



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Thursday 11 December 2025, 7.00 p.m. in Garnock Campus

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Bell	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
3.	School Work Placement Initiatives and Local Business Engagement The Locality Partnership will receive an update on efforts to maximise work placements and strengthen links with local businesses.	-	Verbal	Stephen Duff	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
4.	Rural Area Childcare Receive update on the work taking place around rural area childcare.	-	Verbal	Laura Potter	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
DECISION REQUIRED					7.35 – 7.45 pm
5.	CIF Expression of Interest The Locality Partnership to consider one application made to the Community Investment Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Beith Trust Astro Upgrade	Pg 9	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	LP to consider EOI Application.
PARTNER UPDATES					7.45 - 8.05 pm
6.	Partner Report/Updates The Locality Partnership will receive overview from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Police ScotlandScottish Fire and RescueKA Leisure		Verbal	Cllr Bell	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth, Active Schools & Education 				
Workshop Discussion					8.05 – 8.55 pm
7	Our Garnock Valley The Locality Partnership will receive an update. Partnership to bring to the meeting three things that they feel that they could get involved in delivering Our Garnock Valley Plan	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss learning next steps.
AOCB					8.55 – 9.00 pm
9.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locality Officer Report Report for Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire wide CLD Report 	Pg 15 Pg 32	Verbal Enclosed Enclosed	Cllr Bell	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.

Distribution List

Elected Members

Councillor John Bell **(Chair)**
Councillor Anthea Dickson
Councillor Margaret Johnson
Councillor Donald L Reid
Councillor Ronnie Stalker

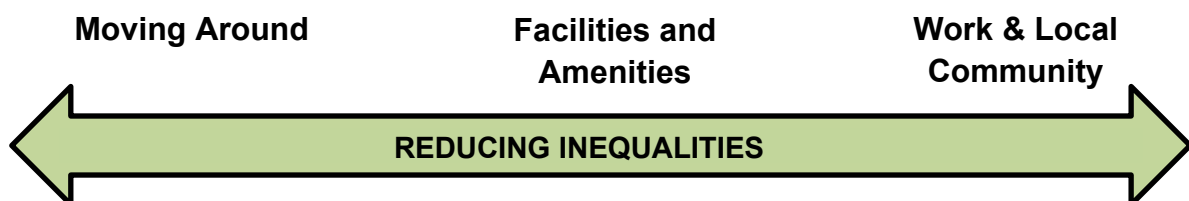
Community Representatives

David Park, Community Representative
Jane Lamont, Community Representative
Dalry Community Council
Beith & District Community Council

CPP/Council Representatives

Kaileigh Brown, Third Sector Interface
Michael Cowan, Police Scotland
Kenny McGuire Scottish Fire and Rescue
Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer

Garnock Locality Partnership Priorities



Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	11 September 2025, Beith Community Centre.
Present:	<p>Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Anthea Dickson Councillor Ronnie Stalker Councillor Margaret Johnson James Waite, Beith & District Community Council – Vice Chair Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council David Park, Community Representative Jane Lamont, Community Representative Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, (Lead Officer) Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer Garry Moore, Active Schools Sgt Dougie Clark, Police Scotland Heather McVie- Branley, Community Development Worker Chris Parker, Scottish Fire and Rescue Lynne McNiven, Director Public Health</p> <p>In Attendance</p> <p>James Robson, Beith Community Association Michelle Sutherland, HSCP Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)</p>
Apologies:	<p>Kyle Lewis, KA Leisure Kaileigh Brown, TACT</p>

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	Noted
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 12 June 2025 was approved with all actions complete.</p> <p>A Morrell advised that the summary of coalfields initiative will be reported at December meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>A Morrell</p>
3	<p>CIF Project Update – Beith Community Association</p> <p>J Robson provided an update on the project:</p> <p>Initial delays were caused by boiler issues, but Council core hours have helped reduce costs and improve flexibility. New caretaker appointed through CEIS support which has benefitted local young people. Projects include a new garden with seating and a sensory space (funded by ACVS), a toddler group running twice weekly and the continuation of carpet bowls under the Association's banner.</p>	

