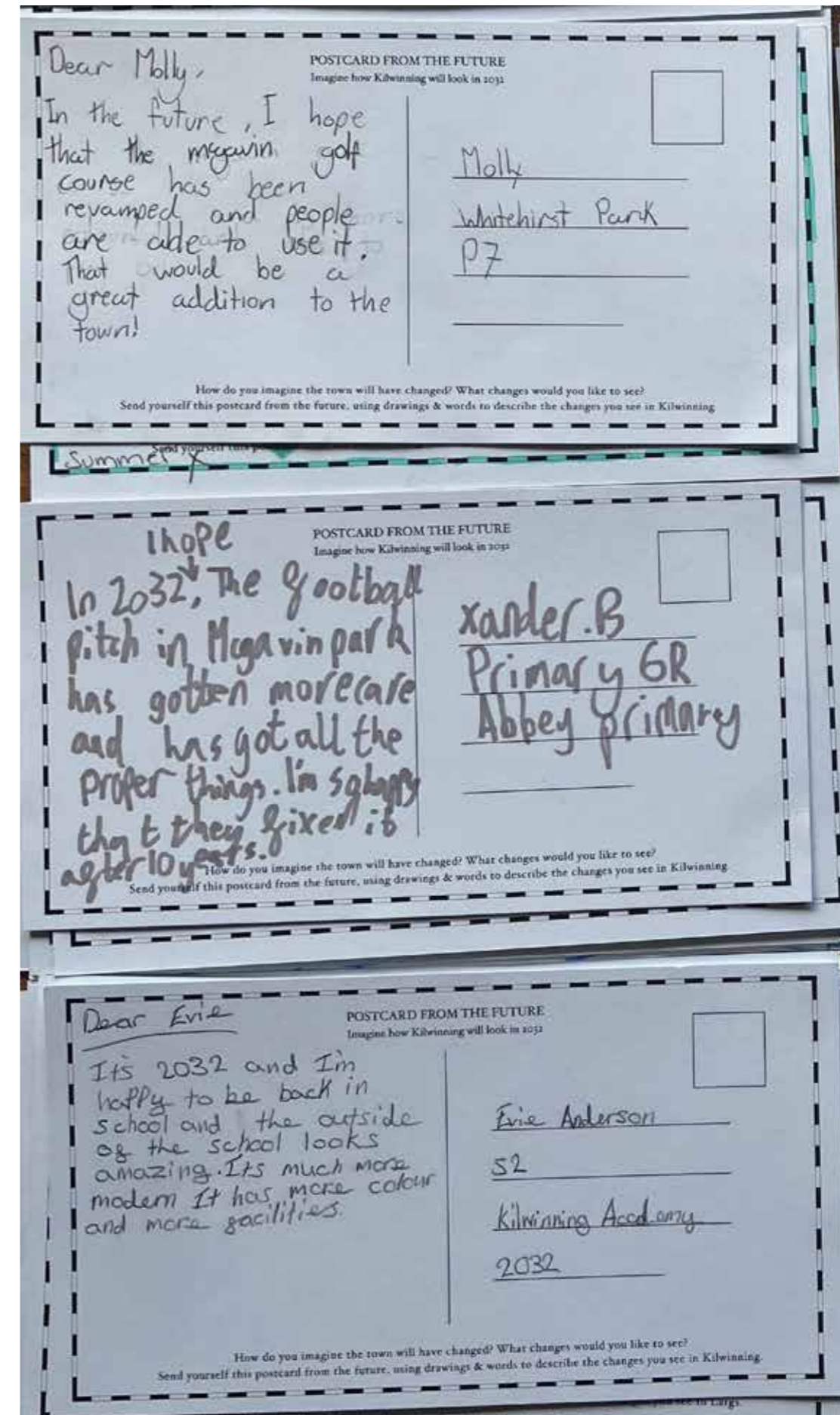
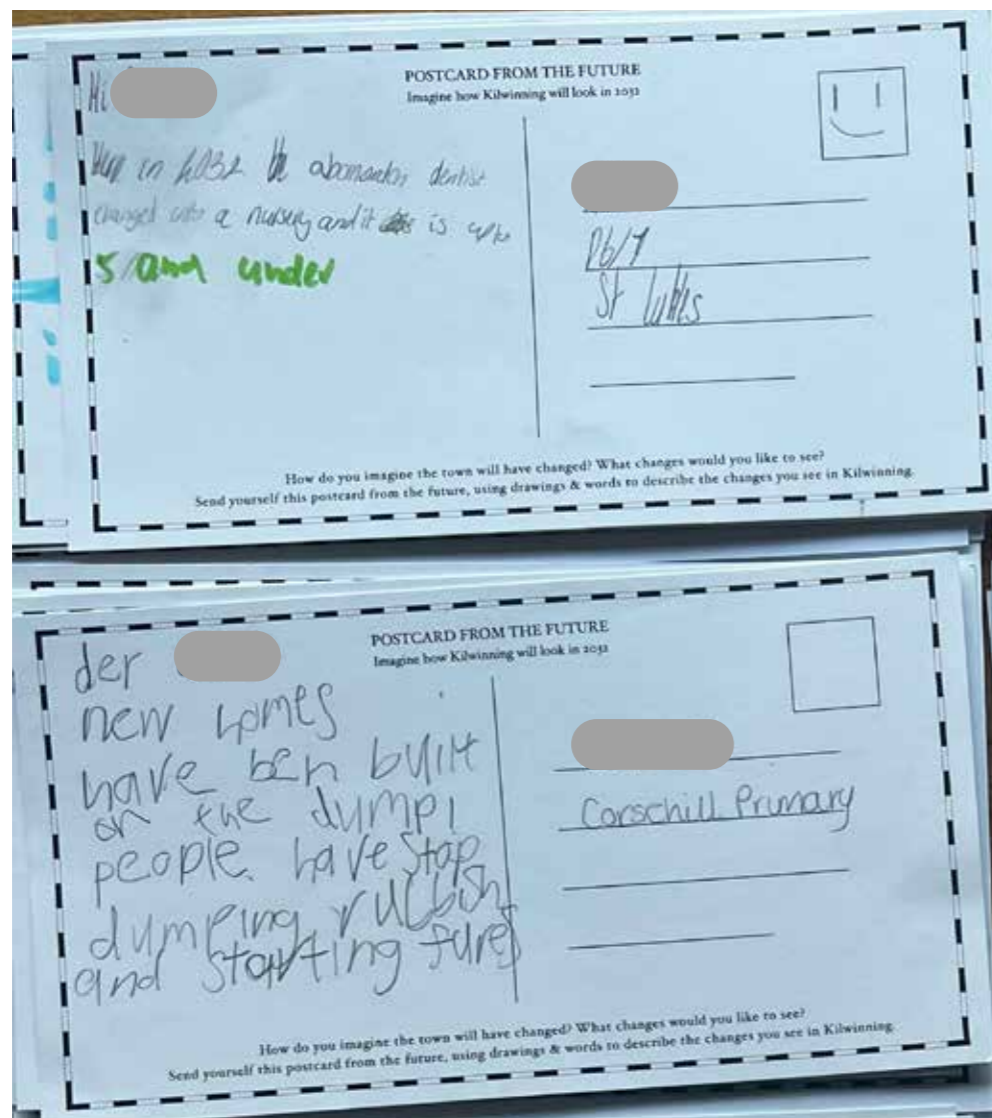


a visit to the credit union in the Kilwinning film

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY

Emerging issues and ideas for projects highlighted in these discussions included:

- Repurpose vacant and derelict buildings in the town – e.g. as a Community Hub for children and families and particularly for young people. The old Job Centre in the town centre was cited as a venue that could be used.
- Revamp tourism offer – local people commented that people travelled to Irvine and Saltcoats because there was more to do, and that more could be made of the town's assets, particularly The Abbey.
- Improve the look and feel of Kilwinning town centre.
- Celebrate and advertise local history and heritage – there is an active heritage group in the town, Kilwinning Heritage, and an example of a project discussed with members was to make lectern style displays of historic street frontages along Kilwinning Main Street, either as temporary interventions or a permanent trace history with interpretation panel, drawing attention to testimonies of lived life in the town, in relation to the buildings represented.
- Bring more events to the town – e.g. there is a great local fireworks event that attracts in the region of 6,000 people, so create similar opportunities for music and sporting events.



PUBLIC & COMMUNITY

'Make Kilwinning...' Event - Day 1

On the 24th May 2022, the first of the principal Kilwinning Place Framework public engagement events took place in the Erskine Church Hall.

42 people attended the various events and workshops throughout the day. The events supported idea generation, as well as fostering partnership working and introducing key contacts across the local community to strengthen local networks.

The venue also hosted a drop-in exhibition, and the screening, at intervals, of "A Day In The Life of Kilwinning." All attendees were invited to contribute their ideas via 'Postcards from the Future', along with discussions around the big floor-map and debate about the ideas emerging and shared in the hall.

A gazebo was set up adjacent to the hall, staffed by a team member, to encourage passers-by to drop-in and offer their thoughts and insights about Kilwinning. Throughout the day project team members also went to local businesses, footfall 'hot spots' and made contact with key local representatives to raise awareness and encourage participation.

The events throughout the day included;

- Schools Workshop – following up on the earlier activities with the Schools
- Lunchtime Workshop – identifying priorities for Kilwinning
- Walk, Wheel and Talk – facilitated tour around the town centre

The events planned for the afternoon / evening, the Future Funding Workshop, along with the Community Chit Chat and Ideas Showcase, had to be postponed because a team member had tested positive for Covid. These remaining two events were subsequently rescheduled for 30th August, again at Erskine Church Hall.

At the conclusion of the first day of events, some of the emerging projects coming out of the day of debate, discussion, and co-design included;

- Create opportunities for community events.
- Repurpose vacant town centre buildings - the vacant Job Centre in the town was again particularly mentioned,
- Better and more facilities for young people - the need for a Community Hub was highlighted
- Heritage group to consider heritage trails to lead to the museum
- Current Police window/Building as a point of orientation/community hub

The second of the Kilwinning Place Framework public engagement events took place at Erskine Hall on 30th August.



The council team discussing ideas with local primary school students



The council team discussing ideas with local primary school students

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY

'Make Kilwinning...' Event - Day 2

After the unfortunate sudden halt to the May 24th event, a follow up event was organised during the afternoon of the 25th August 2022, also taking place within the Erskine Church Hall.

The purpose of the workshops and events held that day was to garner reflections on the prevailing ideas suggested during the prior 'Make Kilwinning' event, encouraging participants to expand on the projects highlighted and suggest further ideas they felt were missing.

Throughout the afternoon 22 residents attended. Alongside feedback sessions, residents were able to participate in workshops postponed from the May 24th event; namely the future funding workshop, community chit chat and the ideas showcase. These events provided opportunities for parties interested to connect with one another, establish which funding streams are available to them and what steps are needed to obtain these funds.

There was also an outdoor presence, where members of the team had set up a gazebo along the high street, passing leaflets to local shoppers and encouraging them to drop by the Church Hall and share their thoughts, though many did engage with the team outside without coming in.

By the close of day, some of the ideas emerging with the most support were as follows:

- Greater awareness of library services.
- Improve links from the town centre to a variety of local attractions and important amenities.
- Create stronger links with the college.
- Repurpose vacant buildings.
- Revitalise town centre.
- Increase promotion of heritage assets in and around Kilwinning.



The council team holding a chit-chat session with local residents

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY

'Make Kilwinning...' Follow Up Event

The Place Framework team returned to Kilwinning on the 8th March 2023 from 3pm - 8pm, to provide an update on the emerging draft Place Framework (for discussion), to initiate conversations and any updates on progress regarding the proposed projects and to invite further ideas and suggestions.

The event was attended by residents, businesses and local community groups. Prior to the Chit-Chat session members of the team took to preparing an art installation window display in the former Police Station along Main Street, demonstrating how a temporary use of the frontage can have a positive impact of the whole high street. The team were grateful to Police Scotland for enabling access and allowing local people attending the events to access the Station and understand how it could be repurposed for a community use.

The Place Framework team also dropped in and made contact with Ayrshire College, reinforcing connections with the institution. This initial interaction has subsequently been followed up by NAC Regeneration to explore continued engagement and strengthen the good connections that already existed so that the College can play an important role in the Town's future regeneration.

In the evening a Community Chit-Chat session was held where speakers from Kilwinning Heritage Society, Choose Kilwinning, Kilwinning Community Sports Club and ACES Woodwynd all gave presentations on the work they've progressed since last year or for the first time. During the event we learned that:

- A new business grouping had formed now going by the name 'Choose Kilwinning'.
- ACES Woodwynd have recently set up the Wee Shoap and Woody's Community Diner to address the cost of living crisis in the town by providing affordable meals and products. Both projects have been a success and of great value to the local community.
- The Heritage Group has secured funding for repair work to the tower and to upgrade its signage.
- The Kilwinning Community Sports club have also secured funding to construct new tennis courts on their premises.
- Multiple groups are also looking to have the damaged equipment in McGavin Park repaired or replaced.

After the Chit Chat session, attendees were invited to visit the art installation display at the Police Station, featuring the college work by a local artist / modelmaker who we had been introduced during the Make Saltcoats Place Framework event the previous week.



Representative from Choose Kilwinning presenting at the Chit-Chat session



Attendees looking at the window display at the former police station.

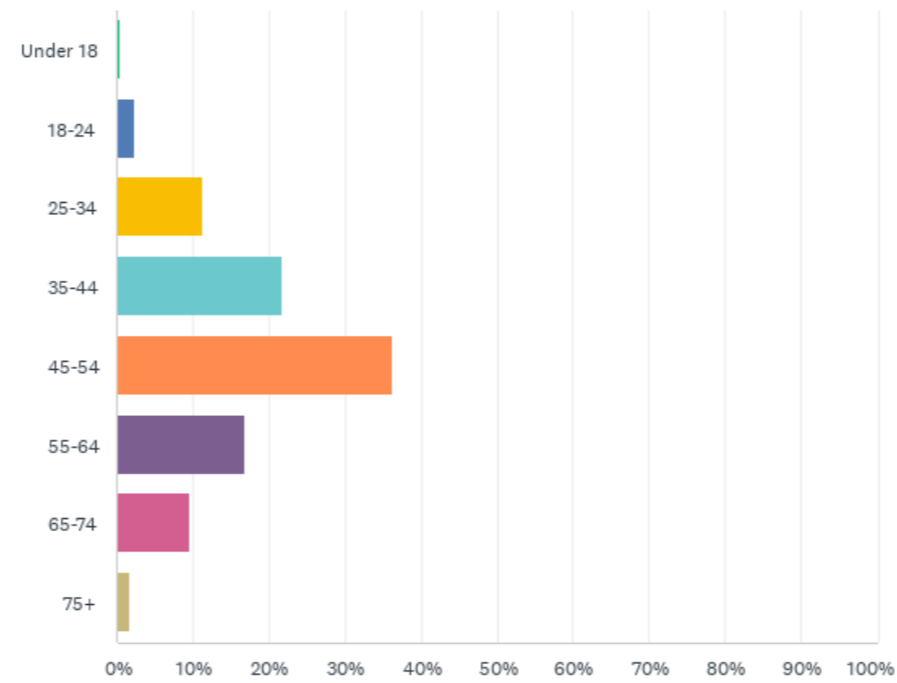
ONLINE SURVEY

The survey first went live on the 26th September 2022. The purpose was to gauge public support behind a refined list of project ideas, that were proposed through various public engagement events and meetings with key stakeholders carried out months prior.

