

## Irvine Neighbourhood Board

### Minute Meeting 09

3.00pm on 22 October 2025

Cunninghame House, Irvine

<b>Board Members Present:</b>		
Bill Nolan	BN	Irvine Burns Club
Chris Pless	CP	Irvine Community Council
Fiona Paton	FP	Rivergate Centre
David Phillips	DP	Irvine Senior Forum
Danny Kerr	DK	Marymass Festival Committee
Steven Easton	SE	Chamber of Commerce
Nairn Angus-McDonald	NAM	North Ayrshire Council
Chloe Robertson	CR	North Ayrshire Council
Barbara Conner	BC	TACT
Matthew Moran	MM	Scottish Maritime Museum
Russell McCutcheon	RM	North Ayrshire Council
Mark Boyd	MB	North Ayrshire Council
Judith Macgregor	JM	Police Scotland
Michael Cowan	MC	Police Scotland
Ruth Maguire	RMa	MSP
<b>Apologies</b>		
Alan Gemmell	AG	MP
<b>In Attendance</b>		
Claire Fitzsimmons	CF	North Ayrshire Council
Julian Farrar	JF	Ironside Farrar
Jacqueline Barratt	JB	Ironside Farrar
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>		<b>Action</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BN welcomed everyone and noted apologies as above.</li><li>• A warm welcome in particular was given to Ruth Maguire MSP, attending her first Board meeting.</li></ul>		
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CR noted that she is a member of NAC Cabinet and therefore will excuse herself from any upcoming Cabinet decisions on the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme.</li><li>• DP and BC both indicated their membership of the Irvine Locality Planning Partnership. It was however noted that the LPP has no approval function in relation to the Boards decisions.</li></ul>		
<b>3. Minute of Previous Meeting</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No further comments received on the draft minute from meeting 8 on 12 September 2025.</li></ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were proposed by NAM and seconded by DP.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Action Log</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CF provided an update on the Action Log.</li> <li>SE advised a SCIO update will be provided at a later date, once the PfN Officer has been recruited and can support the process.</li> <li>It was noted that the Police have recently had some engagement with the owners of the Forum. No further action in respect of funding shutters and securing the site is therefore proposed currently. These costs should be borne by the landowner with the PfN programme stepping in only as a last resort. Action on hold.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Chair Update</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BN passed to FP to provide an update on the quotes for cleaning Bridgegate Square. FP advised multiple quotes had been received to power wash the area, remove graffiti, remove old fencing and rubbish. The best quote received was c.£6,600 plus VAT.</li> <li>MB asked that NAC procurement review details prior to proceeding to ensure Council governance requirements are met. MB confirmed later in the meeting that he had liaised with Procurement remotely and they were content to proceed as long as at least three written quotes had been received – the requirement for works under £10,000.</li> <li>NAM therefore proposed the spend, seconded by DP.</li> <li>The Board unanimously agreed to proceed.</li> <li>FP to arrange works to be undertaken over next few weeks as they need to be completed before it is too cold.</li> </ul>	FP
<p><b>6. Vice-Chair Update</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CP updated on the Christmas event taking place over the weekend of 6/7 December.</li> <li>Christmas lights hired and to be installed on 5 December. Switch on 6 December, removal 6 January.</li> <li>Small fairground in place over the weekend with free rides for children, food vendors available and a programme of local artists.</li> <li>FP requesting Rivergate retailers consider later opening.</li> <li>NAM noted the need to ensure that Our Irvine is suitably promoted as a funder. It was agreed that the boards from Marymass would be utilised on/near the stage for this purpose.</li> <li>CP updated on the online survey for the regeneration plan. 50 responses so far. Responses are mainly trending in agreement. No negative responses re Bridgegate. Some aspects not generating as much interest, e.g. Royal Burgh status and the murals. Current results are attached to this note.</li> <li>All Board members to promote the survey on their social media.</li> <li>It was noted that the Teams site for the Board has been set up. Once the PfN officer is in place we'll be able to get this populated with more information and arrange access for Board members.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Recruitment of PfN Officer</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CF advised that 23 applications had been received with eight selected for interview. Interviews are currently ongoing and we should have a preferred candidate in early November.</li> </ul>	

<b>8. Finance Update</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current status of budget was confirmed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £450,000 Budget</li> <li>▪ £95,100 Spend to date</li> <li>▪ £64,400 Committed</li> <li>▪ £290,500 Balance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>9. Regeneration Plan Development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JF provided an update on the submission documents required for submission to UK Government on 28 November 2025.</li> <li>• An Executive Summary of the 10-year vision prepared as user friendly version for the website.</li> <li>• All documents will be shared with Board members for their review, comment and approval. Comments to be received no later than 7 November. All Board members to reply to the PfN email address by this date to note their support or otherwise for the submission.</li> <li>• In terms of governance, the documents will be presented to NAC Cabinet on 2 December 2025. It is noted this is after the submission deadline with UK Government. MHCLG colleagues are aware and have agreed that we can submit on the 28<sup>th</sup> as planned but that the submission is still subject to being approved by Cabinet and the subsequent 7-day call-in period.</li> <li>• CF confirmed that the LPP has no approval role in this process. It is important however that the Board ensures the LPP is regularly updated as we are a sub-group. It was agreed that minutes will be shared with the LPP and that CP, as vice-chair, will update verbally on progress at LPP meetings.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CP</b></p>
<b>10. Future Community Project Decision Making</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BN noted that some community groups are asking how they can access funding.</li> <li>• Board agreed that Calum Couston would be invited to a future Board meeting to present an example of a successful community grant fund process.</li> <li>• It was noted that a sub-group of the Board will be required to establish parameters for any future grant funding programme.</li> <li>• Noted that Board members need to be clear if asked that guidance and processes will be provided in due course.</li> </ul>	<b>CC</b>
<b>11. UK Government Visit</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CF advised that colleagues from MHCLG will be in the area at the start of December and would like to meet the Board.</li> <li>• It was agreed that they would attend the Board meeting on 2 December, followed by a brief walkaround of the town centre area with a few Board members. CF to develop an itinerary.</li> </ul>	
<b>12. AOCB</b>	
None raised.	
<b>13. Date of next meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 December 2025 at Volunteer Rooms, Irvine.</li> </ul>	

<b>14. Key Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board agreed to proceed with cleaning of wider Bridgegate Square area.</li><li>• Minutes to be provided to Irvine LPP and CP to provide verbal updates.</li></ul>	