



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Thursday 11 June 2026 at 7pm at 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.	HSCP Update Receive update on new HSCP Locality Planning Approach.	Pg 8	Enclosed	Sharon Hackney	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
DECISION REQUIRED					7.20 – 7.35pm
4.	Community Project Fund The Locality Partnership are asked to ratify applications made to the Community Project Fund.	-	Verbal	C Couston	LP to ratify applications made to the Community Project Fund.
DISCUSSION SESSION					7.35 – 8.30 pm
5.	Community Transport Discussion and receive update from Susan Dever, Coalfields.	-	Verbal	Susan Dever	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities
6.	Partnership Priorities Interactive discussion around actions LP can take forward to progress as part of the Locality Action Plan. Our Garnock Valley Plan	-	Verbal	C Pieraccini	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities
PARTNER UPDATES					8.30 – 8.50pm
7.	Partner Report/Updates The Locality Partnership will receive overview from: • Police Scotland		Verbal/Enclosed	Partners	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Fire and Rescue KA Leisure Youth, Active Schools & Education 	Pg12			
7.	Locality Report Receive update from the Locality Officer.	Pg16	Enclosed	C Pieraccini	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities
AOCB					8.50 – 9.00 pm
8.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer of Sport - Summer of Sport 2026 - Northayrshire Community 		Verbal	A Morrell	

Distribution List

Elected Members

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

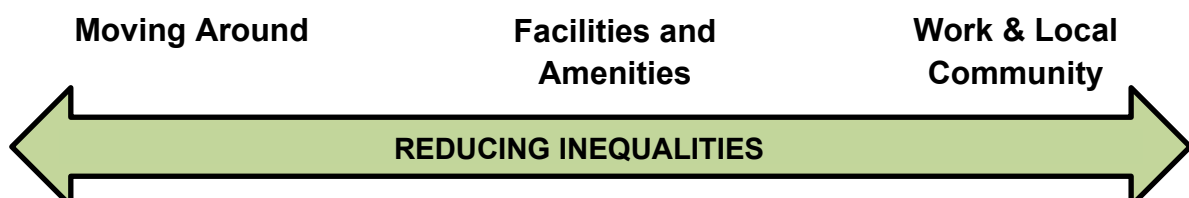
Community Representatives

David Park, Community Representative
Jane Lamont, Community Representative
Allan Wright, Community Representative
Andy Watson, Dalry Community Council (**Vice Chair**)
Helen McNaughton, 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
Graham Robson, KA Leisure

Garnock Locality Partnership Priorities



Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	12 March 2026, 7.00 pm, Rosearden Hall, Dalry
Present:	<p>Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Ronnie Stalker Councillor Donald L. Reid Councillor Margaret Johnson Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer Ellie Hannah, Active Schools Co-ordinator Helen McNaughton, Beith & District Community Council Andy Watson, Dalry Community Council Heather McVie-Branley, Community Development Worker</p> <p>In Attendance</p> <p>Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes) Sheena Woodside, Dalry Community Development Hub Allan McGinlay, Chair Dalry Community Sports Club Myra Sim, Dalry Old People's Welfare Committee Diane Ralston, Dalry Community Sports Club Hugh Campbell, Dalry Community Sports Club Robert Danks, Dalry Community Sports Club Kenny Vannart, Dalry Community Sports Club Allan Wright, Project Kilbirnie Jane Lamont, Beith Trust Nick Wright, Nick Wright Planning</p>
Apologies:	<p>Councillor Anthea Dickson Angela Morrell, Senior Manager Graham Robson, KA Leisure Michael Cowan, Police Scotland</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 11 December 2026 was approved.</p> <p>The following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Transport – a further consultation will take place after the purdah period regarding the Council's proposal for community transport. 	Noted
3	<p>CIF Expression of Interest</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered an expression of interest application from Dalry Community Sports Club. The application is seeking £100,000 for their Community Allotments project.</p>	