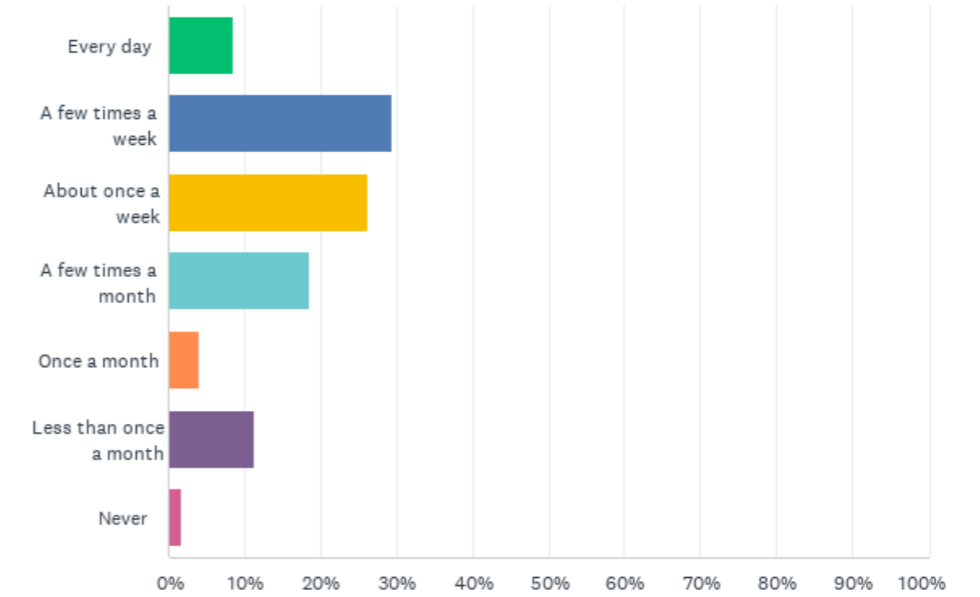
The survey was promoted by North Ayrshire Council's communications team, which used several social media platforms to advertise the survey, attracting 387 respondents before the poll was closed in the morning of the 25th October 2022.

MOST SUPPORTED PROJECTS

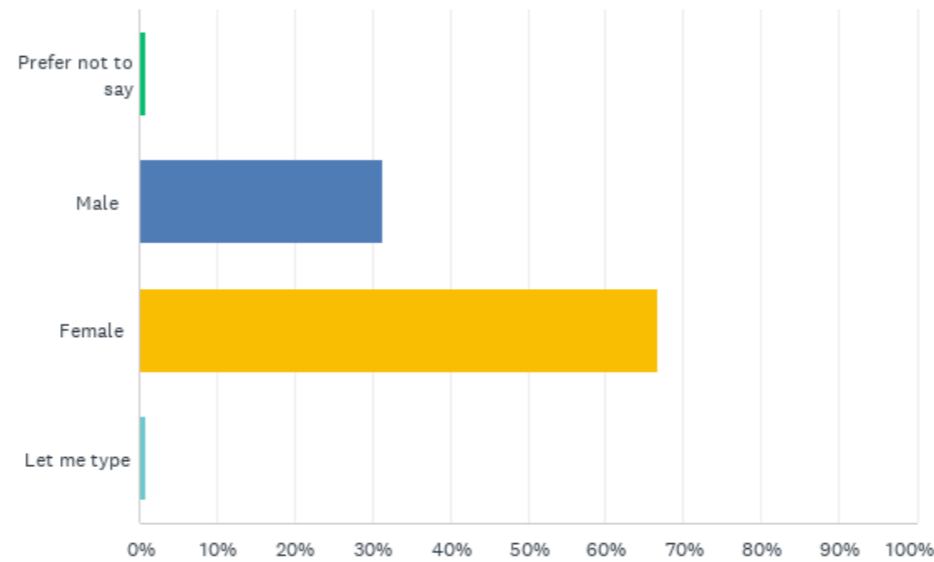
- 1) Repurpose and identify new uses for vacant units and buildings on Main Street.
- 2) Repurpose the vacant buildings along Howgate.
- 3) Enhance security, discourage anti-social behaviour and maintain heritage assets in Kilwinning Abbey.
- 4) Provide suitable local and accessible play/active spaces for all ages.
- 5) Further enhancements to McGavin Park, e.g. repurposing the pavilion, improving the toilets and continual upgrading of the facilities, footpaths and drainage.



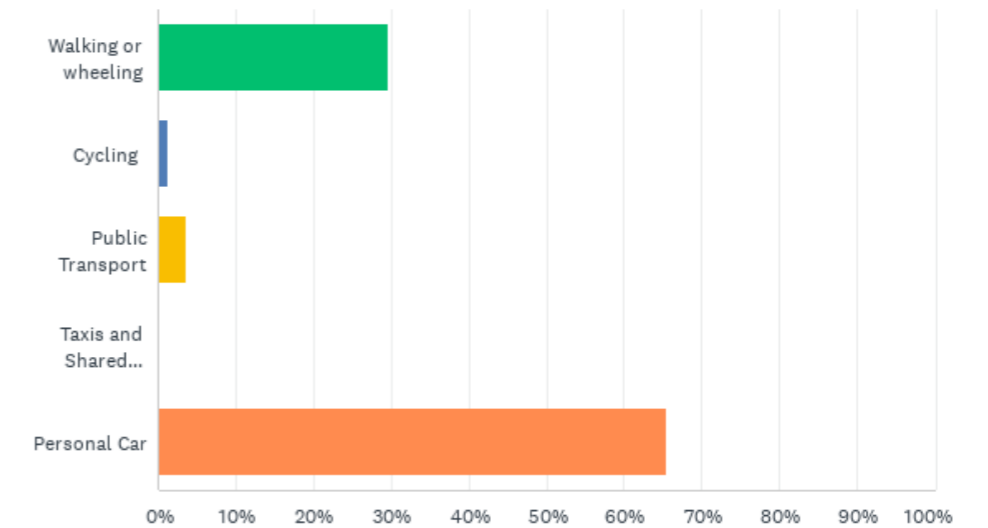
Of the respondents, 75% were between the ages of 35 and 64.



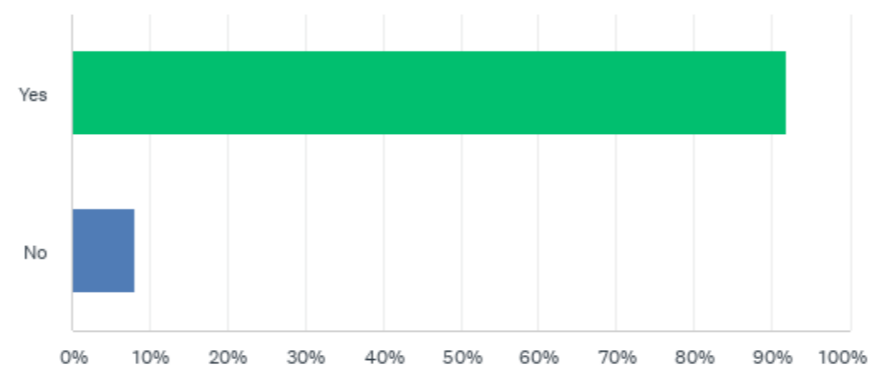
65% visit Kilwinning town centre at least once a week



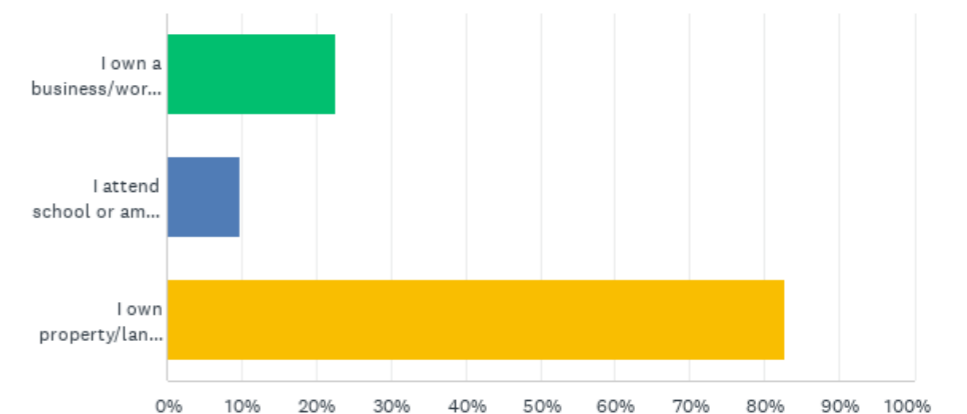
67% of respondents were female and 31% were male.



Overwhelming numbers of respondents either use their personal car or walk into Kilwinning. Public Transport is only used by 4%.



203 of the 221 respondents, 92%, were residents of Kilwinning.



83% own property or land in Kilwinning, 23% work or own a business and 10% are educated in the town.

MOST SUPPORTED PROJECTS BY THEME



OPEN SPACE

1. Provide suitable local and accessible play/active spaces for all ages.
2. Further enhancements to McGavin Park, e.g. repurposing the pavilion, improving the toilets and continual upgrading of the facilities, footpaths and drainage.
3. Identify more locations for public toilet facilities.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

1. Establish more 'caring places' that promote positive mental health.
2. Support the Food Larder and Food with Dignity programs. Set up more affordable food stations.
3. Introduce more allotments and community growing spaces throughout the town.



GETTING AROUND

1. Turn Dalry Road into a safe route to McGavin Park and the schools, improving footway widths and crossing points.
2. Assess accessibility for the whole town, starting with the town centre, for walking, wheeling and cycling.
3. Improve route from the train station to the town centre.



LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Provide spaces and support for small and micro business start ups.
2. Encourage a mixed use, mixed economy town centre.
3. Improve tourism offer to support day visits and staycations, link in to the wider regional offer and provide a positive family friendly night time economy.



LOCAL COMMUNITY & CULTURE

1. Establish more activities and venues for young people.
2. Raise awareness of services on offer at the library.
3. Set up more community events and strengthen project coordination.



KEY SITES, BUILDINGS & ASSETS

1. Repurpose and identify new uses for vacant units and buildings on Main Street.
2. Repurpose the vacant buildings along Howgate.
3. Enhance security, discourage anti-social behaviour and maintain heritage assets in Kilwinning Abbey.

04. ■ Place Framework



AREAS OF FOCUS

Place Framework : Projects and Themes

The Kilwinning Place Framework and Shared Action Plan sets out 37 projects and initiatives. These featured projects have been short-listed from a longer list of potential ideas emerging from the 'Make Kilwinning...' public workshops and the extensive community and stakeholder engagement.

To help navigate the Place Frameworks, and to make this array of projects easier to digest, the 37 projects have been categorised into six themes, namely;

- Local Community & Culture
- Local Economy
- Health & Wellbeing
- Key Sites, Buildings & Assets
- Getting Around
- Open Space

These six themes are holistic and wide in scope; seeking to respond to local and national priorities for place-based investment and action. The six Place Framework themes are also selected to distil the 14 topics included in the Scottish Government's 'Place Standard' and include an emphasis on 'Delivery'; encouraging partnership working towards action and outcomes.

It is recognised that, as with any regeneration initiative, many projects (often those with highest and multiple impacts) cut across two or more thematic areas. Whilst welcoming this, for the purposes of clarity, the projects are bundled by theme for ease of reference.

Action Plan

This chapter should be read in conjunction with the Place Framework Action Plan and any subsequent revisions. Each of the projects mentioned in this chapter and grouped under the six Place Framework themes are also elaborated on in the Action Plan. See the Action Plan for further details on next steps, prioritisation and recommended project partners

AREAS OF FOCUS

The Place Frameworks are community-led and project / action driven. In response to the analysis of the town and the ideas coming through engagement it is evident that there are some key areas of focus. These are summarised below.

1) Town Centre and 'High Street' Projects

Issue

Kilwinning Town Centre, and the Main Street in particular, is blighted by significant vacant properties, notably the former Job Centre, former Police Station former Clydesdale Bank and upper floors of the Co-op. There are other pockets of vacancy, notably heritage buildings on Howgate. There are numerous other vacant or under occupied properties both at street and upper floor levels. In addition there is a lack of community spaces (especially for young people) and public services functions in the heart of the historic Town Centre.

Despite the proximity of the College and the Public Library there is scope to benefit more emphatically from their presence near the town centre. Businesses are struggling given suppressed footfall, notwithstanding ongoing initiatives to attract activity in the town centre with events and celebrating the heritage of Kilwinning.

Proposition

Priority needs to be given to bring vacant spaces in the Town Centre in to positive uses, addressing the need for community space and seeking to attract greater footfall. Seeking to 'change the narrative' in the Town Centre with 'quick wins' that can restore confidence and address local needs are crucial.

Scope for locating community facilities and public services in the Town Centre to attract activity, boost footfall, support a thriving place and reduce anti-social behaviour needs to be explored and progressed. In addition more mixed tenure residential options in and near the Town Centre can help support positive change.

2) Bringing the Whole Town Together – Enhancing Connections, Cohesion and Collaboration

Issue

As analysis of the town clearly shows Kilwinning is made up of disparate neighbourhoods, each defined (and separated) by the River, main roads, the railways and associated open spaces. This results in strong and separate local identities, sometimes resulting in duplication of facilities (and effort), dilution of resources and a replication of challenges facing each community.

There is a need to improve the physical connections and path networks between each neighbourhood and to the town centre, scope to ensure shared facilities and resources to improve the quality and accessibility of community assets and services (for all in the town) and to support greater collaboration across Kilwinning; supporting improved cohesion and promoting regeneration in the Town Centre as well as in each community.

Proposition

The Place Framework suggests improving physical connections linking up each component part of Kilwinning with the rest, reducing severance caused by busy roads with better walking, wheeling and cycling path networks and access to public transport.

It also suggests considering ways to sustain the local facilities in each neighbourhood alongside providing community spaces in the Town Centre serving the whole of Kilwinning and supporting the partnership working and community networking critical to achieving the aims of the Place Framework. This should involve supporting existing activity community groups, and considering ways to foster stronger collaboration to deliver change perhaps via a Community Development Trust or similar.

3) Celebrating Kilwinning's Heritage and Identities

Issue

Kilwinning's rapid expansion in the past century may have resulted in a 'commuter town' that benefits from excellent rail service connectivity but may have diluted a sense of community cohesion, collective appreciation and awareness of the town's rich heritage and historic identity.

Whilst it is great that there is a strong sense of identity apparent in each of the local neighbourhoods of Kilwinning there is a sense that this pride in place is not as strong as it could be for the Town Centre, and that it may not project as positive an image as it could of the town.