	<p>The community larder operated for one year but closed due to costs and pressures on volunteers, with demand being more for its social aspect than food need. Larder numbers were lower than elsewhere in North Ayrshire, suggesting the model may not have been the right fit for Beith. The Council continues to provide food support from the centre and there are examples locally, such as Beith Trust's initiative to reduce food waste, which could inform future approaches. Cllr Johnson suggested linking in with the Larder Network to see how other overcame similar issues.</p> <p>Football has improved with more lets in place, including Slimming World and toddler football. Plans are progressing with an organisation to use the café area as training kitchen/café in 2026, with engagement taking place to explore a warm hub model over the coming months.</p> <p>J Robson noted that CIF provided a strong foundation and capacity to build partnerships, and four staff are now employed compared to none previously.</p> <p>Volunteer recruitment remains a challenge, with the need to build projects of real interest rather than broad calls for support. J. Robson highlighted plans for further engagement over the winter.</p> <p>The Chair thanked J Robson for his input.</p>	Noted
4.	<p>Collaborative for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES)</p> <p>M Sutherland provided the Locality Partnership with an overview of the Collaborative for Health Equity in Scotland (CHES). CHES brings together Public Health Scotland and the University College London's Institute of Health Equity (IHE) led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot.</p> <p>CHES is working in partnership with Councils and Health Boards across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City • North Ayrshire • South Lanarkshire <p>CHES is about improving Health Equity in Scotland. The programme focuses on actions to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Scotland.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted key data, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy life expectancy of females in North Ayrshire is the lowest in Scotland at only 52 years (vs 61 across Scotland). • For males this is only slightly better at 56 vs 60 across Scotland. However, this number dropped in July 2025 52.6 years. • Around 50% of health outcomes are linked to social, economic, and physical factors. Work is needed to shift associated behaviours. • Data in the Garnock Valley showing the impact of premature deaths among 15–44-year-olds and under-75s linked to cancer and heart disease. • The eight marmot principles are being used to guide efforts to give everyone a healthier life. • CHES work is being co-chaired by Sharon Hackney and Dr. Ruth Campbell. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current work includes analysing available data and assets, reviewing effective practice across the UK, and engaging communities. Phase 1 has focused on Locality Partnerships. Phase 2 will involve wider community conversations and organisational engagement. Implementation will begin in January across areas, with the first year seen as establishing a strong foundation. <p>M. Sutherland asked to attend any network meetings to speak to as many people as possible to help inform the work.</p> <p>The Chair thanked M Sutherland for her input and asked that she come to a future meeting of the Partnership to provide an update on this work.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.	<p>Grants</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered applications made to the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund and Elderly Grant Fund:</p> <p>Margaret Archibald Bequest</p> <p>Dalry Old Folks Welfare Committee – application submitted for £8,000 to support with the refurbishment of Rosearden Hall, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and Re-decorate Hall New Blinds Gates Tables and Chairs <p>The Locality Partnership approved this application.</p> <p>Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee – application submitted for £6,000 to cover costs for Christmas Meal and Summer Trips which are open to anyone living within Dalry Parish and aged 65 and over.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership approved this application.</p> <p>Elderly Grants</p> <p>Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Age Concern – application submitted for £2,964 to contribute towards cost of meals, transport, gratuities and entertainment.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership approved this application.</p> <p>Beith Old People's Welfare – application submitted for £3,053 to contribute towards annual bus trip to Callander. Christmas Lunch Rosebank House, Beith. Bus hire for both events.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership approved this application.</p> <p>Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee – application submitted for £2,414 to provide a Christmas Meal and organise a Summer Trip for the senior citizens. Entertainment from singer or band is also provided at the Christmas Meal.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership approved this application.</p>	<p>S Fleming</p> <p>S Fleming</p> <p>S Fleming</p> <p>S Fleming</p> <p>S Fleming</p>

6.	<p>Street Naming Report</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered a street naming application for Miller Homes development of 44 houses on land at Glebe Road, Beith. One street name is required for this development.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership agreed The Manse Field as the preferred street name.</p> <p>They also asked for J McGee to check with Planning whether no suffix could be used eg 1 The Manse Field.</p>	<p>L Dempster</p> <p>J McGee</p>
7.	<p>Our Garnock Valley</p> <p>N. Wright advised the Locality Partnership that the Local Place Plan has been signed off by the Working Group and will be signed off by each individual organisation involved by the end of September. The Plan will then be submitted to the Council's Planning Service for registration, with the Planning Committee due to consider it on 29 October 2025.</p> <p>The Working Group will subsequently write to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Locality Partnership to ask how each member can help deliver the plan's calls to action; and The Council's Regeneration Team around supporting the delivery of the plan. <p>N Wright also highlighted the close links between the plan and the CHES work.</p> <p>C Pieraccini asked partners to review the plan and highlight three things like about the plan and how they can be part of the delivery.</p> <p>Further discussion on the plan will take place at the December LP meeting.</p> <p>The Chair conveyed his thanks to all involved in this work.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>C Pieraccini</p> <p>Noted</p>
8.	<p>Locality Plan Progress</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that the working group didn't meet over summer, however lots of discussion has been happening around the delivery of the plan and its actions.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
9.	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised the Locality Partnership that a report was included was part of the agenda pack. Key highlights including the Lochshore highland Games which was held on 2nd August and had a fantastic atmosphere, which attracted over 100 children and young people who participated in a series of Highland Games activities</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that over the next couple of months several Community Councillors will be moving on or standing down from their roles. She thanked them all for their support and contributions, noting they will be a great loss to both the Locality Partnership and their communities.</p> <p>J Waite advised that he will bring new Beith and District Community Council rep to the December Locality Meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>Cllr Dickson praised the exemplary work of the Locality Team, recognising their efforts in engaging so many people across the area. She noted that their visibility in the towns is very much appreciated and has made a real difference.</p>	Noted
10.	<p>Partner Reports</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received update from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Active Schools:</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Policing and Locality Officers continue to focus on driver behaviour to prevent deaths and serious injuries. Teams are also tackling the anti-social use of off-road bikes and working with local groups to find a suitable solution. • Over the summer, the Safer Shores Initiative saw Police Scotland work with partners including the Coastguard, ScotRail, BTP, NAC and youth workers on Irvine beach to engage with young people and the wider community, although no specific issues were reported for the Garnock Valley. • The Garnock Valley Locality Policing Team continue school visits, often in non-uniform, to build positive relationships with pupils, supporting career choices and awareness of opportunities. • Wildlife Crime Officer is re-establishing links with the rural and farming community from Kilbirnie Police Office. <p>Sgt Clark advised that he would shortly be retiring from his role and conveyed his thanks to the Locality Partnership noting that it had been a Privilege to work in the area for the last 5 years.</p> <p>The Chair and the Locality Partnership conveyed their best wishes for his retiral.</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160 incidents were recorded in the Garnock Valley, with 60–70% being false alarms and 14% special service calls. • Operational crews attended local events, including primary school open days and the Dalry Car Show, where they gave RTC and extraction demonstrations and promoted on-call recruitment. • The Community Action Team has been engaging at Glengarnock Academy on fire-related antisocial behaviour and will visit as many schools as possible with bonfire safety messages. • Andrew McLeod (LALO) will be moving on to a new role, replacement will be confirmed at the end of October. <p>Cllr Stalker asked if Dalry Community Fire Station are still struggling for numbers C Parker advised that they are beginning the recruitment process with 4 people who signed up at a local event.</p> <p>Active Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1 – Moving Around: Partnership working has provided new opportunities in sport and leadership, including Gowanbank and Craufurdland activity days, which gave young people chances to try new activities and build friendships. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 2 – Work and Local Community: All leadership recruitment for the new academic year is complete, with continued school and social media promotion. Participation rates ranged from 37% to 93% across primaries and Garnock Campus. Several schools have achieved or are working towards Gold/Silver sport awards. • Priority 3 – Facilities and Amenities: Collaboration with schools and KA Leisure ensures multiple clubs are offered before, during, and after school, with facilities also used during holidays to provide ongoing opportunities in the community. <p>H McVie -Branley advised that deadline for PB application has been extended to 22 September. In the Garnock Valley there are currently 14 applications for the Locality PB and 4 for Youth PB.</p> <p>The chair conveyed his thanks for the updates.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
11.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Cllr Dickson encouraged the Partnership to complete the Bessie on the Bypass consultation for the installation of a statue of Bessie Dunlop on the Dalry bypass.</p>	<p>All</p>

The meeting ended at 9.06 pm

Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Org name	Beith Community Development Trust
Brief details of org	<p>Beith Trust is a registered Scottish Charity and company limited by guarantee based in Beith, North Ayrshire, we were established in 2012 as a mechanism to drive forward a community led, asset based approach to the regeneration of our community.</p> <p>We aim to improve the present condition and the future prospects of our community by advocating for our community, facilitating opportunities for change, growth and development of the inherent potential of people and places. We operate a diverse programme of activity and services in and around the Garnock Valley, mainly focused around our facilities at Beith Astro and Geilsland but also in the wider communities of the Garnock Valley, we work in partnership with a number of public, private and third sector groups, clubs and agencies. We manage and operate a number of facilities which generate opportunities for training, volunteering, leadership, employment and enterprise. Any profits are reinvested in enterprise development or subsidise our community services</p> <p>Beith Trust work is centred on creating new conditions that enable and support the people and places of Beith to flourish and thrive. Our work aims to create those conditions.</p> <p>Our community activity programme aims to create a pathway of support and progression within social, recreational, learning and employability opportunities. We deliver a programme of seasonal & cultural events and festivals.</p> <p>We support volunteers to facilitate valuable community services that offer support to families and individuals affected by challenging life circumstances and poverty such as befriending, social isolation and loneliness and food distribution systems in the Garnock Valley.</p>
Locality	Garnock Valley
Amount requested	c£80k
Brief overview of proposal	<p>Beith Trust is seeking a contribution towards upgrading the pitches at Beith Astro to safeguard a much-loved, heavily used community hub at Meadowside Pavilions in Beith. This is part of a larger initiative which will see the Astro Pavilion building, pitch and grounds repositioned to reflect the needs of 21st century community and customers.</p> <p>After more than a decade and a half of continuous play, the full-size 3G surface has exceeded its life expectancy; compacted infill and reduced playability now pose safety risks and threaten availability. Resurfacing is therefore essential to keep a critical asset open and safe</p> <p>The funding package will include a range of funders, all of whom have been approached, consulted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sports Scotland (Pavilion Upgrade) – preparing application – 150k - Aria Fund (access controls and security installation) – secured funding 10k - Cares (Pavilion Upgrade) – EOI submitted – c50k

	<p>- SFA (Pitch Refurb) – preparing application (previous application rejected – match funding requirement) - c250k</p> <p>Beith Astro is more than a pitch. During term time it supports nature & play, outdoor learning and wraparound childcare used by multiple groups and local schools, in school holidays it hosts popular holiday camps on the pitch, which double as leadership and volunteer pathways for employability participants before stepping into real roles at sessions and events.</p> <p>Adjacent to the pavilions, families, individuals and groups actively use gardens and growing and green space for outdoor play, wellbeing and therapeutic programmes; on-site growing projects involve children and volunteers in food cultivation, composting and climate-aware habits that link to community food initiatives.</p> <p>Football, however, is the anchor that makes the whole venue viable. Beith Astro is booked to capacity at weekends and most evenings, delivering 40+ hours of club matches and training across the week and serving 1,000+ weekly users through clubs, schools, programmes and casual bookings.</p> <p>Regular club demand (Beith Juniors, Beith Community FC and partners) fills peak hours; protecting those hours with a new, compliant surface secures the trading income that subsidises wider community use. Bookings are managed via Skedda online booking apps, access controls are in place with trusted key holders to keep evenings and weekends running smoothly.</p> <p>The football pathway also powers community engagement and workforce: holiday camps and social and recreational activity builds volunteering and leadership, creating progression routes for local young people into paid or volunteer roles at the venue.</p> <p>Because the site operates as a wider community hub—with family support services, outdoor play and on-site growing—families who come for football also access nature-based activities, food growing and wellbeing projects, reinforcing year-round footfall and use of the place.</p> <p>Investment in the pitch is therefore not just a sports upgrade—it's the keystone that safeguards bookings, protects an income-generating community asset for the development of an emerging Sports Trust, and sustains the broader social programme delivered from the venue.</p>
Time scales	March 26 – April 27
Contact details	Jane Lamont Chief Officer

Forms should be returned to your Locality Officer by post or email.