Proposition

The Abbey, Eglinton Country Park and diverse stories revealed by the various chapters of Kilwinning's built and social heritage, from the medieval to the contemporary, deserve to be captured and interpreted in a positive and engaging way to enhance the everyday experience of the town, support pride in place and to attract visitors to the area. This starts with looking after, restoring and conserving the town's built heritage (notably the Abbey and its precinct), and celebrating the diverse communities in Kilwinning.

4) Reducing Inequalities and Improving Health and Wellbeing

Issue

Kilwinning, as with many towns across Scotland, exhibits a range of social, health, economic and environmental inequalities. This is apparent in published data and in the feedback from local people. Many of these inequalities are exacerbated by physical barriers and reinforced by longstanding socio-economic challenges.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Proposition

Whilst tackling major societal issues goes well beyond the scope of this Place Framework it nevertheless seeks to support existing local initiatives being delivered to empower local communities to improve their area, and encourage coordinated action towards better outcomes. This includes initiatives to encourage community growing, food larders and community kitchens, community mentoring and support through skills development and improving access to learning and work. Furthermore enhancing the quality and access to nature and open spaces, as well as building on the successes in enhancing local community sports facilities and boosting participation, can play a significant role in supporting positive health and wellbeing in Kilwinning.

5) Providing Convenient Access to Good Local Services, Amenities and Opportunities (20 Min Town)

Issue

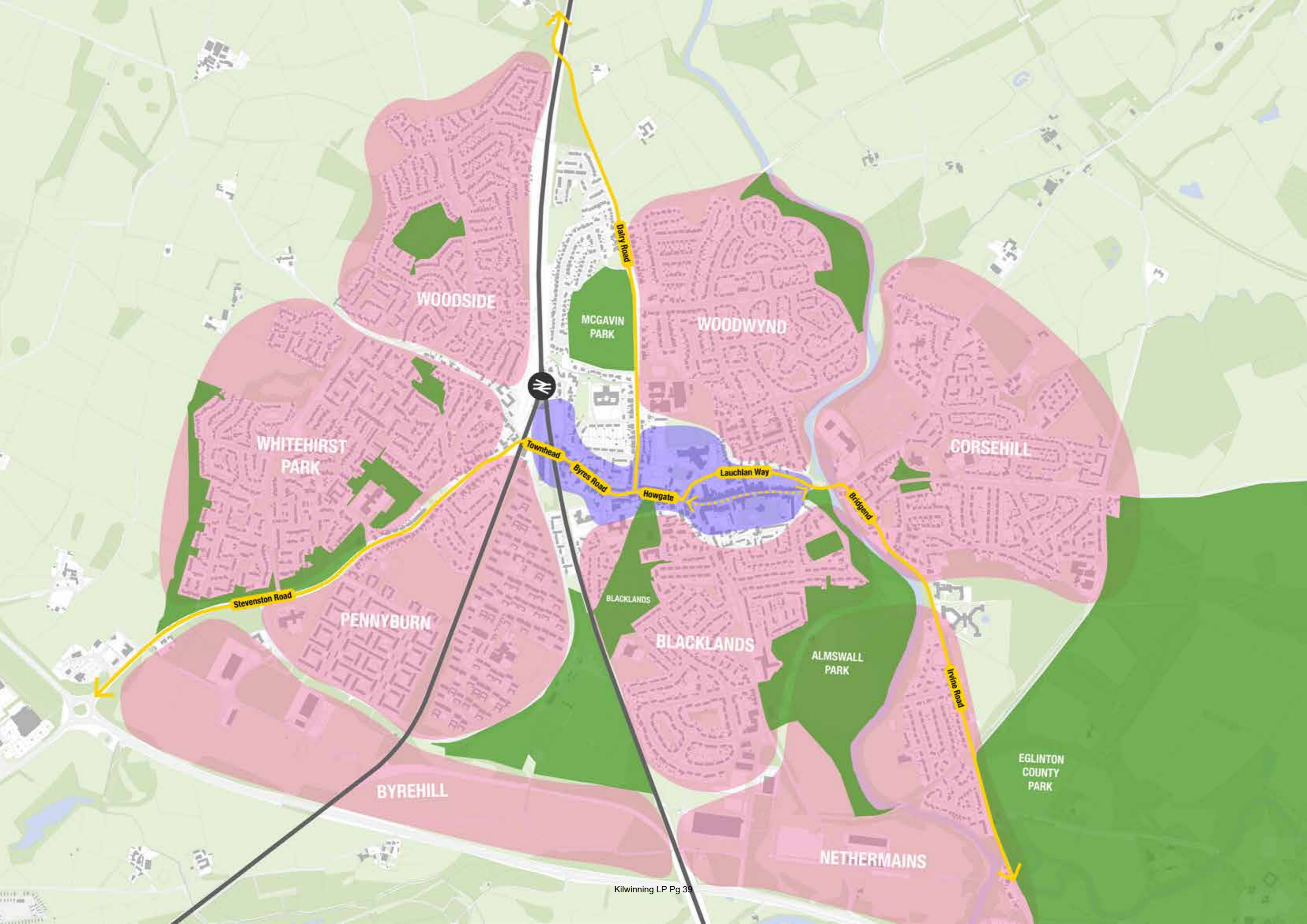
To an extent Kilwinning enjoys the benefit of a dispersed network of community facilities. However there is scope to provide central, shared community spaces and public services to serve the whole town and sustain a thriving Town Centre. There is also the situation where secondary and tertiary education campuses neighbour each other yet do not seem or feel to interact in a way which could benefit the town.

Proposition

The Place Framework encourages improved accessibility to the train station, enhanced open space provision for all neighbourhoods and encourages a 'town centre first' approach to providing local community, economic, health / social care and other associated services / facilities to complement existing provision so that there is an appropriate hierarchy of local, town and regional facilities / amenities that align with the 20 Min Town concept. In the first instance this suggests an enhanced role for the College as an integral part of the town, and the provision of youth and community facilities in the historic town centre.

Getting the Basics Right

The projects outlined in the Place Framework Action Plan are predicated on getting the basics right in place leadership and management. Recurring issues around building and street maintenance, cleanliness and litter-free towns, traffic management and parking enforcement do not have dedicated projects listed as they are deemed to be "preconditions" for a successful place / town.



WOODSIDE

WOODWYND

CORSEHILL

WHITEHIRST
PARK

PENNYBURN

BLACKLANDS

BLACKLANDS

ALMSWALL
PARK

EGLINTON
COUNTY
PARK

BYREHILL

NETHERMAINS

MCGAVIN
PARK

Townhead

Howgate

Dairly Road

Byres Road

Lauchlan Way

Bridgend

Stevenston Road

Irvine Road



Key:

-  School/College Links
-  Primary Streets
-  Railline
-  Riverside improvements
-  Open Space
-  Community Centres
-  Project Locations
-  Town Centre
-  School Campus
-  Vacant Units
-  Parks
-  Train Station

EMERGING PROJECTS:

1. Kilwinning Abbey enhancements
2. Activate vacant / under-used buildings in Town Centre (notably former Job Centre, Police Station, Clydesdale Bank, Howgate)
3. Support more activities and a Town Centre venue for young people
4. Establish a community venue / space in the Town Centre
5. Continue to improve McGavin Park
6. Reduce the impact of traffic on key pedestrian streets (eg. Dalry Road, Lauchlan Way, Howgate / Byres Road)
7. Improve connections to and between College and Academy campuses
8. Promote and improve awareness / accessibility of heritage and public art trail connecting to Eglinton Park along River Garnock



Kilwinning Project Mapping
Emerging Priority Projects



Dalry Road Safe Route

Improve Schools-Town Centre Connections

Enhance Lauchlan Way & Bridgend

Repurpose Howgate Cluster

Police Station

Repurpose Job Centre

Improve Lighting

Enhance Kilwinning Abbey Grounds

Raise Awareness of Library Services

Abbey Park Community Park

-  Potential New Heritage Centre Location
-  Potential Community Growing Space
-  Potential Business Incubator
-  Potential Arts Centre
-  Visitor Facilities
-  Improved Security
-  Maintenance
-  Wayfinding

Kilwinning Project Mapping

Town Centre Projects

MAKE KILWINNING

LOCAL COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Kilwinning has a strong sense of local identity and culture. It also benefits from a very active and committed network of community groups, including an array of neighbourhood centres supporting local people and active sports clubs encouraging participation.

Given this context coordinating the numerous community groups and events, and sharing knowledge and mutual support, will always be a big task. However raising awareness of who is doing what, where and why will assist in increasing participation and bolstering capacity building.

Areas of specific need highlighted through the Place Frameworks is a desire to strike the balance between local neighbourhood facilities with a shared, town centre community space for the whole town that augments what the Library, College and Academy provide. In addition, whilst many young people actively participate in the local sports clubs, providing space for young people in the town centre and celebrating the town's history and heritage remain priorities for local people.

EMERGING PROJECTS:

1. Establish a Town Centre Community Hub / Space / Venue **(KLC01)**
2. Focus on Young People / Places **(KLC02)**
3. Community Events and Projects Coordination **(KLC03)**
4. Heritage Centre, Interpretation and Trails **(KLC04)**
5. Creative Arts Venue **(KLC05)**

PROJECTS



KLC01 **Establish a Town Centre** **Community Hub / Space /** **Venue**

Need for Hub for All in Town Centre.

Links to projects:

- KLC02
- KKS02
- KKS03
- KKS04
- KKS05
- KKS11



KLC02 **Focus on Young People /** **Places**

Build on projects from Charrette and establish need for activities and venues.

Links to projects:

- KLC01
- KKS02
- KKS03
- KKS04
- KKS05
- KKS11

KLC03 **Community Events and** **Projects Coordination**

Continue to develop and coordinate Community activities / events - online and non-digital promotion

PROJECTS



KLC04 **Heritage Centre, Interpretation and Trails**

Enhance access at Heritage Centre (could be relocated?). Improve interpretation and wayfinding with additional public art interventions, with priority focus around Abbey Precinct. Improve links to Eglinton Park and Train Station.

Links to projects:

- KKS02
- KKS03
- KKS04
- KKS05



KLC05 **Creative Arts Centre / Venue**

Town Centre venue for production and presentation of performance and visual arts.

MAKE KILWINNING

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Kilwinning, as with many towns, exhibits long-term challenges with respect to population and individual wellbeing. Post pandemic issues regarding mental health, social care, substance abuse and other societal challenges are being felt by local people in Kilwinning, as elsewhere.

Recognising that resolving these matters sits out with this Place Framework, the recommendation outlined here build on this highlighted in the previous Charrette. The heightened appreciation of open spaces, and the need to improve affordable healthy food and the skills to prepare it, existing initiatives for community growing and local fairer food larders is encouraged.

In addition, Kilwinning is well known for its numerous sports clubs and top class community facilities. Continuing to encourage wide participation in sports and active lifestyles (including active travel) is strongly supported in this Place Framework.

EMERGING PROJECTS:

1. Community Growing Spaces (**KHW01**)
2. Fairer Food / Food Larders (**KHW02**)
3. Promote and Support Spots / Activity (**KHW03**)

PROJECTS



KHW01
Community Growing Spaces
Existing activity to be sustained and potential locations for new growing spaces identified.

KHW02
Fairer Food / Food Larders
Support the Food Larders and Food with Dignity programmes. Extend scope.



KHW03
Promote and Support Sports / Activity
Build on successes and diversify range of sports promoted through local clubs and organisations.

MAKE KILWINNING

LOCAL ECONOMY

Kilwinning's local economy, and the town centre's in particular, is changing. Changes and the decline in town centre retail presents a big challenge that is shared with virtually every town in Scotland.

However, alongside innovative community and cultural initiatives, Kilwinning also has significant attributes that can help to promote local businesses and encourage enterprise. Kilwinning is home to one of Ayrshire College's campuses and the scope to benefit more, not only from student and staff being present in the town but also the application the skills, learning and enterprise emerging from the campus can help harness local talent for local impact. The new Skills Hub demonstrates a positive next step in this regard.

Post Pandemic work patterns are shifting too. Kilwinning is well served by regional train services which encouraged extensive commuting. However there is scope to enable co-work environments which may be able to attract and retain activity in the town as an alternative to working from home or commuting options.

Kilwinning also has some highly regarded local independent businesses that need support and can help mentor other new enterprises. The Choose Kilwinning initiative can help raise awareness and provide a forum for sharing ideas, including how to enhance a stronger visitor economy offer.

EMERGING PROJECTS:

1. Learning Town **(KLE01)**
2. Enterprise / Business Start-Up Space and Support **(KLE02)**
3. Co-Working Environments **(KLE03)**
4. Tourism / Visitor Economy **(KLE04)**

PROJECTS



KLE01

Learning Town

Enable far stronger connection between Town and College: vibrancy, skills, employability

KLE02

Enterprise / Business Incubator / Start-Up Space and Support

Micro and Small Business start up / incubator space – meanwhile uses, repurposing, flexible space.



KLE03

Co-Working Environments

Scope for Town Centre or near Train Station co-working space – maybe linked to Incubator or College?

KLE04

Tourism / Visitor Economy

Support / promote day visits and staycations. Link Kilwinning in to wider regional offer (Ayrshire Coastal offer, St Ninian's Way). Provide a positive family friendly night-time economy.

MAKE KILWINNING

KEY SITES, BUILDINGS & ASSETS

Kilwinning has many high profile buildings that are either vacant, under used or in deteriorating condition. Kilwinning Abbey is the most historically significant building in the town and, at an early stage in the Place Framework process concern about anti-social behaviour was high. Improved building maintenance, deterrence and increased education to heighten awareness and appreciation of local heritage seems to be already addressing this issue. Sustained partnership working is required to continue to progress and promote local heritage assets.

During the Place Frameworks potential enquiries and actual proposals came forward for key and longstanding vacant spaces, including the Job Centre and the historic buildings on Howgate, alongside feasibility work to assess scope to enhance other local facilities. The Place Framework team also championed and showcased ways in which to reuse the former Police Station on Main Street. Hopefully these initiatives progress to start to change the perception of the town centre by bringing vacant space back in to active use.

EMERGING PROJECTS:

1. Kilwinning Abbey and Grounds **(KKS01)**
2. Town Centre / Main Street vacant buildings and shopfront improvement **(KKS02)**
3. Former Police Station **(KKS03)**
4. Howgate Cluster **(KKS04)**
5. Learning Town Education Cluster **(KKS05)**
6. Primary Healthcare Provision **(KKS06)**
7. Co-location of Public Services to Town Centre **(KKS07)**
8. Town Centre Living **(KKS08)**
9. Redevelop former Dental Surgery **(KKS09)**
10. Pennyburn Road Site **(KKS10)**

PROJECTS



KKS01 Kilwinning Abbey and Grounds

Undertake conservation repair scheme to Abbey Tower. Improve and enhance exhibits at Heritage Centre. Enhance site security, discourage anti-social behaviour and maintain and interpret heritage assets.



KKS02 Town Centre / Main Street vacant buildings and shopfront improvements

Repurpose vacant town centre buildings and improve the town centre aesthetic by maintaining and repairing existing shopfronts.

PROJECTS



KKS03

Former Police Station

Identify a new use for the vacant Police Station. Scope for a new Heritage Centre, art space or community venue.