For more information see the guidance form here: <http://www.northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf> or contact the Community Planning Team on info@northayrshire.community

Beith Trust – Beith Astro Capital Phasing Plan & Funding Strategy

Total Capital Investment Required: £580,000

Beith Trust has developed a three-phase capital delivery plan that aligns our strategic objectives with available funding opportunities and project milestones. This phased approach enables us to address urgent infrastructure needs, establish a sustainable model for long-term community ownership, and enhance the quality and accessibility of sports facilities across Beith.

Each phase builds on the last, creating a foundation for increased community use, energy efficiency, and place-based regeneration rooted in local leadership.

Phase 1: Essential Upgrades to Beith Astro

Estimated Cost: £335,000

This phase delivers urgent resurfacing works to Beith Astro, establishes a new Sports Trust, and progresses early design work for future pavilion refurbishment. These steps are critical to ensuring the facility remains safe, accessible, and well-used by the local footballing and wider community.

Funding Profile – Phase 1

Item	Estimated Cost	Potential Funders
Beith Astro Resurfacing	£310,000	- SFA Pitching In Fund - NAC Community Investment Fund
Sports Trust Set-Up	£10,000	- Beith Trust - North Ayrshire Ventures Trust (NAVT)
Pavilion Refurbishment – Design Stage	£10,000	- NAC Repurposing Derelict Buildings Fund (Stage 1)

Strategic Focus

- Ensure continued operation of Beith Astro through urgent pitch resurfacing.
- Establish a dedicated, community-led Sports Trust to manage facilities.
- Prepare for future capital investment through early-stage design and development work.

Phase 2: Bellsdale & Pavilion Infrastructure Development

Estimated Cost: £235,000

Phase 2 addresses critical infrastructure and ownership work at Bellsdale, along with the completion of energy efficiency works in the Pavilion. This phase strengthens our ability to manage assets locally, extend facility use, and increase sustainability.

Funding Profile – Phase 2

Item	Estimated Cost	Potential Funders
Bellsdale Floodlighting	£100,000	Completed 2025
Legal & Asset Transfer Preparation for Bellsdale	£10,000	- DTAS – Acorns to Trees - DTAS – Expert Help Fund - Various (TBC)
Pavilion Energy Efficiency Refurbishment – Completion Stage	£125,000	- NAC Community Renewable Energy Regeneration Fund - CARES - SME Small Business Support - Sport Scotland Facility Fund

Strategic Focus

- Extend community access at Bellsdale through floodlighting.
- Complete legal groundwork for community ownership of key assets.
- Finalise Pavilion retrofit works, increasing energy efficiency and long-term viability.

Phase 3: Beith Astro Asset Transfer to Sports Trust

Estimated Cost: £10,000

The final phase of the capital plan completes the transfer of ownership of Beith Astro into the newly established Sports Trust. This ensures a sustainable governance structure and empowers the local community to lead long-term sports development.

Funding Profile – Phase 3

Item	Estimated Cost	Potential Funders
Asset Transfer of Beith Astro to Sports Trust	£10,000	- <i>Beith Trust</i> - <i>North Ayrshire Council</i> - <i>DTAS</i>

Strategic Focus

- Finalise full community ownership of Beith Astro.
- Support the long-term governance and development capacity of the Sports Trust.
- Unlock further funding opportunities only available to independent community organisations.

Summary of Capital Phases

Phase	Estimated Cost
Phase 1 – Essential Upgrades	£310,000
Phase 2 – Infrastructure Development	£235,000
Phase 3 – Asset Transfer	£20,000
Total Required Investment	£565,000

Next Steps

1. **Engage Funders** – Submit applications to identified funders for each item and phase.
 2. **Appoint Consultant** – Support technical development, tendering, and project delivery.
 3. **Tender Works** – Issue and review initial quotes, develop technical specs with consultant.
 4. **Community Engagement** – Maintain local leadership and ownership throughout delivery.
 5. **Monitor and Report** – Track delivery milestones, funder outcomes, and community impact.
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GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY REPORT DECEMBER 2025



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



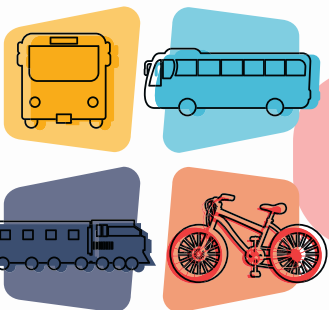
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Locality Priorities for Garnock Valley



Facilities and Amenities



Moving Around



Work and Local Community

Locality Updates



Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club

Barrmill Jolly Beggars continue their series of monthly meetings. Recently they enjoyed a talk by Ian Shaw on Rewilding in Scotland. The club will hold their 81st Annual St Andrew's Dinner on Friday 28th November in Beith Bowling Club. The club have also been handing out Age Scotland Calendars, which have been well received. At time of writing, they have distributed sixty calendars and have another sixty ready to go out to Garnock Valley Disability Forum and Amenity Housing in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie and they hope to source more from Age Scotland.

Dalry Community Association

Dalry Community Association held their AGM on 25th November, where a committee was re-elected for another year and allows them to continue their hard work in the community.

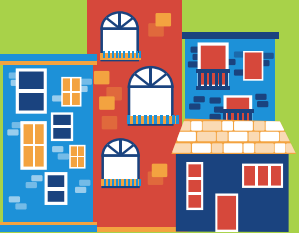


Garnock Valley Allotments Association

GVAA volunteers have been supported to apply for Lottery funding. The association continues to widen their reach within the community, supporting other groups and organisations to grow produce within the allotments and they hosted a community quiz for members and non-members to support fundraising.

Project Kilbirnie

PK is back! They held their first meeting on 15th November, where a new committee was elected. Plans are underway which include the Tour de Garnock project, working to secure a future for the Auld Kirk in Kilbirnie and they have other projects in the pipeline. Stay tuned and they hope to have lots more news to tell us for the March meeting!



Locality Updates

Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland

North Ayrshire is one of three pilot areas across Scotland taking a focus on health as part of the Collaboration for Health Equity in Scotland, part of Public Health Scotland. Within North Ayrshire, CHES will focus on early years in Irvine, employability in the Three Towns and ill health prevention in the Garnock Valley. The Garnock Valley working group have met twice and are exploring ideas to put into practice, linking in with the Our Garnock Valley plan.

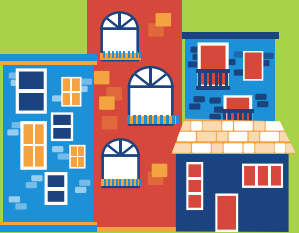
Community Council Elections

Following the recent election process, Beith & District Community Council will continue to serve the community of Beith & District having received enough nominations to form a community council and, as a result, they welcome four new community councillors. Sadly, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock did not receive enough nominations to form a community council and will now disband.

The Garnock Valley Locality Team would like to thank all the outgoing community councillors for their hard work and dedication over the years. We wish them all the best for the future.

The She Shed

The She Shed continues to thrive and has a healthy attendance every Tuesday in Dalry Scout Hall. They held an AGM at the end of August and now have a fully functioning committee, who are working together to provide those attending with plenty of activities and a safe and welcoming environment. They held a very successful open day which gave local people the opportunity to pop in and find out what was going on and this has led to new members. They have a festive event planned and will be inviting the Men's Shed for Hot Chocolate and cake.



Locality Updates

Community Voices 50+ - As part of the Council's engagement with older people through the Older Peoples Voice Participation Strategy, staff in the Locality Team have broadened the reach of the Discovery Award and introduced Community Voices 50+. The group is aimed at bringing together older people in Dalry, Kilbirnie, Beith and outlying villages and give them a space to discuss issues affecting older people and share information on groups and services that they may not be aware of. It is hoped that awareness of the groups will increase with word of mouth and promotion around the towns and on social media.

Would you like to raise the voice of older people in the Garnock Valley?

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

If yes, then join the conversation. Alternate Mondays 2-4pm Dalry Library and Beith Library Every Tuesday 2-4pm Montgomery Court Community Hub, Kilbirnie

Do you want to join an adult learning group? Maybe try the Discovery Award?

Community Voices 50+

For more info email: garnockvalleylocality@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

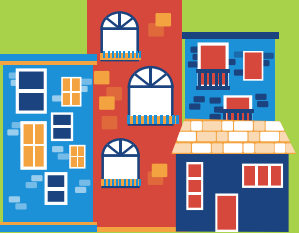
Do you want to share information about the Garnock Valley?

Do you want to find out what's going on?

COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT NORTH AYRSHIRE

NA North Ayrshire Council Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

Discovery Award – The Discovery Award currently has six regular attendees. Of the regular attendees, two are working on Gold, one on Silver and three on Bronze. Another three members attend when they can and are working towards their Silver Award. As well as working on their awards with volunteering, hobbies, skills, and their personal journey, as a group they have enjoyed trips to Burns Cottage and Kelvingrove Museum and have organised to do the mural walk in Paisley. The group have also had fun making fajitas, held a Halloween party where they carved pumpkins, reminiscing about old Kilbirnie and have a Christmas party planned for the 11th of December. The group have also been participating in a 6-week chair yoga programme, which they are all enjoying and some of them are using this as part of their physical section of the Discovery Award.



Locality Updates

Participatory Budgeting

The six Garnock Valley Community reviewers worked positively together during the review process. Their involvement, experience, confidence, knowledge, and understanding was recognised and resulted in how well they all worked together. The number of applications received was high, leading to a competitive Locality and Youth PB in the Garnock Valley this year. A total of twenty-seven projects for Locality went through to the public vote and ten Youth projects. A huge thanks to the community reviewers and Garnock Valley Youth forum for their dedication and time to help make it all come together. The final decisions have been announced and are as below:

Locality PB

DALRY BURNS CLUB Primary Schools Project.

Friends of Lochshore Park

Men's Shed Dalry

Bessie On The Bypass

Garnock canoe club

Lights and Laughter

Access for All: Inclusive Improvements at Merksworth Park, Dalry

Playtime Early Years - Outdoor Resources

Place Woodlands Kilbirnie

Tinsel and torch parade

Over 50s club

The She Shed Dalry

Garnock Valley Allotment Association - Grow Your Own - Project for Young People

Licht Up Oor Toon (Kilbirnie Xmas Event)

Ladeside of Kilbirnie Bowling Club

Upskilling the Kilbirnie Sew And Sews

Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Age Concern

Wee School Pantry

Youth PB

Gateside Community Garden & Intergenerational Project Final

63rd Ayrshire Scouts

Garnock Valley Pipes and Drums

Garnock Community Campus Parent Council Uniform Hub

Garnock Rugby Club - Junior Section

Girls Into Boxing

Garnock Valley Sports Leaders



Locality Updates

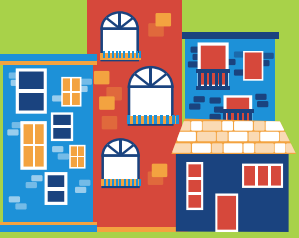
Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival (North Ayrshire)

“Paint & a Pie” and Project Progress (Garnock Valley) were projects both recently featured in exhibitions during the festival. Working in partnership with the Harbour Arts Centre and SMHAF, the team showcased the community’s work. The Project Progress 4-week block was included in the S3 Community Leadership’s programme, and resulted in the development of skills, experience and confidence for the young people. As a result of their completion of the full Community Leadership programme, almost all young people have continued to engage in education, applied for college, and gained places or continued learning pathways. Positive feedback has been given by partners, community members, and the young people themselves. The Locality Team are hoping to repeat this and host an exhibition of all the work around Paint and a Pie in Kilbirnie library offering a local opportunity to celebrate the hard work of the community.