KKS06

Primary Healthcare provision

Review primary healthcare provision and ensure the whole town is within 20 mins from a primary healthcare facility.



KKS04

Howgate Cluster

Refurbish and repurpose vacant buildings along Howgate.

KKS05

Learning Town Education Cluster

In addition to improved physical connections (see KGA04) between the Academy, College and Town Centre, explore operational synergies to promote a secondary / tertiary educational campus cluster. Develop longer term vision for the Academy



KKS07

Co-location of Public Services to Town Centre

Potential to repurpose vacant town centre space to house the library or other community / public facilities / services.

PROJECTS



KKS08
Town Centre Living
Provide opportunities for more residential developments / renovations in the Town Centre (notably in under occupied upper floors)



KKS10
Pennyburn Road Site
Scope to promote a community / public / employment space in the vacant lot adjoining the AiB offices.



KKS09
Redevelop former Dentists Surgery
Redevelop or demolish dental practice on Fergushill.

MAKE KILWINNING GETTING AROUND

The issues facing Kilwinning are well known, but still require attention. The presence and recent investment in the rail station is vital and welcome.

However active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) routes across town and to the station require attention. Many of the main roads are historic routes with restricted widths. Nevertheless there is a need to improve pedestrian and cycle infrastructure generally, and specifically along and across Lauchlan Way, Dalry Road and the main routes to and beyond the station and to Eglinton Park.

Given the size of Kilwinning there is a need, and space, for enhancing active travel options and connections linking the various neighbourhood and the town centre in a whole town network. This work is being planned and is fundamental to realising a 20 min town approach.

EMERGING PROJECTS:

1. Carry Out Accessibility Audit (**KGA01**)
2. Dalry Road: Safe Route to McGavin Park and School (**KGA02**)
3. Lauchlan Way and Bridgend (**KGA03**)
4. McGavin Park to Town Centre via Academy and College (**KGA04**)
5. Train Station to Town Centre (**KGA05**)
6. Cycle Infrastructure (**KGA06**)
7. Community Bus (**KGA07**)
8. Improve Wayfinding and Interpretation (**KGA08**)



KGA01 Carry Out Accessibility Audit

Assess whole town, starting with Town Centre, for walking, wheeling and cycling. Assess against mobility and sensory impairments. Identify 'quick wins' on key routes.

KGA02 Dalry Road: Safe Route to McGavin Park and School

Reduce severance, environment improvement. Active travel / crossing points at Gateways. Improve 'backside' of Town Centre. Reduced speed zones - 20mph?



KGA03 Lauchlan Way and Bridgend

Reduce severance, environment improvement. Active travel / crossing points at Gateways. Improve 'backside' of Town Centre. Reduced speed zones - 20mph?

PROJECTS



KGA04 **McGavin Park to Town Centre via Academy and College**

Establish safe, and where possible, car free, paths linking the education cluster to the Town Centre and McGavin Park.



KGA07 **Community Bus**

Introduce a community bus to address the gaps in the local service provision.



KGA05 **Train Station to Town Centre**

Improve route from Train Station to Town Centre (Townhead, Byres Rd, Howgate). Increase footway widths, improve crossing points, promote active travel, enhance environment and wayfinding, including signage.

KGA06 **Cycle infrastructure**

Introduce electric bikes and improve cycle infrastructure, paths and storage around town.

Including full update on Active Travel Plan with links to McGavin Park, Sport Club, Eglinton Park, Abbey, Train Station, College / Academy, Dalry Road to Nursery Wynd



KGA08 **Improve Wayfinding and Interpretation**

Enhance signage and interpretation.

MAKE KILWINNING

OPEN SPACE

Given it's rapid growth much of Kilwinning is characterised by large residential neighbourhoods with extensive, but often lower quality open space. In contrast the historic town doesn't have significant open spaces, other than access to the River Garnock corridor.

The town also benefits from a well loved town park, McGavin Park, which is being incrementally restored and enhanced.

There's an increased appreciation of open space in Kilwinning and a desire for more community growing, as well as enhancing areas for sports and leisure activities. The Place Frameworks outline a series of initiatives designed to enhance community's sense of place, as well as encouraging more active and healthy lifestyles.

EMERGING PROJECTS:

1. Further Enhancements in McGavin Park **(KOS01)**
2. Abbey Park Community Park **(KOS02)**
3. River Garnock Corridor + Eglinton Park **(KOS03)**
4. Community Gardens / Adopt a Spot **(KOS04)**
5. Public Toilet Provisions **(KOS05)**
6. Play and Active Spaces **(KOS06)**
7. Open Space Enhancements **(KOS07)**

PROJECTS



KOS01 Further Enhancements in McGavin Park

Repurpose pavilion, improve toilets, continue upgrade of facilities and play area, footpaths and drainage.



KOS02 Abbey Park Community Park

Develop plans for a community park at the former Junior football ground.

PROJECTS



KOS03 River Garnock Corridor + Eglinton Park

Improve access and appreciation of River Garnock corridor from the Town Centre through Almswall Park to Eglinton Country Park

KOS04 Community Gardens / Adopt a Spot

Find sites for additional / new community gardens and promote NAC 'Adopt a Spot' scheme

KOS05 Public Toilet Provisions

Provide public toilet facilities in Kilwinning (McGavin Park and/or Town Centre)



KOS06 Play and Active Spaces

Refurbish and install additional playparks and introduce outdoor gym equipment. Opposite the closed Dental Surgery Limited, vacant land between Fergushill Road and Hillcrest Place, make available for a new park

KOS07 Open Space Enhancements

Interventions to enhance open space to address Open Space Audit (OSA) assessments.

05 ■ Next Steps

MAKE KILWINNING

DELIVER POSITIVE CHANGE

Early momentum is critical in progressing the actions and projects emerging via this Place Framework. Even prior to the Place Framework being finalised and adopted partnership working is already progressing in Kilwinning with North Ayrshire Council and a range of other community partners.

Quick Wins / Early Action

Inspired by the Place Framework a renewed local business / community forum called 'Choose Kilwinning' has emerged and was announced at the last Place Framework 'Community Chit-Chat' in March 2023. The 'Chit-Chat' also heard about new initiatives including the Wee Shoap (Community Larder) and Woody's Diner (Community Café). Funding had been allocated via the Place Framework with Kilwinning Community Sports Hub secured funding for new tennis court, whilst Kilwinning Heritage Society secured monies for upgrade / restoration of Tower and associated signage.

Recommendations

The previous Chapter and the associated Action Plan sets out the recommended Place Framework Projects categorised for ease of reference into six Place Framework themes; Local Community & Culture, Local Economy, Health & Wellbeing, Key Sites, Buildings & Assets, Getting Around, Open Space.

To enable prioritisation and progress to deliver these Place Framework Projects the following is recommended:

1) Establish a Place Framework Coordination Group

NAC to confirm and identify who monitors and updates the Place Framework Action Plan and reports to the Locality Planning Partnership. The PF Coordination Group governance and arrangements should be tailored to suit each place. It could be envisaged that this be led / coordinated by NAC Regeneration team with representatives from the local resident and business community, elected members and community leaders, and Council Officers. In Kilwinning this could involve the Kilwinning Community Council.

2) Publish, Monitor and Update the Place Framework Action Plan

The Place Framework Action Plan should be periodically updated and published, becoming a dynamic document, with new actions and priorities added and achievements noted and celebrated. It should be considered a 'Shared Action Plan' and an accessible term of reference for all stakeholders to help coordinate action across the town.

In the first instance the Action Plan priorities should be reviewed, refined and ratified by the PF Coordination Group and then reviewed at least every 6 months.

3) Aligning Projects with Funding

In order to progress projects North Ayrshire Council and project partners must continue to assess alignment with internal and external sources of funding. As part of the PG Action Plan review process cited in item 2 above it is suggested that NAC's Funding Officer provides an update to the PF Coordination Group, and that if Funding opportunities arise that the Place Framework Action Plan provides the basis for a review of potential projects.

Next Steps

Early and immediate Next Steps emerging from the Place Frameworks process include:

Next Step / Task	Action / Involvement
Identifying priority projects aligned with immediate / early funding opportunities (including the Community Renewal Fund and Place-Based Investment Programme)	NAC with relevant project sponsors
Arrange an ongoing programme of support for local Community Groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct support (mentoring, capacity building, funding guidance) Arrange a programme of networking opportunities (including regular 'chit-chats') 	NAC Connected Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress thinking on the best way to coordinate community-led projects, including monitoring the Place Framework Shared Action Plan; Progress discussions with DTAS towards establishing a Community Development Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC Local Community Groups

The tasks listed above are expanded upon with project descriptions on following pages (see Place Framework reference).

Place Champion

Ideally a dedicated Place Champion should be identified (a paid post) to lead and coordinate delivery of the Place Framework, in partnership with project sponsors from the local community, voluntary sector, local business community and local and national authorities and agencies. A Place Champion would report to the Place Framework Coordination Group. In the absence of a dedicated Place Champion it is envisaged that this role could be fulfilled by NAC Regeneration team.



Establish a Kilwinning Development Trust

Setting up a Development Trust would give more agency to the local community to progress projects forward.



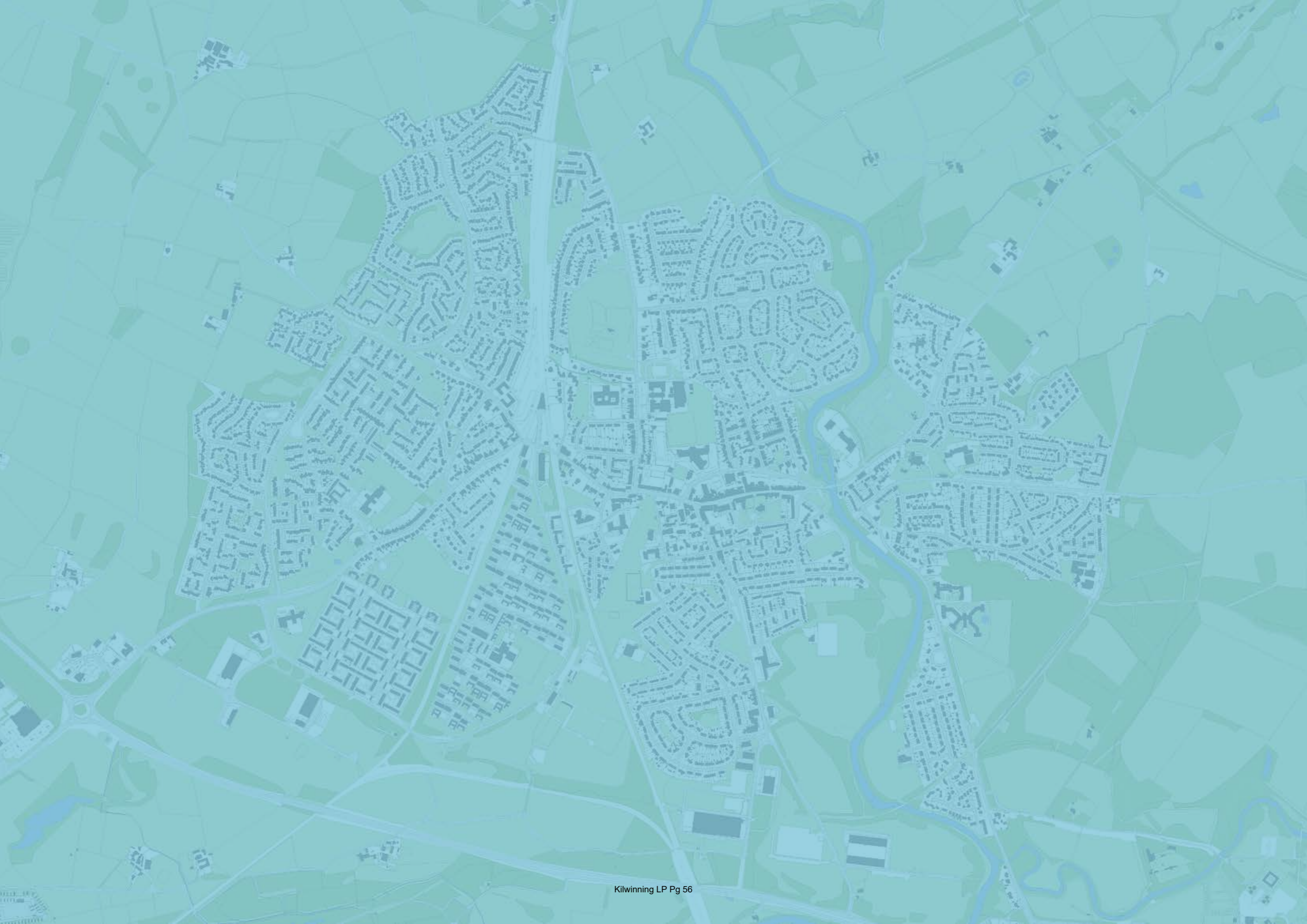
Networking Opportunities

Maintain community networking / Chit-chat sessions.



Support existing Community Groups

Include succession planning and encourage volunteering.










Self Evaluating Previous Year's Plan:




Team: Kilwinning LP

Lead Partner/Officer:
Louise Riddex

Target:
To evaluate the Kilwinning Locality Partnership Action Plan for April 23 – March 24.

Action	Traffic Light Score	Impact
<p>Work in partnership to carry out joint patrols in the locality to reduce antisocial behaviour.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached Streetwork sessions took place from April 21 until Sept 23. • Partnership with Police Scotland • Engagement took place with an average of 23 Young People each week.
<p>Provide youthwork and adult learning opportunities to improve knowledge and wellbeing.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 youth groups were available to Young People in Kilwinning each session (Apr-June '23, Sept-Dec '23 & Jan-March '24) • Holiday Meals programme ran in the summer from 2 venues in Kilwinning, which included groupwork activities and learning such as 1st aid awareness. • 7 Learning/Groupwork opportunities were available to adults within Kilwinning each session (Apr-June '23, Sept-Dec '23 & Jan-March '24) • Transition work with P7s from all Kilwinning Primary School shas been available. A total of 70 young people have participated in these sessions so far. All are working towards Hi 5 award. • 47 young people are currently working towards Hi 5 or Dynamic award in Kilwinning which is an accredited award.

<p>Continue locality hub approach in Kilwinning library to provide information and support to locality.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various services are/have been based within the office at Kilwinning library. These include Aberlour, Corra, CRUSE, Carers service. • Support such as MH and Cost of Living support/referrals has been provided to people coming into the library.
<p>Increase access to information in relation to money advice, energy support and what is on in the local community. Including engaging with the relevant community groups around community notice boards.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Noticeboard is operational in Kilwinning Town Centre. • Virtual Community Centre, and other online platforms have been used to promote youth and community groups and events. • Community Larders provide access to advice/support around the Cost of Living. • Advice/Support available from Credit Union. • Advice/support given to Community Associations regarding community events. • Information shared with contacts around the services that CAP (Christians Against Poverty) provide.
<p>Increase access to emergency foodbank provision and community larders.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foodbank referral slips are now available for staff to give out from the Hub in Kilwinning Library. • 2 Food Larders are operational in the locality with an average of 68 people attending weekly.
<p>Improve the environment around Kilwinning Library. Green Health Partnership</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCV volunteers have been working on improving the area in front of the library. • Library staff and volunteers have raised beds with a mix of veg and plants out the back of the library to help improve the look of the area.
<p>Improve the local environment with community litter picking.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilwinning Litter Pickers continue to carry out community litter picks. • Community Groups also carry out occasional litter picks.