GV LP - Pg 22





Our Garnock Valley

The Garnock Valley Local Place Plan – Our Garnock Valley – is believed to be the first where towns – Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie – have worked together to create a place plan for a cluster of communities, rather than each working in isolation. It was prepared through extensive consultation with the local community and stakeholders. Work has been led by a working group made up of Beith and District, Dalry and Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Councils, along with Beith Community Development Trust, Dalry Community Development Hub, Dalry Community Sports Club and Garnock Valley Youth Forum. It has been supported by North Ayrshire Council and funded by the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme.

The collaboration has been recognised with a Judges' Special Award as part of the 2025 Scotland Loves Local Awards, organised by Scotland's Town Partnership. The special prize was presented after award judges heard how the Garnock Valley communities recognised the power of collaboration – working together to tackle common problems, while also addressing individual issues in each town and surrounding villages.





Our Garnock Valley

Members of the group travelled to Edinburgh for the parliamentary reception at Holyrood on 5th November, where they met Government Ministers and the Chair of Scotland's Town Partnership. Following the event, the group are due to meet the Chair and Treasurer of Scotland's Town Partnership, along with representatives from the Scottish Government's Regeneration department.

In addition, the Place Plan was submitted and registered at a meeting of North Ayrshire Council's Planning Committee on 29th October.

The community-led plan sets out the aspirations for the Garnock Valley and suggests solutions, including the big challenges like the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities.

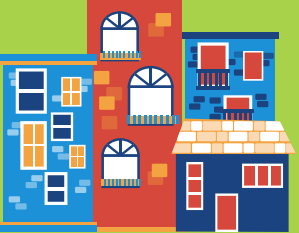
By setting out priorities for future development in the area, Local Place Plans can also help communities in the Garnock Valley to develop and deliver their own projects and bring about community-based change.

Speaking on the group's behalf, Helen McNaughton, chair of Beith and District Community Council, said: "Our Garnock Valley is an inspirational document with identified common themes and priorities for each of our areas.

"The vision is to make things better - to improve our areas for our children to grow, our communities to grow and for people to live, be employed and have happy lives in the Garnock Valley. We just want to make things better.

"We're really proud to have taken this work to the place it is now. We look forward to working together to implement the proposals and deliver positive change."





Facilities and Amenities

Café Solace

Café Solace are absolutely delighted to have been awarded funding from the National Lottery Fairer Life Chances over the next three years. This will secure continued delivery of café, where customer numbers continue to be steady with around 100 meals per week served on a Friday. It also gives the opportunity to fill provision gaps for people in recovery and/or families impacted by drug or alcohol abuse, by further developing the Garnock Valley Recovery Hub.

Café Solace participated in the Garnock Valley Carves event in September by cooking breakfast for participants and volunteers. Throughout the very wet and windy morning they served tea and coffee to volunteers and distributed lunch – which had to be diverted to another tent as their gazebo wasn't strong enough to withstand the weather! They also had a catering challenge earlier in November – providing sandwiches and cakes for 300 people at an event in Paisley, which went well and was very well received. This was their largest external catering event to date. This year so far, they have been able to add over £3,000 to café funds through external catering, helping them to remain sustainable.

They have had more young people work with them as part of their volunteering requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes, with eight currently working or training with them at present. They also have a new Scot working with them along with her ESOL tutor on a Friday morning, which helps to improve her English. They also have two new adult volunteers who have joined them to help on a Friday night.

The garden will be cleared over the next few weeks and will be rested until they are ready for planting in early Spring, hopefully learning some lessons from what worked and did not work so well this year. Ideally, they will find one or two volunteers in the new year who would be interested in helping them with their garden.

Café Solace held their AGM in October, with the majority of their adult volunteers opting to join the committee. Their next meeting is scheduled for January.

Finally, they are now preparing for their very popular Christmas. Meals are planned for Friday 5th and 12th December, where they will cater for up to eighty each night. They will have carol singers attending both events and they expect a visit from Santa to distribute gifts to all attending. They will also be supporting the Licht Up Our Toon event on Saturday 29th November.



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Sheirrach Air a Tuath

Active Schools Locality Partnership Meeting - Garnock Valley Locality



Priority 1

Moving Around (Public Transport,
Traffic and Parking)

- Within our cluster we've worked closely with multiple partners including schools where we've supported the running of 62 clubs in Term 1 & 2. These clubs have provided a wide range of sport and physical activity opportunities delivered before, during lunchtime and afterschool which allows us to remove the barriers and can access within their own school and in turn reduces transport costs.
- In December the Garnock Valley will receive the North Ayrshire Schools Commonwealth Baton and be passed around all schools and celebrated before passing onto Kilwinning cluster before the Christmas holidays.

Active Schools & Communities Partnership Officer (ASCPPO)

- Consultation:

All young people have been consulted about next steps into frequent activity. Individual young people are being supported to access programmes or clubs from our Targeted Programme.

- Walker Hall - KA Leisure Induction (Gym Facility)
- Basketball Club - KA Leisure
- Pedometer Watches - Measure steps whilst walking
- Above Adventure - Climbing Centre (weekend provision)

All of the above is to encourage the young people more opportunities in the local area. Anything out with will be supported to remove the barriers for the young people to access.