<p>Engage and work in partnership with local agencies and community groups to address each of the Kilwinning priorities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locality Network meetings have been taking place each quarter, looking at how services can work together to work on the Locality Priorities. • Locality Chit Chats were put on to engage with the Local Community to identify their needs around the Locality Priorities. Unfortunately these were very poorly/not attended by the community.
<p>Deliver accredited courses to young and older people.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 over 50s are completing their Discovery Award Qualification. 7 are currently on Bronze and 3 are working on silver. • 107 Young People are working on gaining their Hi5 Award.
<p>Growing opportunities and developing lifelong learning strategies within the locality by increasing engagement with community members over the age of 50, i.e. Discovery Award.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery Award group has 10 members attending. • Stroll with it Kilwinning has 7 members attending. • Friends Of North Ayrshire Group has 2 members over 50 attending. • Me and My Wellbeing Group has 4 members over 50 attending.

KILWINNING LOCALITY PROGRESS REPORT Q4



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



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**Alleviating Poverty and Promoting
Equality of Access to Opportunities**



Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities



Improving Community Wellbeing



Improving our Local Environment

Kilwinning Locality KPi Stats

2

KPi1 – Number of adults engaged in CLD activity

78

KPi9 – Number of adults with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity.

47

KPi6a - Number of children (under 12) engaged in CLD activity

172

KPi10 - Number of children and young people with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity

126

KPi6b - Number of young people (12 and over) engaged in CLD activity

34

KPi11 – Number of community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity

34

CC_09b – Number of volunteering opportunities participated in within CLD

50

Op_CLD_P39 - Number of young people that participated in a youth employability programme or activity.

8

Alleviating Poverty and Promoting Equality of Access to Opportunities



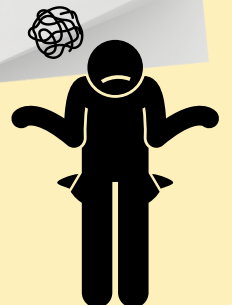
The 2 larders in Kilwinning continue to provide a much needed service. They have 64 members of the community utilising the service every week.

Provision of 9 Youth Groups and 7 community/adult groups through CLD in the Locality, all free of charge.



Over £18,000 of Participatory Budgeting Funds distributed to the Locality

Eglinton Growers are looking to create some wellbeing seating areas; however, this will be a continuous project, whilst looking at different funding streams. They are having their Easter Egg Hunt event on Sunday 17th March





Alleviating Poverty and Promoting Equality of Access to Opportunities

4

- **PRYDE** are a member of Poverty Alliance, and work in partnership with local agencies challenge barriers that may face member of our community. Providing heat hub and other in emergency food/energy support.
- **Bridge Church** have been providing a heat hub in their hall providing a warm space, tea, coffee, soup. They also provide a variety of free products nearing end of life that they receive from local shops.
- **The Police Community Wellbeing Unit** regularly visit the most vulnerable members of the community and have successfully referred people living in poverty to relevant partner agencies and signposted towards assistance from Community Link Workers. The unit are in a position to see conditions some people are living in first hand and can provide food parcels where needed and utilise the strong network of partners when required.
- **Corra (System Changers)** cooking programme has ended and we hope to provide this in another area of Kilwinning, we have been reflecting on how the sessions went in Corsehill . A highlight for participants was having practical sessions of cooking which involved their children. All families were provided with a “come & try voucher for the local food larder, all but one family accepted this voucher. 1 family returned the voucher to give to a family they felt were in need as this was not something they needed at the moment.
- **Kilwinning Community Council** The group now meets every 3rd Thursday in Kilwinning Library. This allows for Hybrid meetings to take place as not everyone is able to attend in person. The group recently worked on a TTRO engagement to measure the community’s response to the main street road closure being extended and what they want that to look like moving forward. This has been passed on to NAC for consideration. 4 new people joined the January meeting,

Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities 5

There will be provision of a new homework drop in to support parents and carers with children's homework. This will be provided by the Multiply Workers. Days/Times to be confirmed



13 young people attend an Intervention Group within Kilwinning Academy. They will take part in various citizenship, confidence building and literacy/numeracy sessions aiming at helping the young people to become active learners.

47 Young People are currently working towards their Hi5 or Dynamic Youth Award within various Youth Groups. These awards are accredited.







Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities

6

- Pryde have provided training for Young People and Staff in partnership with Youth Scotland.
- Multiply Networking Event was held to promote and discuss the Multiply project with members of the community.
- Weekly drop-in Digital support group available in Kilwinning Library. This will be likely to finish at end of March due to Low uptake and member of staff moving on.
- 14 community members aged 50+ now actively participate in the Discovery Award where they learn new skills, participate in volunteering and carry out group activities. 7 of these participants have nearly their Bronze Award and will be moving on to Silver.
- 6 members of the community are taking part in 1:1 numeracy sessions.
- 34 Young People from Corsehill Primary P7 class took part in information sessions on No Knives Better Lives.




Coffee, cake and Chat in December and January was well attended with a total of 54 people, this is providing great social connections for people “ I love these wee get togethers” was one of the comments from an older adult who lives on their own. When this group first started it seemed most of the chat was around the cake, now conversations are plentiful from families, community, current affairs and we have also had good conversations of what other groups/services are available locally, encouraging people to try something new.



NAC Mental Health Toolkit which was devised a few years ago is currently going through a refresh. Engagements are taking place with Young People across NA to gather their views. .

Love Yourself



Kilwinning Community Council now meets every 3rd Thursday of the month in Kilwinning Library. This allows for Hybrid meetings to take place as not everyone is able to attend in person. The group recently worked on a TTRO engagement to measure the community’s response to the main street road closure being extended and what they want that to look like moving forward. This has been passed on to NAC for consideration. 4 new people joined the January meeting,





Improving Community Wellbeing

- **Pryde youth groups are providing support around mental health. Creating a better understanding of mental health with our young people with the hope that we can reduce the stigma around mental health and wellbeing.**
- **Police Community Wellbeing Officers are forging strong relationships with Canmore Children's Unit to improve links with vulnerable young people and reduce absconding. Through engagement with third sector organisations, the Community Wellbeing Unit seek to compliment services by creating pathways out of anti-social behaviour, assist with young person's leaving care establishments and provide positive interactions with young people who generally have negative experiences with policing. The Community Wellbeing Unit are looking to build relationships with other children's units in the Kilwinning area.**
- **Take Time Families It has had a slow start to the year and a couple of our families have chosen to move on from the group. We are looking to re-advertise to schools again and the local community to bring new people into the group. We hope that the families that have chosen to stay will become senior members where they can provide peer support for the new people that attend. We are looking to organise talks/ training and bring in Ayrshire college to run a course.**
- **Corra's Chair Based Exercise continues to provide physical activity as well as time for social connections. From conversations from this group it was established that they would like to attend a Tea Dance held at Dumfries House, Cumnock (this is ordinarily for East Ayrshire residents only however an exception was made), as an extra activity. The group had a fantastic day out and came back to Kilwinning with ideas on how they could provide something similar in Kilwinning. A combination of people from the Chair Based Exercise Group and the Coffee, Cake and Chat group are taking this idea forward, afternoon tea with entertainment provided for older adults in the area. They will be using local suppliers, venue and entertainers.**

Improving Our Local Environment

TCV volunteers have been working on improving the area in front of the library.

Library staff and volunteers have raised beds with a mix of veg and plants out the back of the library to help improve the look of the area

ECO-FRIENDLY



Corra have been working with local people to start to formulate a plan of what their priorities would be, this is with a view to The Corra Foundation exiting well and leaving the community in a strong position. In particular they are asking people's opinion about the area they live in and their life within it, what changes would they like to see and how could they support their ideas to move forward.





Improving Our Local Environment

10

- Kilwinning Litter Pickers and other community groups continue to carry out community litter picks.
- Eglinton Growers are exploring draining systems for the site as it is partial to bad flooding in the winter months.
- Working within communities to promote active travel and reduce the impacts of climate change.
- 20 young people along with 6 adults participated in Kilwinning Locality Tree Planting and time capsule at Kilwinning Community Gardens. This was done in partnership with Eglinton Country park Rangers, Climate Change Ambassadors and Bee You Ambassadors .

Willie Sinclair Local Poet Exhibition

Local poet - Willie Sinclair began writing poems during lockdown as a means to keep himself busy, but little did he know he would continue to create rhymes which are very familiar and resonate with many still in 2023

Willie Joined the Kilwinning Discovery Award Group in October 2023 and has been sharing his work with the group and using this creative outlet towards his hobby and interest hours attached to his Award.

You will come across Willie's work as you make your way around the library. Please stop and have a read and see how many you can connect with...



The Scramble



The Austin Princess, by the door, Three weans were waitin', or maybe four
Oor eyes were soon filled wi' delight, When Senga, strutted Intae sight
'she looks the part', the mummies said, As she was headin' tae be wed.
The gorgeous frock that she had on, Cost nineteen Bob,
fae Springburn pawn

Just three mair steps for her tae ramble, As we prepared tae
'form a scramble'
We staked oor claim and hunkered doon, As mair weans gaithered,
awe aroon'
We jostled for the premier spot. And hoped her faither, brought a lot
O pennies, haepennies, thrupenny bits, Or single shillings,
(if they're rich).

"Awe hurry, hurry fling them oot", They've come in droves, fae roon about
Muscled-in, tae oor wee street, Tae reap rewards, fir penny sweets


Wi pensive mood we watched big Joack, His 'shovel hauns', went in the poke
He scooped those beauties in the air,
"The scramble's started", he'd declare

As he and Senga sped away, They left the place in disarray
We punched and kicked and jostled doon,
Tae make us awe the next tycoons

It went tae plan, wi'oot a hitch, I nabbed two pence, boy I was rich!!!
It 'kept me gawn', this winning streak, 'Til Maggie broon, got wed,
next week....

This old tradition, I fair miss
Those penny sweets (fae wedded bliss)
I let my thoughts of those days ramble
Those happy times,.... wi'in the scramble

WILLIE SINCLAIR
JANUARY 2020



What is Multiply?


The Multiply project aims to boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and at work. We can help people who are aged 19+ with no formal maths qualifications.

How can the North Ayrshire Multiply Team help?


We offer free sessions:


- For parents wanting to help their children with homework.
- To help people budget/manage money/learn how to cook.
- To increase confidence in numeracy or to gain qualifications.
- To help people improve their numeracy skills to gain employment.


PLEASE CONTACT US BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

 KILWNCLOCALITY@NORTH-AYRSHERE.GOV.UK

OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST



 **Funded by UK Government**



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarraidh Air a' Bèith

“This display has given me a right wee confidence boost, thank you. I am excited to see the artwork that comes from the children. I am sure this will brighten them up. Thank you again”



I love coming along to the group my favourite activity so far has been the escape room. My team solved all the problems and opened the padlock. I am excited to go to bounce station because I haven't been before and really want to go.

I enjoyed doing the agree and disagree because we got to see everyone's opinion

I have enjoyed the no knives better lives, and I enjoyed the agree and disagree game the most

I enjoyed the whole programme, I loved the yes, no, maybe questions. I loved drawing my safe places family, friends, and the impact this can do

Kilwinning Community Events

15

It's still March so don't expect all the details to be confirmed for our summer highlight Picnic in the Park but we have the date confirmed as Thursday 8th August.

We will announce in May / June when you can book stall space for local groups to promote yourselves but if you want to be a partner or sponsor in the event please do let us know.

We will also be supporting a few other smaller events in the park like the Uncle Billy day in the park last year that was so successful on Glasgow Fair Monday.

Toilets

The toilets will reopen for the summer from the Easter holidays through to the end of October. We rely fully on a bank of volunteers to key hold to open and close the toilets at weekends and school holidays on dry days throughout this period. We also have to clean and maintain them despite the odd set back. The volunteer pool can always be expanded.

Trees

Another 300 trees have been added to the park in the hope that they will survive to maintain our park ecosystem.

Crazy Golf

Justice services are progressing and we hope to have the project finished with better weather returning.

Goal mouths

Over the winter the goal mouth has recovered after some turfing work and a net will turn soon to the goal posts.

Flower bed

North Ayrshire council are to end planting our summer bedding but we are hopeful to do something with the bed at the main gate, we would love it if there was someone who would consider adopting it to deadhead and weed it over the summer months to maintain a bit of colour in the park.

Kilwinning Community Events

Litter

The small team at Kilwinning Litter pickers who look after the park have been hard at it all winter still in the park and everyone's efforts to use the bins to dispose of rubbish and dog fouling will be appreciated. we really don't want to go down the enforcement route with the support of the council but if we have to we must.

Events

The council controls overall who holds events in McGavin Park but Kilwinning Community Events also gets involved to ensure events don't clash and that the toilets regardless of weather are open. We can also loan out some tables and chairs to support.

We enjoyed welcoming Book Club to the park last year and are already booked to return this year so successful was their visits.

There were also community family events held that went down really well and loved the park facilities.

Fundraising

If anyone is interested supporting the group with fundraising or filling in forms to get funding to support the summer events and Kilwinning litter pickers we would love to have you on board.

For further information contact:

Louise Riddex
Locality Officer Kilwinning & North
Coast

lriddex@north-ayrshire.gov.uk





COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

NORTH AYRSHIRE

**NORTH AYRSHIRE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
NORTH AYRSHIRE YOUTH WORK, ADULT LEARNING
AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

STRATEGIC QUARTERLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024 - DONNA ANDERSON, ANNE-MARIE HUNTER & DENISE FRASER



An Introduction to the CLD Strategic Themes

This quarterly report focusses on the CLD strategic priorities outlined in our North Ayrshire CLD Strategic Plan that ties into North Ayrshire locality priorities.

The full plan can be viewed here: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/CorporateServices/ChiefExecutive/CommunityPlanning/community-learning-development-plan.pdf>

YOUTH WORK

Contact: youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Youth Work is an educational practice contributing to young people's learning and development. Youth work engages with young people within their communities; it acknowledges the wider networks of peers, community and culture; it supports the young person to realise their potential and to address life's challenges critically and creatively and it takes account of all strands of diversity.

ADULT LEARNING

Contact: adultlearning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Community based adult learning covers a wide variety of learning opportunities which target learners who have multiple barriers to opportunity, focusing on disadvantaged individuals and communities. Using a Social Practice Model, learning is built around the experience and needs of the learners and is underpinned by the three core principles of the Adult Learning Statement of Ambition - Learning is Lifelong, Life-wide and Learner-centred.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Contact: denisefraser@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Community Capacity Building is the support that community groups access to help them address issues which are important to them. 'Capacity' describes the range of resources that people have – knowledge about their area or common interest, skills and ideas, shared experiences, and material resources like funding and community spaces.

Joint Cabinet

During National Youth Work week, the Joint Youth Cabinet meeting took place with over 100 young people from across out schools. With 5 key topics being discussed we have now collated young people feedback.

During the round-table discussions, the format included a combination of listening to the experience of young people directly and encouraging the young people to also share feedback using a QR code via the Council's Youth Participation digital platform.

The discussions centred around, Youth Peoples Voice and Democracy, Crime and Personal Safety, Financial Literacies and Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing and secondary school life in North Ayrshire.

Theme 1 – Young Peoples Voice – Democracy Matters

We asked young people three key questions in relation to youth voice:

- *What powers could be added or used to help young people make decisions?*
- *What types of support might young people need to build their own capacity in their community?*
- *How can we make sure everyone in our communities is involved in decision making processes?*

Setting up **opportunities** within a school setting such as a teacher/ pupil boards would be effective. Whilst also using Pupil Councils to engage in relevant topics. Young people felt that **more interaction** is needed to support young people between schools and communities to make them aware of opportunities and to be consulted on all matters. Young people had also noted that Joint cabinet should be for young people that asked to attend, not selected.

To help build capacity within communities young people stated that they would like to see a **wider provision** of groups and opportunities for those who feel 'too old' for youth groups targeted at a younger age. They felt that although they have free bus travel it is often unreliable and stops them from getting more involved in their community. Mainly young people felt that they need to know what is available to them to join in, this includes opportunities for groups, community learning and volunteering.

Lastly by ensuring all young people are involved in decisions that affect them, not just young people that are selected for various groups and committees would have better results. Tools like social media, drop ins, working with their MSYPs and targeted promotion of these would benefit them and their communities as a whole. A popular piece of feedback was the importance of **closing the engagement loop** and always feeding back result to young people to know what has happened as a result of their participation.



Theme 2 – Youth Crime and Personal Safety

In partnership with Police Scotland we asked young people the following:

- *How do you feel the introduction of the free bus travel has impacted your feelings of personal safety and reduction or increase of youth crime?*
- *Increased antisocial behaviour and young people putting themselves in vulnerable situations at local beaches/ shore areas. Why do you think this is and what can we do to reduce this?*
- *With so many young people on social media, specifically snapchat, we have seen a rise in online abuse. What can be done to reduce this and support young people with online behaviour and abuse?*

Young people seen both the positive and negative impact of the free bus travel scheme, for many they felt it had **increased their chance to travel freely**, without relying on parents and carers, and also foregoing the cost gives them access to more opportunities such as social interaction, going to clubs, reducing barrier to employment amongst others. Although these greatly benefit young people they did feel that there has been an **increase of anti social behaviour** on buses, which can make them feel uneasy or intimidated. Furthermore with free transport buses are much busier now, in particular to and from school with it already being unreliable but not being able to get on the bus when needed due to overcrowding and not getting to school on time regularly.

Beaches were a concern to young people in North Ayrshire with feeling of **increased ‘bad behaviour’**, alcohol and drug intake and feelings of social pressures to ‘fit in’. Suggestions to combat this included more bins for litter, having a specific young person hotline to report anti-social behaviour, an increase in beach CCTV with life guards and police patrols during busy times. Other suggestions included more **beach friendly activities** including beach sports and games, alcohol free barbeques and a young persons alcohol free beach bar to promote responsible behaviour.

Lastly when speaking to young people about the affects of social media, young people agreed about the **social pressures** to be online and an increase in online bullying. Many young people agreed that having training for parents to spot the signs and support their young person would be beneficial, likewise to have more youth friendly tools to cope with online bullying, likewise a campaign that promotes the health benefits of disconnecting would be received well.

Theme 3 – Your School (NIF)

Our third theme targeted questions were around the National Improvement Framework for Education, here we asked



- *In general (not specifically in relation to your school) do you think young people feel that they have genuine opportunities to contribute to decision making?*
- *In general what do you think are the greatest barriers to young people achieving their potential in school?*
- *What do you think are the 3 most important things that schools should prioritise in order to help young people get the best out of their education?*

Pupils felt that there are **opportunities to have your voice heard** through Joint Cabinet, pupil councils, leadership programmes, school captains, various committees and access to surveys. Although they felt this was more for senior pupils and there is a lack of these opportunities for S1-S3. Some young people felt that when giving their views that it 'doesn't make a difference', or that it is not taken seriously, and by not receiving feedback on what they have said it 'doesn't create change'. It was noted that there needs to be **more opportunity for minority groups** to have the opportunity to create change particularly around racism. Young people felt that an agreed joint action plan when engaging with young people should be made to detail what is to happen and support the feedback that should follow.

When discussing barrier to achieving potential, the most popular opinions included:

- Lack of funding
- Bullying
- More allocated study time within school
- The impact of the cost of the school day
- Lasting impact of COVID
- Pupils who are disruptive having no consequences for their actions resulting in less teaching time

This was followed by young people prioritising things that were important which were:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Study time
- Security/ safety within the school setting
- Disruptive behaviour being challenged
- Cost of the school day
- Equalities

Theme 4 – Financial Literacies and Education

A topic picked by our young people was around financial education with 3 key questions being asked.



- *Where would you go to get information on finance, saving, debt and spending?*
- *What more could the council and partners be doing to educate young people on life skills and money management?*
- *What are your main concerns when it comes to finances as a young person?*

The majority of young people **did not know where to turn to for this information**, with some saying parents, teachers or going into a bank itself. Although this made some young people uncomfortable as have never approached a bank before. Young people stressed the importance of this being **part of the curriculum** to focus on financial education throughout their time at school.

Pupils said more support was needed around **life skills and money management** from S2 upwards that would cover all aspects of money management, as one young person stated *“it isn't just maths it should be in all of our subjects in some way.”* It should be supported by schools and outside organisations coming in to support with different areas.

With finances being such a vast subject area particular areas of concern for young people were:

- Inflation/ cost of living
- Barrier to further education due to financial pressures
- Budgeting
- Housing
- Being independent
- Good debt V bad debt

Theme 5 – Health and Wellbeing

Our last theme focussed on health and wellbeing with some broad themed questions.

- *Do you think you receive enough information about alcohol and drugs?*
- *Low school attendance is a significant concern. Some people say the reasons for this are rising anxiety levels due to the pandemic. What do you think are the reasons for the drop in attendance?*
- *Building and maintaining resilience is important for supporting positive mental health and wellbeing. What do you think is the best way to positively improve your long-term mental fitness?*

Young people felt the topic of alcohol and drugs is **covered well in PSE**, although many feeling it needs to be from S1 onwards, with topics of vaping going into primary schools.



Some felt what is taught is 'tame' compared to what they see in the outside world and needs to be **more hard hitting** with real like examples and having more up to date resources and information. With a clear message of the 'don't do it, its bad' message does not work. Young people felt that a **peer led approach** to this would work well in a school setting.

Young people who responded in relation to low school attendance had felt that the main reasons for this included:

- Mental health and wellbeing issues and concerns
- Young people simply feeling 'overwhelmed with school and life'
- Many young people referencing bullying and feeling 'unsafe'
- Young people are still feeling the impact of COVID, with home learning and feelings of isolation still impacting their learning.

Pupils had said that creating alternative curriculums and accepting the classroom environment doesn't work for everyone could help with this.

To support young people with their wellbeing it was noted that young being supported to create balance in their life would be beneficial, learning coping mechanisms when things feel overwhelming and **feeling validated** when they express their concerns. Participants said that there is concerns about disclosing that you are having negative feelings and being told they are not 'unwell' enough to access a school or community councillor. This **adds to the stigma** that still surrounds mental health and wellbeing, a suggestion being to have more in depth training on mental health for school staff and for peer supporters.



Members of Scottish Youth Parliament



The 5th February seen us celebrate our MSYPs past and present and celebrate the power of youth voice here in North Ayrshire where we continue to ensure that young peoples voices are at the forefront of conversation, engagement, policy and discussions.

The announcement evening our new members who now form part of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) for the next 2 years was full of excitement for young people and guests alike.

SYP is a youth led organisation; the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people where young people aged 14-25 from all over Scotland represent the views of young people within their constituencies. Within North Ayrshire we have four young people who became our members of the Scottish Youth Parliament - two who cover the Cunninghame North Constituency and two covering the Cunninghame South Constituency. They form part of the national Scottish Youth Parliament membership with over 150 young people ranging in age from 14 to 25 tasked with representing their constituencies in all 32 local authorities throughout the country alongside several national voluntary organisations.

The 4 democratically elected members from North Ayrshire's job is to listen to, and recognise, the issues that are most important to our young people, ensuring that their voices are heard by decision-makers, both locally and nationally, their role is to be the voice for our young people across our schools and communities. SYP exist to provide a national platform for our young people to discuss the issues that are important to them, and campaign to affect the change they wish to see.

Here in North Ayrshire they form an integral part of our Youth Participation Structure and our Child Centered Council approach, where young people are central to decisions being made about them – with them being key decision makers in these processes. All 8 candidates continue to be involved and have reformed our North Ayrshire Youth Council Executive Committee.



This election process started in November 2023 but due to national issues with the online voting platform, our Council took the decision to restart to ensure fairness and integrity, and return back to paper ballots using the Single Transferrable Vote system, allowing voters to rank their candidates in numerical order. This allowed for our young people to complete their ballots, meanwhile taking part in a voting process that is used both locally and nationally with our 16+ population. True democracy in action! This has resulted in record breaking numbers for our participation rate which was fantastic to see with **4230** votes cast - this is over 50% of our full secondary school population. Our elected MSYPs for the next two years, will work within our schools and communities on specific projects, both locally and nationally whilst representing the views of their peers.

Cunninghame North MSYPs



Adam Johnson

Largs Academy



Rhyan Gorrie

Garnock Campus

Cunninghame South MSYPs



Emma Burns

Irvine Royal Academy



Freya Fitzsimmons

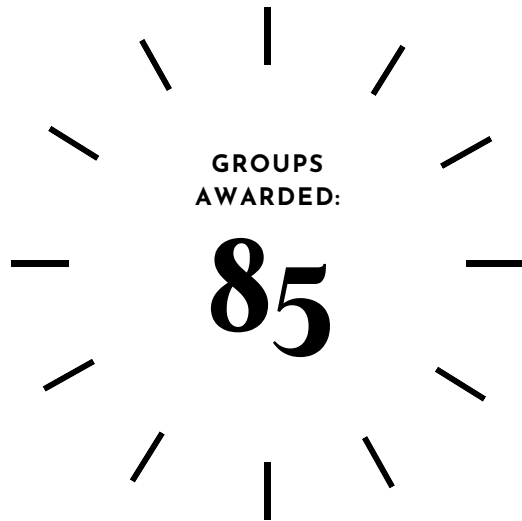
St Matthews Academy

To contact our MSYPs please email youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Youth Participatory Budgeting

North Ayrshires Youth PB results were announced on Monday 11th December.



VOTES:

5,740
ACROSS NORTH AYRSHIRE

To view projects in your locality, please click link below:

<https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/2023-24results>

HAVE YOU VOTED ON #YOUTHBPB

Aged 8 - 25?

Please have your say!

North Ayrshire Executive Committee



Our newly formed Executive Youth Committee has now elected in its committee. This group is made up of young people from across North Ayrshire and covers all six localities, covering seven of our nine secondaries. The group is the overarching youth voice group for North Ayrshire and welcomes new members to join.

The role of the 'Exec' is to support our youth participation structures such as Joint Youth Forum, Joint Cabinet, MSYPs and Youth Council meetings. With both planning and facilitating the activities and events. Central to the 'Exec' are our four Members of Scottish Youth Parliament. The group will support their local activity throughout the next two year term.

Supported by Community Learning and Development workers this network of young people will develop and carry out local consultations and engagement with their peers and work on specific projects, led by the voices of young people across North Ayrshire.

The group is open to young people aged 12-25 in North Ayrshire. If a young person is interested in joining they can email youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk for more information. Likewise if any partners would like to work with the group they can email the central mailbox.



Climate Change Ambassadors

Our group of ambassadors continue to work on a range of activities, opportunities, signposting and events around climate change and sustainability.

Working with the Bee You Ambassadors group, they had many discussions around what issues young people face in their local communities and how they could use their training to benefit young people.

It was recognised that some work around suicide prevention had to be prioritised. Throughout North Ayrshire the statistics for youth suicides were particularly high. They felt a project highlighting this could give young people local signposting/ support services, would address the matter head on in a proactive manner.



Following on from the Kindness Mural Consultation it was decided that a tree planting project would take place within the Kilwinning Locality. The Climate Change Ambassadors funded the 16 trees and the time capsule for this joint project. With the aim of creating a community garden where young people could use green spaces to be with nature and feel calm.

Working in conjunction with Eglington Rangers Service to store and protect the trees through the winter. Ambassadors attending site visits and facilitate filling the time capsule with the ambassadors. The first date of planting had to be pushed back due to adverse weather making it hard for planting. The plan moving forward to February 2024 to enable the snow to pass. Within this time the two groups held a time capsule session to write a letter to their future selves, create a scrap book of memories looking at present times and projects that they have been involved in. The group continues to meet fortnightly.



Youth Work Modern Apprenticeship Programme



As our six senior modern apprentices are nearing the end of their course the focus has been on supporting them into positive destinations. Throughout their time they have developed a wide range of skills such as communication, interpersonal, ICT, planning and problem solving to name a few, alongside this they have

developed the required knowledge through the completion of their SVQ level 7 in Youth Work to become a competent and reflective Youth Work practitioner.

All of the apprentices have been added to our sessional list and will continue supporting young people and groups across the authority. Four have secured placements on the Community Development course at Glasgow University with 3 already communicating with colleagues regarding their first year placement. These MA's will continue to be supported through the team both in terms of placement but also with the qualification through accessing the small library of academic books and knowledge of colleagues.

Regarding employment, over and above their sessional opportunities, two have already gained full time employment, one has a full time position as a classroom assistant in Dreghorn Primary School and the other has secured a clerical position within the Housing team. The other four continue to apply for a variety of roles including mentoring positions and classroom assistants all being successful in gaining interviews.

During this time the MA's were supported with a range of support to improve their interview skills, this includes encouragement to apply for positions, providing references and also conducting mock interviews. MA's have feedback this level of support was beneficial to them in building their confidence and consolidating their knowledge in order to fully respond to questions.

We wish them all the best for their future.



Youth Work Modern Apprenticeship Programme

"Over the course of the apprenticeship, I have developed so many new skills and built amazing relationships with my colleagues and people within the community. I can honestly say my time as an apprentice has been some of the best moment of my life so far and has built me up into a completely new person from when I started. I joined the apprenticeship without much knowledge of what youth work was but thought it would be something I would enjoy; I had no idea the number of skills and opportunities it would provide me with and how much I'd thrive in the type of environment the team has created. Something I think the apprenticeship does best is allowing you to really throw yourself into the work you have a high interest. For example, I came in with an interest in working with young people surrounding mental health and they really allowed me to flourish within this type of work and build my knowledge around mental health through, programmes and training. All this as well as pushing me to try new things and come out of my comfort zone has helped me develop my confidence and do things within my professional and personal life, I never thought id be able to do.