Priority 2

Work and Local Community

- 16 Higher Sports Leaders and 12 North Ayrshire Sports Academy Students have been placed across the cluster. They will gain valuable experience putting their coaching skills into practice and giving the young people in the local community the opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity.
- Handball Scotland took the secondary Higher Sports Leaders through their Fundamentals of Handball course adding to their CVs.
- Phase 1 of the North Ayrshire Sports Academy has been completed and students have now moved onto Phase 2. This year's choice of pathways are Multisport, ASN, Football & P1-3.



Priority 3

Facilities and Amenities

- Collaboration between various partners such as schools and our local Leisure Trust we continue to deliver multiple clubs before, during and after school.
- Both Active Schools and KA Leisure continue to utilise these facilities during any holiday provision allowing the young people to carry on with these opportunities within their own community.





Work and Local Community

Dalry Community Sports Club

The larder continues to provide a vital lifeline for many families and individuals in the town and attendance has remained steady over the past three months. On Saturday mornings, they continue to provide a place where people can meet and have a cup of tea and a chat in a warm space, and they are also able to do referrals to help families with energy costs.

The Sports Club have had a number of winter jackets donated by members of the community and have started to distribute them to families and individuals on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the larder opening times. Park Lives has now finished for the winter and will be relaunched next Spring.

In October, the Sports Club supported Dalry Community Development Hub, K:A Leisure, and Neighbourhood Networks to run sporting events for local adults with additional support needs. This was the third such event, with a fourth planned for December.

The rescheduled Party at the Park took place on Sunday 21st September, once again in partnership with Dalry Community Sports Club, Dalry Community Development Hub, and Dalry Action Group. Due to a poor weather forecast the event was moved indoors to the main hall in Dalry Primary School but, ironically, it turned out to be a nice day. The event was very well attended and proved to be a great success.

They held their fourth free family Community Cinema evening in October in Dalry Community Centre with a showing of The Addams Family, once again with complimentary snacks and drinks. The next event was on November 30th when they showed “How to Train Your Dragon”. Their final film of the year – a classic Christmas movie will be shown on Sunday 21st December.





Work and Local Community

Dalry Community Sports Club

Dalry Public Park now has new solar-powered lighting, a project made possible through months of dedicated work by Dalry Community Sports Club volunteers, supporters, and local residents. The environmentally friendly solar lighting now illuminates key areas of the park, increasing safety, extending usable hours for local sports and recreational activities, and making the park more accessible during evenings. Ten new lighting columns are now in place and provide a safe walkway from the Regal Court car park down to the Pavilion. The initiative was supported through a combination of NAC grants, fundraising events, donations, and sponsorship. The solar lighting not only provides a greener alternative to traditional lights but also reduces long-term energy costs and the park's environmental footprint.

After successful fundraising, they have ordered four new benches for Dalry Public Park to be installed by the end of November. They carried out a consultation exercise with park users and have met with representatives from David Ogilvie Engineering at the park and agreed the preferred locations. There will be two new picnic benches and new seating for users of the Skate Park. After visiting the park, the representatives from David Ogilvie have also offered to donate and install a further park bench free of charge.

Dalry Community Sports Club will be cooking and giving out free rolls & sausage at the Torchlight & Tinsel event in Dalry to help support the great work carried out by the volunteers from Dalry Action Group in making the town look good for Christmas.

Looking forward, the Sports Club are now in the final stages of their negotiations with DSM to take over a lease for the field between Dalry Public Park and DSM for planned Community Allotments and playing fields.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

S3 Community Leadership programme

The S3 Community Leadership programme works in partnership with KA Leisure and NAC Education. A new group of young people in S3 have been identified by the school and so far, have been engaging positively. A range of youth work sessions including icebreakers, team building games, social media/alcohol/drugs/energy drinks risks, and awareness has been shaped around their learning needs. The impact of this is evident in their participation, coming into school sometimes only for these sessions on a Tuesday. The programme is targeted at addressing their changing needs and learning experiences. There are currently ten registered with a core of six attending weekly.

S2 Youth Group (Walker Hall)

Due to the change of venue and time for the youth groups in this term, the level of engagement has been impacted with a reduced number. However, through consistent engagement, a core group have continued to shape their learning in identifying their needs and interests throughout the sessions. All young people have reported their enjoyment and need for this to continue; this is evident in their continuous participation which has kept the group running. A range of activities chosen by them include a Halloween quiz, a traitors' game, arts & crafts (mini zine), and Christmas crafts, which will all engage their participation.

Political literacies

Planning towards the upcoming 2026 Scottish Government election, the Locality Team are looking at how to engage young people in politics and encouraging them to vote. This will be non-party political and will focus on encouraging young people to take part in the “register to vote” week in February, which is aimed at 16 and 17 year-olds and helps to break down barriers for young people to vote, especially if it is their first time.

Ocean Youth Trust

The group involved with OYT has concluded with their 5-day voyage and undertook a “give back” day where the group took to Lochshore park to host a litter picking day. They ended the day with a visit to Beijing banquet as a reward and celebration of all that they had achieved.