Now that my apprenticeship is coming to an end my manager and team have played a major role in helping me with my next steps. Through their support and interview prep I have successfully landed a job within Dreghorn Primary as a classroom assistant and a placement in Glasgow University doing community development , two things I never would have been able to do without the qualification and experience I've gained within the past 18 months. As much as my apprenticeship has come to an end, I know the support within the team goes further than the 18 months and I always have a group of people to come back to ready to help and celebrate the wins with." - Modern Apprentice - Youth Work



Young Parents Group



The newly formed young parents group is open to young parents 25 or under and based in Stevenston weekly.

Working in partnership with the lifelong learning team this project is aimed to support young parents in a health and wellbeing environment, this will increase the confidence of parents and support improvement in their physical, mental, emotional and relational wellbeing for them and their children.

Designed by our MHWB Project Delivery Officer the group splits into activities suitable for the leaning and development of babies attending and also parents interacting in sessions. Using the first hour to focus on the baby/ child development through activities which is led by the lifelong learning team, using the second hour for the development of the parents.

Now the group is established sessions have been created to encourage learning for both parents and their babies, within a range of different topics including

- Messy Play
- What is mental health and how can this be linked between you and your baby
- Multiply input
- BookBug
- Worry and Fears session for parents (creating a social network)
- Resilience of a parent
- Baby Sensory
- Crafting
- Relax Kids
- Baking
- Baby Massage- attachment process and postnatal depression

The group is designed to be fun and exciting for both parents and their little one. They provide a great opportunity to try new activities and meet new people, creating lasting memories. The programme encourages parents to interact with other parents and share a variety of good and bad experiences. It creates perfect opportunities to get advice, meet new friends and catch up with their peers at each session.



Young Parents Group

As a result of this programme young parents that are attending have increased confidence, created a support network within the group and enjoy each session. 15 young parents have joined the group and this increases each week.

Attending these sessions allows the children to interact with other babies and their parents, promoting socialisation and interaction. This can help to develop parents and babies social skills and build confidence in this new chapter of their lives.



"This group has been a lifeline to me as we don't get to see anyone anymore since baby came along, the group is the thing that I look forward to every week. Meeting the other parents and getting support from each other is amazing, each week Dionne has something on for the kids but also an activity for the parents. I am sad that it will only be lasting 10 weeks, I really hope it can get extended. We have made friends for life, mums mental health is just as important as babies! The impact its had on myself and the other parents is more than words can say, we need more of this in our communities." Young Mum - Young Parents Group



Bounceback Programme - Dreghorn Primary

We delivered the Bounceback programme to Dreghorn Primary in this quarter, the programme focussing on mental health and wellbeing led by the North Ayrshire Bee You Mental health Ambassadors in delivering to Primary 6/7 school aged young people to then, in turn, become mini Bee You Ambassadors for their primary school.



The six, 1-hour sessions, has most recently been delivered to Dreghorn Primary School Primary 6/7 pupils. The programme allows the ambassadors who are all aged between 16 and 21 the chance to share the valuable information they have learned throughout their journey completing mental health programmes with these young people who are aged 11 and 12. This allows the primary group to then share this learning to help support their schools emotional awareness as Mini ambassadors for the younger aged classes within their school. The programme helped supports all 27 of the Dreghorn pupils involved in learning these workshops with their own resilience through topics that they are currently experiencing within.

The Ambassadors all have completed Mental Health First Aid and/or the Mental Health UKs Your Resilience programme so in delivering what they have learned only reaffirms the learning that these young people have already had further increasing their resilience and confidence.

Once the programme is delivered, the pupils continue to be Mini Bee You Ambassadors for the primary school, with the school deciding on how their roles will continue to support their peers.



Boyceback Programme - Dreghorn Primary

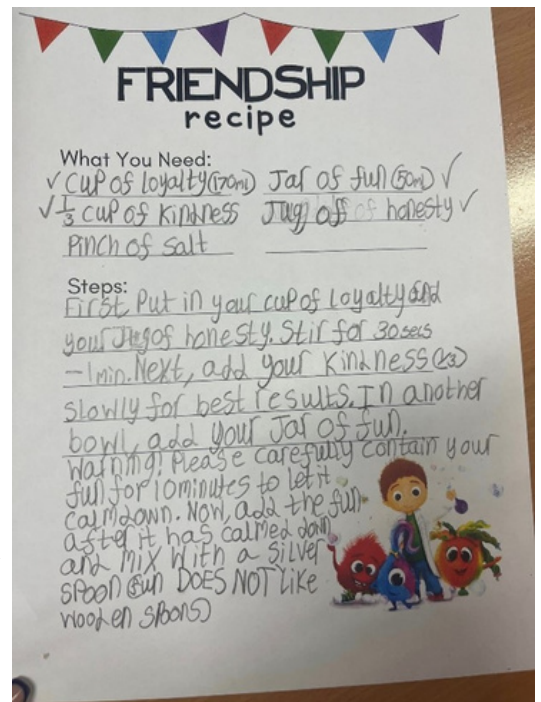
The interactive sessions have educated young people on:

- What is Mental Health
- Resilience
- Social Networks
- Friendships
- Making Decisions
- Self Care

This programme has become widely sought after across North Ayrshire primary schools.

"You all helped me realise not to care so much about what others think, you are all amazing there was nothing I didn't like, I have learned to believe in myself and try stop doubting myself if I fail. I think everyone deserves a visit from you all, I had so much fun well done 100/100." Pupil - Age 11

"The programme was really good at covering lots of different topics to help children cope with day to day pressures and scenarios. The key points from the programme that really supported the class was to think about what people are like on the inside, be positive and kind and resilience in having real life scenarios to help work through, this programme was pitched at a good level for the age group. The children responded well to the ambassadors as they were approachable and the children could relate to them." Mrs Brown- Teacher



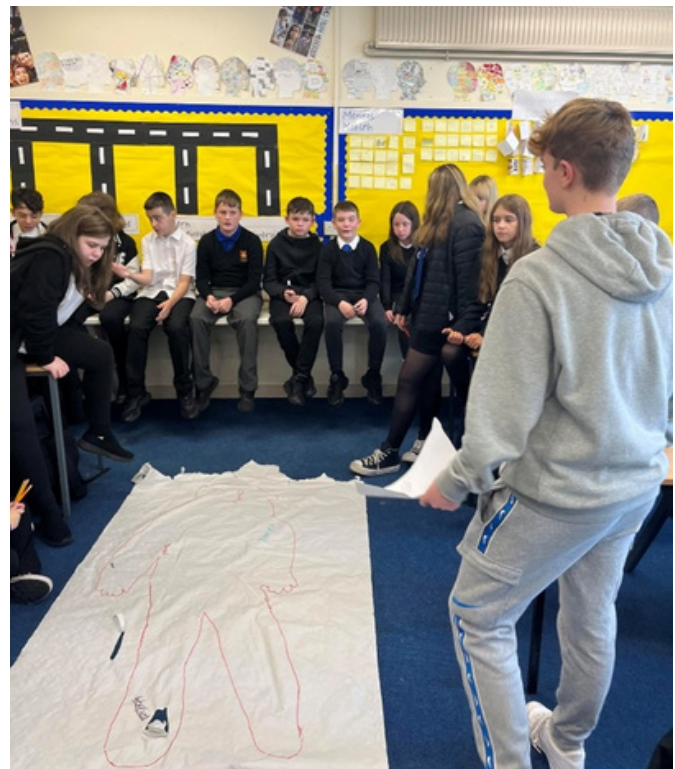
Irvine Royal Academy - Mental Health Day



Our Mental Health and Wellbeing worker was asked to support Irvine Royal Academy MHWB day this quarter by creating a 1 hour workshop to help pupils aged 11/12 with the start of their secondary school journey, to have a understanding of 'What is Mental Health'. This was run on rotation for a full day for all pupils in 1st year.

This workshop covered 'What is Mental Health', using the North Ayrshire Council Youth Services handouts and a mix of interactive activities, such as body mapping, this is where we get the pupils to draw around a member of the class then in groups we give the pupils scenarios and they then can draw or write on the body map how these scenarios made them feel and what it might look like on the body.

Within our 'What is Mental Health' handout we looked at mental health vs physical health, there is an activity within this that encourages the young people to recognise qualities within themselves that they like, this is held within the class and encouraged to be continued at home. On the back of this handout are the QR codes for the North Ayrshire community mental health and wellbeing mapping these QR codes direct you to what groups and resources are available across our localities for wellbeing support, this is explained to the group and encouraged to highlight to their parents/carers.



"Thank You so much to Vicki and her team for their support of our young people. They thoroughly enjoyed the workshop; we look forward to working again with you soon."

Mrs Marwick



Your Resilience – The Hive – Ayrshire College



Your Resilience supports young people's mental health resilience. The education programme is focused on building resilience through life's transitions in 14–20-year-olds, equipping them with the tools and resources to manage their mental health now, and in the future.

The HIVE (Hope, Inspiration, Vision in Education) is a facility within Ayrshire college that many of the students arrive with no qualifications, and often no clear idea of what they want to do next. The HIVE aims to help you to achieve next steps and using the Your Resilience programme, we dedicated time to help these young people in their journey towards positive destinations.

Strong relationships have been established with the team and Ayrshire College The HIVE to support the young people that attend in helping them with their mental health and emotional awareness to move onto future courses or employment.

The programme was run weekly in Ayrshire College with current HIVE pupils (Intro to careers and bridge to careers). Sessions are 1–2-hours covering Resilience, Exam Pressure, Friendships/Decision Making, Social Pressures, Managing Studies and Juggling Time. Along with open conversation work through the appropriate workbook for groups age ensuring the group understand the tasks and the tool kits provided to help them manage their own life scenarios and support their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

At the end of the completed sessions and workbooks the young people have a opportunity to give feedback, they will then receive their certificate.

18 certificates went out to Intro to careers and 19 to Bridge to careers in this quarter.



Your Resilience - The Hive - Ayrshire College

"Working with young people who have previously disengaged from education within the HIVE at Kilwinning Campus, Ayrshire College, our course's aim is to prepare students to enhance their Employability skills, Confidence, Teamwork, Communication, self-esteem, and motivation which will support them into employment or mainstream courses.



Many of our students are Care experienced, have ASN, ADHD, Behavioural issues, Autism, Anxiety, Depression, Trauma and Mental Health issues. Vicki has been delivering Resilience sessions to over 50 of our students. The sessions have been invaluable for our students, through completing the workbook it has provided the students with an opportunity to take part in open discussions with relatable topics. Vicki and her staff have been amazing and were able to create a safe environment, build positive, trusting relationships with our young people, equip them with the tools and knowledge to reach out with any concerns and have better resilience which has had a positive effect on their mental wellbeing. I am hoping this partnership can continue, which will enable us to reach out to a lot more young people who will benefit from these sessions." Caroline McCulloch - Employability & Engagement Officer

"I liked this course because I learned more about mental health, it raised more awareness. My favourite part was the friendship part because it made me think about who I spend my time with"
Participant - Age 18

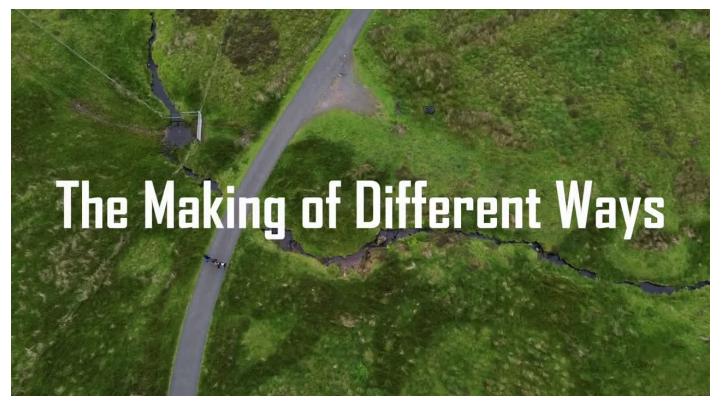


New Scots

The Film Making Project

The film project project has made a profound difference in the lives of the young people involved. By providing a platform for self-expression, the project has helped them overcome isolation, fostering a sense of belonging and community. The creative process of writing, action, filming, recording, and editing has not only honed their artistic skills but also served as a powerful tool for personal growth. Through engagement with peers, these young individuals have forged meaningful connections, breaking down barriers and building confidence. This holistic approach has not only empowered them in the realm of arts but has also contributed to their overall well-being and integration into their new communities.

The commitment of the young people, who dedicated 11 months to the project, is noteworthy. From conceptualisation to editing, they exhibited an extraordinary level of skill and dedication. The creation of a comprehensive behind-the-scenes documentary adds depth to their accomplishments, illustrating the profound impact the project had on the participating young people. The successful premiere at the Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine in January signifies not only artistic achievement but also community engagement.



New Scots

Nova Scotias Football

Nova Scotia's Boys Football team, established with a modest group in January 2022, has burgeoned into a thriving community initiative. From its inception, the team has expanded both in numbers and interest, currently boasting over 30 boys from diverse backgrounds. Beyond honing football skills, the group has evolved into a vital social network, fostering friendships and teamwork among resettled and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people of various nationalities.

The support garnered from the Prince's Trust has been instrumental in the team's growth. Collaborations with organizations like Street Soccer Scotland, Killie in the Community, and Spike Wheat Scots have ensured the team's sustainability. Now, with two age groups formed in January 2024, Street Soccer Scotland oversees the over 16s team, with transitional staff support from CLD, while the under 16s group operates as a partnership with CLD, Spike Wheat Scots, and Killie in the Community providing coaching expertise.

Looking ahead, plans include participation in small tournaments during Spring and Summer, providing not just a platform for football development but also fostering personal growth among the boys. Nova Scotia's Boys Football team stands as a testament to the positive impact community sports can have on skill development, health, well-being, and resettlement



New Scots

Ukrainian discovery Award

The Ukrainian Discovery Award, launched at the Argyll Centre in Saltcoats, has rapidly become a transformative force and holds a crucial role in supporting the resettlement of older Ukrainian guests. With a membership exceeding 20 individuals and a consistent influx of new participants the impact is palpable. The introduction of a weekly cooking group and a craft café has not only provided creative outlets but has also fostered a sense of community and connection.

Recent visits to cultural landmarks such as Rozelle House, Glasgow University, and the Hunterian Museum have not only enriched their experiences but have also facilitated integration and cultural understanding. The Ukrainian Discovery Award has evolved into a vibrant hub for social engagement, skill-building, and cultural exploration, contributing significantly to the well-being and integration of the Ukrainian community in North Ayrshire.

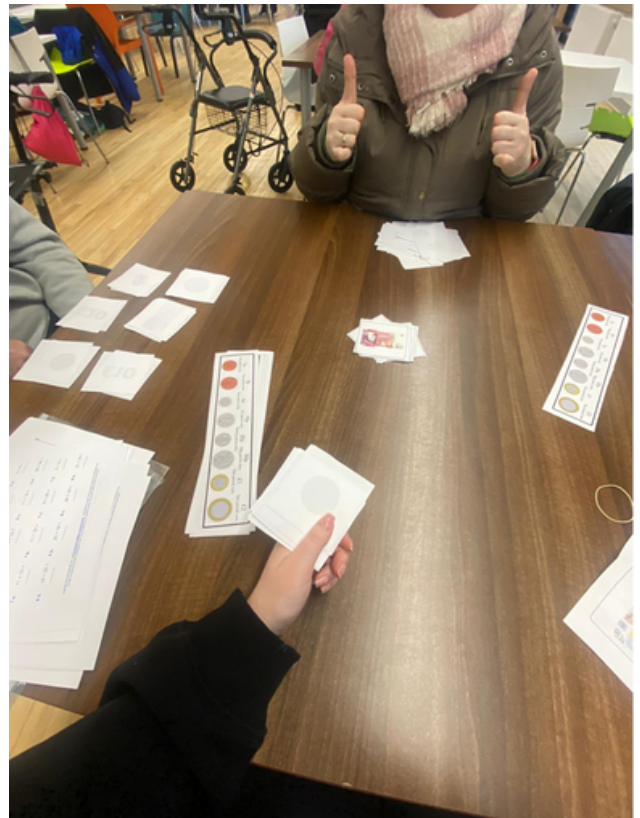
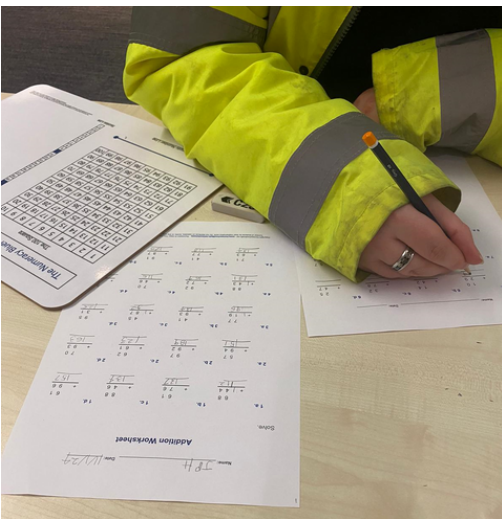


The Multiply Project

The Multiply team's collaboration with Trindlemoss in delivering a numeracy support group for Additional Support Needs (ASN) adults has proven to be a resounding success. Working in tandem with Ayrshire College, the team has secured a project agreement that paves the way for learners to receive accreditation in the community for their numeracy skills. This initiative is a remarkable opportunity for community-based adult learners, particularly those taking their initial steps back into education and learning.

The impact of this endeavour extends beyond skill acquisition, offering a transformative experience for adults seeking to re-engage with education. This initiative is poised to make a lasting difference by providing a supportive environment for numeracy learning and accreditation, creating pathways for individuals to thrive in their learning.

Multiply provision is free and can be accessed via our referral form: <https://forms.office.com/e/MDXDeF1QUw?origin=lprLink> or by emailing multiplyinfo@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Funded by
UK Government

**LEVELLING
UP**

MULTIPLY



Participatory Budgeting

Current PB updates:

- In this round of PB, the funding was split into three different categories – Youth PB, Locality PB and funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with a sum of **£198,377** overall.
- Locality & UKSPF results were announced on Monday 20th November with Youth PB results announced on 11th December.



Participatory Budgeting 23/24 Results Overview:

LOCALITY PB -
SUCCESSFUL GROUPS:

93

3,131 VOTES

UK SHARED PROSPERITY
FUND -
SUCCESSFUL GROUPS

8

793 VOTES

YOUTH PB -
SUCCESSFUL GROUPS:

85

5,740 VOTES

To view all successful projects in your locality, please click link below:
<https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/pbresultsnov23>



ParticipatoryBudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Community Asset Transfer

We will support our community groups in their ambitions to own and lease assets via our Community Asset Transfer Policy.

The Community Asset team continues to work alongside TACT's Community Asset Transfer Development Worker, John, who provides valuable assistance and support to community groups exploring or looking for advice on taking on an asset within their communities. Particular areas of support provided have focussed on supporting groups with their governance documents and for some in preparation to go to court in respect of common good land; liaising with DTAS on particular issues such as what it means for a group who are interested in an asset within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and site visits for groups who are interested in submitting an initial expression of interest in a particular asset.

The Community Asset Team have been ensuring that all paperwork that is uploaded to the website is accessible for all and we continue to work on improving the asset transfer process.

Current CATs over 6 localities at different stages from initial enquiry to final stage:

Arran

Brodick Bowling Club

Three Towns

Ardeer Park changing rooms has now received cabinet approval - Whitlees Community Centre - 3 Towns Men's shed - Initial interest from Ardeer Thistle Youth Academy

Kilwinning

Blacklands Hall - Auld Dirrans Centre

Irvine

Maress Road - Maress Playing fields

Garnock Valley

Dalry Public Park Sports Pavilion, brick built and dis-used Pavilion (old pavilion adjacent to swing park and old tennis courts) - Knox Institute - The Shed, Ladysmith Road

North Coast

Douglas Park tennis courts - Douglas Park Nursery - Cairnies Quay - Bowencraigs Playing fields (final stages) - Brisbane Centre - Simson/ Craufurd Avenue Swing Park.



Community Leadership

Our innovative Leadership Collective, will deliver capacity and learning opportunities built on the expressed needs of our communities. We will support our environmental capacity projects such as tree planting, coastal care and our growers programmes.

Our community development team along with our partners from TACT, Green Health Partnership, HSCP and Ayrshire College, have supported over 200 adults to develop their knowledge and skills through opportunities offered via our 'Leadership Collective'. This includes; Volunteer training, Naloxone training, committee skills training, REHIS, First aid, Mental Health first aid, trauma awareness training, funding fares and funding workshops



CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

MON 26/2 ONLINE, 6.30 - 8PM

WED 28/2 REDBURN CENTRE IRVINE, 10AM - 12

Child Protection Awareness Session



To register please scan the QR code or contact Elaine Walker on 07818228733



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



Food Insecurities

The Fairer Food Network & Larder Updates



- Currently 14 food larders across North Ayrshire supporting over 3000 households with a dignified food provision.
- Two new larders in Largs and Millport will be opening in 2024 and a subsidised food model is supported on Arran.
- The fifth quarterly payment has been made to all larders under the revised funding model. Weekly footfall will be monitored and reported on quarterly, and that figure will dictate the payment for the next quarter. Larders with up to 30 households per week will receive £1000 per quarter. There after, it will be a cost per head calculation of the remaining funding pot. This model was reviewed and agreed at the NAFF meeting In November 2023.
- The quarterly NAFF meeting was held on Teams on 29 November 2023. The group heard from SP Energy about the priority list for energy support in the event of powercuts. Gerry Gilmurray also offered to host drop ins at the larders to promote to members.
- Facilities Management had provided the network with a range of reuseable period products as part of period dignity week. There had been a mixed response from members and a mixed uptake. All remaining items were to be returned to Facilities Management as this was not to be an ongoing offer.
- There has been ongoing support to the larders and during the first quarter of the year, the senior manager and the Fair For All Development Officer visited all larders to get an update on their current financial status, any concerns and any highlights.
- The Tap End Larder, Stevenston is continuing to get on going support as their new employee settles into post. There have been various issues highlighted around centre security which are in the process of being dealt with. They have also been awarded one years funding for WIFI, a new laptop and phone via the digital fund.
- Argyle Community Shop volunteers and Saltcoats Link up have been receiving support in relation to ongoing internal difficulties between the two groups.
- Ardeer Larder have reduced their operational days and times but support can be given out with these time via an appointment.
- Support is being given and appliances ordered for the new larder at Largs Library. It is hoped it will open later in February and is currently awaiting a bank account.
- Millport Larder - Appliances have been ordered for this new larder. No proposed date has been scheduled for it to open.



Food Insecurities

Publicity and Promotion

Over the festive period, Comms continued to roll out information and promotional video clips advertising the larder network. Despite this, numbers have remained steady with no significant increase in demand.

Community Planning created and circulated a festive period support brochure for NA wide.

Sustainable Food Places

Scottish Government launched The Good Food Nation Plan in February. Further information can be found at <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/national-good-food-nation-plan/>

North Ayrshire Food Forum

The North Ayrshire Food Forum attempted a third meeting on 27 November as a hybrid model but there was a very poor attendance so the meeting was cancelled. No date has been rescheduled.

In other news.....

Survey

A survey of larders members from 50% of the larders was undertaken. 53% said that they had been using their larder for less than 6 months. This indicates that they are being used in the manner that was anticipated. 89% were happy with the range of food offered but despite access to the larder, 63% said that they still skipped meals to ensure that others in their household were being fed.

Community Planning

The Council's Planning Service are putting together research aimed at gaining an understanding of how North Ayrshire residents access food throughout the area. As an important part of that, they are seeking views of the experience had by both Foodbanks and Community Larders. The views will be important in making future policy decisions including whether to support certain types of development in certain places such as Local Shops or Supermarkets.



The Older Peoples Voice & Engagement Hubs



The Older Peoples Voice Conference

The Conference was an inclusive success seeing participation from over 50 older people from all over North Ayrshire.

The day was focussed on the following key elements:

- To have representation from all localities
- Ensure people attending felt connected
- To finalise a participation structure for older people in a way their voices can be heard
- Complete mapping of all community provision for older people
- Educate, inform, and report findings of older people's voice consultation
- Listen to what the current issues are and provide the opportunity for networking with peers and local and national services

The day would aim to ensure:

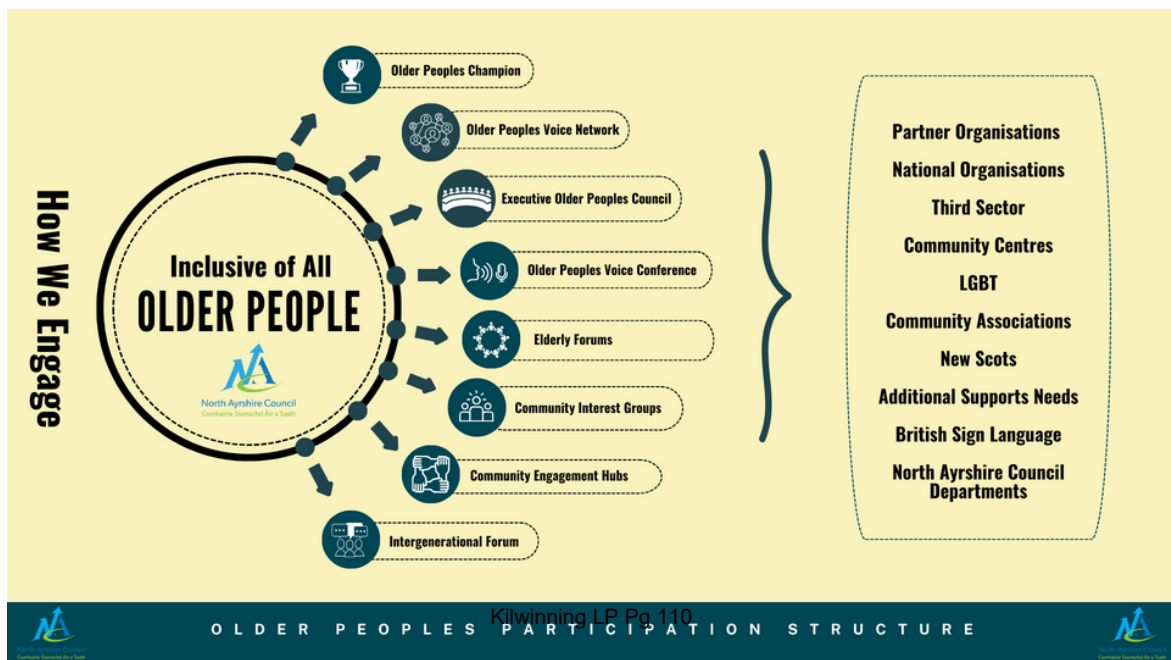
- A clearer understanding of what is most important to older people
- Gaps in service provision were addressed to determine how improvements could be made
- Single Points of Contact for each locality, were introduced to every older person to help establish a dedicated action plan for their area.
- Participants were encouraged to share any concerns they may have
- Helpful information and signposting was provided to support services for older residents



The conference was all about ensuring that older people remain at the forefront of the Council's decision-making and is a positive next step forward in the right direction to establish the Council's Older People's Voice Participation Structure – a key area of importance in North Ayrshire's Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan.



With the poor weather conditions leading to the ferry's being cancelled Connected Communities worked with partners in Arran Community & Volunteer Services to ensure our older people had the opportunity to still take part online.



The Older Peoples Voice & Engagement Hubs



Engagement Hubs

The engagement hubs aim to provide a needs-based programme of activities which were set out by initial consultations with residents and community members.

The provision is aimed at decreasing social isolation as well as improved physical and mental health.

At present there are 28 activities running across 4 hubs weekly featuring:

Chair exercise classes, chair dance classes, bingo, quizzes, tai chi, MS support groups, seniors forums, mental wellness support groups, Community Councils, entertainment committees, digital support groups, lunch clubs, live entertainment, trips, ESOL groups, over 50s discovery award groups, coffee mornings, football reminiscence groups, tea and a blether sessions and sewing groups.

Over the festive period there have been many festive lunches and events run by the CLD team, groups using the hubs and the hub committees, providing free lunches and visits from local School choirs.



CAPACITY BUILDING



Funding Success

Four of the hubs Committees at the David White Centre, Vennel Gardens, Watt Gardens and Montgomery Court as well as two groups have been supported to apply for funds to support and continue their activity within the hubs and been funded a total of £6,000.



Montgomery Court Committee

The committee have gone from strength to strength since forming in the last 6 months, running weekly coffee afternoons and supporting CLD activity weekly including bingo and a sewing group.

Pictured above is the committees Burns Lunch which went down very well with free soup, haggis, neeps and tatties as well as poetry and deserts.



Networking and Funding

LPP Grant Awards

A total of **£7,234** was awarded by the Locality Planning Partnerships from November 2023 to January 2024.

External Funding Levered In

A total of **£274,290** external funding has been levered in by third sector organisations from November 2023 to January 2024.



Funding Support and Advice to Community Groups & Colleagues

- **3** funding workshops and drop-in sessions were delivered from November 2023 to December 2024.
- **9** funding updates circulated to community organisations and colleagues from November 2023 to January 2024.
- **774** members have now joined North Ayrshire Virtual Funding Centre
- **200** log-ins to Grantfinder and **579** searches carried out for the period November 2023 to January 2024.

Community Benefits Wish List

4 wishes have been delivered this quarter, with 39 wishes delivered in 2023. A total of 74 wishes have been delivered through the Community Benefits Wish List since it launched in October 2021.

Wishes delivered this quarter:

- Largs Foodbank: donation of £300 from RJ McLeod (December)
- Stanley Primary School Parent Council: donation of £100 from Carruthers (January)
- Irvine Youth Legacy Centre: donation of £100 from Carruthers (January)
- Organic Growers of Fairlie: donation of £200 from RJ McLeod to purchase paint for their raised beds (February)

Around 10 wishes are in discussion with contractors, but are unlikely to be delivered until spring/summer 2024 as they require better weather.

The next issue of the Community Benefits Newsletter will be circulated to contractors in late February/early March, with a focus on new wishes on the list.

A review of the Wish List is currently underway in partnership with the Third Sector Interface, who are hosting a forum on community benefits with representatives from the third sector.