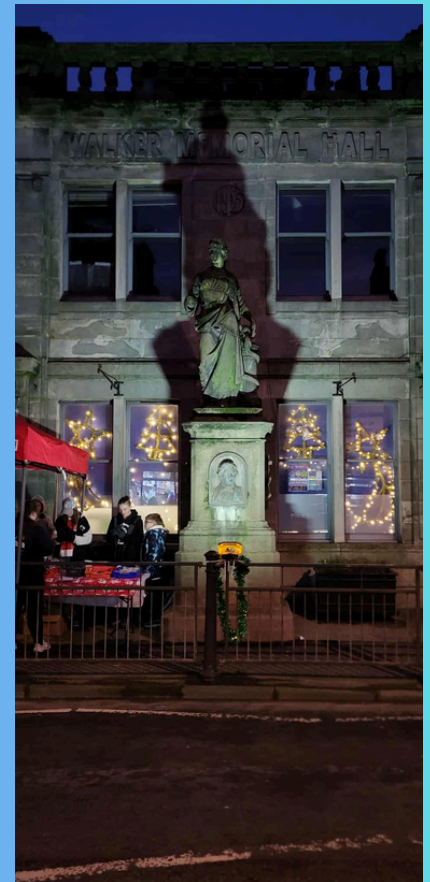
Umbrella club

The Umbrella Club continues to be a safe and nurturing environment for young people who identify under the LGBT+ umbrella to come to during school hours. The group have begun discussing hosting another Bakesale in February to raise money for LGBT Youth Scotland for purple Friday.

Garnock Valley Youth Work

Garnock Valley Youth Forum

The youth forum has been busy with their involvement in shortlisting Youth PB applications and encouraging local young people to vote in the voting stage. As always, they approached this task with integrity and professionalism giving their honest and objective analysis based on the guidelines and criteria. They reviewed several applications for the locality and approved many of them creating healthy voting opportunities for the young people of the Garnock Valley. The group continue to work on the Duke of Edinburgh Award and are making good progress. Members of the group also attended an event in Largs 'Helping Ayrshires Children Thrive in the Digital Age.'



Youth Synergy

Numbers are increasing for this group and there are now seven members who all attend regularly and engage well. Due to the time of year, Youth Synergy have decided to postpone their John Muir award and concentrate on the festive fundraiser for the Kilbirnie Lights Switch On. They have been working on creating their Christmas crafts and tombola for the event, which was held on the 29th of November. The income from this fundraiser they hope will fund new branded hoodies for the group. Due to the Walker Hall not being accessible at the moment, the group have been fortunate enough to secure a let at Bridgend Community Centre on Tuesdays 4.30-6pm and fingers crossed will be able to return to the Walker Hall in the New Year.

For further information contact:

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New Scots, Core Skills and Gaelic Team Locality Partnership Progress Update

Poverty/Financial Inclusion

- New Scots Whitehurst Hub sessions supported benefit entitlement checks and applications working with partners to deliver support – **North Ayrshire Wide**
- 1-2-1 support for New Scots not able attending the New Scots Whitehurst Hub sessions have been offered - **NA Wide**

Health and Wellbeing

- New coffee morning for elderly Asian community launched in Irvine with participants for all over North Ayrshire attending - **Delivered Irvine Locality attendees NA Wide**
- Bourtree Belles new Scots women's group shows improved independence and confidence through social activities and trips with 14 women attending – **Irvine Locality**
- Mental health awareness embedded in ESOL curriculum using storyboards and roleplay – **North Ayrshire Wide**
- New Scots Women's Group in Garnock fosters social inclusion and cultural exchange – **Garnock Valley Locality**
- In October, the Equality and Inclusion Manager from Ayrshire and Arran NHS attended the Big Community ESOL class. The team spoke to learners to gather their views on any healthcare they have received and the challenges that ethnic minorities face when accessing healthcare – **NA Wide**

Health and Wellbeing

- 3 New Scots Family Fun days were delivered in partnership with HSCP for Ukrainian, Afghan and Syrian communities respectively – **Delivered in Kilwinning Locality attendees NA Wide**
- New core skills referral introduced for Occupational Health partners introduced – **NA Wide**



New Scots, Core Skills and Gaelic Team

Locality Partnership Progress Update

Community Engagement/Participation and Voice

- ESOL Learner Forum established with 14 learners participating to shape service provision and remove barriers – **NA Wide**
- Largs Gaelic Choir recently took part in the Royal National Mòd in Fort William - **North Coast Locality**
- Fèis Arainn summer week attracted 80 young people, promoting traditional music and culture - **Arran Locality**
- We ran a Summer School for young New Scots and unaccompanied minors in Saltcoats and Irvine, the summer school provided a safe and supporting space to keep learning, practising English and socialising – **Delivered Irvine and Three Towns Locality attendees NA Wide**
- New Scots Women's group continues to run weekly at The George Steven Centre and is now open to all women in the community to attend making friendships with each other and the Scots women who attend – **Garnock Valley Locality**

Work and Skills

- Core Skills drop-ins in Irvine, Kilwinning and Stevenson support literacy, numeracy, and digital skills; 3 learners gained permanent employment – **Irvine/Kilwinning/Three Towns Locality**
- ESOL and Employability class in Irvine focuses on CV writing and digital skills for job searches – **Delivered Irvine Locality attendees NA Wide**
- Skills for Work sessions at Kilwinning Library help adults develop employability skills – **Kilwinning Locality**
- Core skills volunteer recruitment drive launched with 7 volunteers completing induction and shadowing with the core skills team – **NA Wide**
- New Scots have been supported to take up volunteer opportunities supporting them with interviews, language required and ongoing support while volunteering – **NA Wide**

Work and Skills

- We conducted a survey of ESOL learners to gather feedback on what is important to them and identify areas for improvement. We received around 30 responses, and the survey results were featured in our newsletter for partners – **NA Wide**
- New Scots were assisted with CVs, college & work applications. referred to CEIS employment services and supported to secure a place on a Street League programme - **NA Wide**