	<p>The project is to develop new community allotments and playing fields beside Dalry Public Park to boost social connection, improve access to fresh food, support mental and physical wellbeing, and create learning opportunities. The allotments will include leased plots, a free community growing area and an educational space, while the playing fields will expand outdoor sport using the renovated pavilion. With a total project cost of £193,000 and £58,000 already secured, the Club is seeking £100,000 from the Community Investment Fund to deliver the initial phase.</p> <p>There was discussion around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification regarding other potential funders. • The project will be delivered in two phases. • The five-year lease with DSM provides confidence to both parties about the project's viability. • The group demonstrating strong capacity, with the sports pavilion in daily use, the site being well maintained, including benches, solar lighting and reinstated floodlights. • The application was considered very thorough, with all required information provided. • The only concern raised related to the lease length, though the group did not anticipate this causing issues as the land was formerly leased to North Ayrshire Council for 30 years until six years ago. <p>The Partnership agreed that the application should progress to full application.</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that the group were keen to begin phase 1 of the project during the better weather months and requested if it would be possible for an interim meeting to held in advance of the next planned Locality Meeting. The Partnership approved this request, and it was agreed that an interim meeting of the Locality Partnership would be held on the 3rd week of April 2026.</p>	<p>C Pieraccini</p> <p>C Pieraccini/J McGee</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Community Representative Applications</p> <p>The Partnership were asked to consider two community representative applications to fill the vacancies on the Partnership.</p> <p>Applications were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Lamont from Beith Trust, Jane previously served on the Partnership for several years but had to step down following the recent Community Council elections in accordance with the Partnership Standing Orders. • Allan Wright, Allan was previously the secretary of Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council and supported the work of the Partnership through the subgroup. <p>The Partnership considered both applications and approved to appoint both J Lamont and A Wright to the Locality Partnership as Community Representatives.</p>	<p>J McGee</p>

<p>5</p>	<p>Our Garnock Valley</p> <p>A workshop session was held to explore three priority actions from the Our Garnock Valley Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.7 Population Retention and Youth Recovery Strategy • 7.5 Retain, Provide and Enhance Key Public Services • 11.8 Transport Improvements <p>The Partnership reviewed what is currently happening in each area and identified where further action or influence may be possible.</p> <p>Population Retention & Youth Recovery</p> <p>The discussion focused on how existing initiatives around housing, education and careers can be strengthened to encourage young people to stay in the area. Key factors included access to employment, business start-up opportunities, leisure provision, transport links and affordable childcare. Members highlighted the need for high-quality job opportunities, better support for young entrepreneurs, closer work with community clubs, and enhanced employability pathways. Opportunities such as apprenticeships, pop-up uses for empty units and additional training (e.g. cookery/SVQs) were also raised. Additional partners identified as important to this work included Regeneration, Business Gateway, Employability & Skills, Housing, and SPT.</p> <p>Local Living & Public Services</p> <p>Discussion on the need to protect and enhance essential services such as health centres, community centres, libraries, greenspaces, childcare and banking access in each town. Ideas discussed included expanding the role of libraries as multi-service community hubs, increasing visibility of local issues, exploring a rotating Registrar service, and encouraging developers to deliver community benefits where possible.</p> <p>Transport Improvements</p> <p>There was discussion around the NCN7 route and wider transport activity led by the Active Travel and Transport Team. Members expressed concern about repeated consultations and emphasised the need for practical solutions rather than further reports. It was agreed that Active Travel and Transport should be invited to the June meeting to outline what can be delivered in partnership with NHS and SPT.</p> <p>Additional points raised included exploring how Pride in Place funding might support improvements, challenges with the X36 service, implementation of the Regional Bus Strategy, and maintaining focus on the Beith bypass upgrade.</p>	<p>C Pieraccini</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Partner Updates</p> <p>Active Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports for Term 3 will be provided at the next meeting and will include actively level stats. • Recent activity includes rugby taster sessions in primary schools and a pilot programme for S4–S6 pupils focused on empowering young females, delivered through a seminar with a local female coach. • E Hannah will be leaving her post at the end of March as her contract is coming to an end. 	

	<p>The Chair expressed his thanks to E Hannah for her work in the Garnock Valley, noting the positive impact on young people and the helpful insight her updates provided.</p>	Noted
7.	<p>Locality Report</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised that the full report was enclosed as part of the meeting paperwork.</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that the team will be building on the work from Friday's Older People's Voice Conference to ensure the views of older residents continue to be heard. She also advised that, as a result of their Our Garnock Valley work, the Our Garnock Valley group had been invited to a discussion around Local Governance Review, one of only three areas in Scotland invited to participate . C Pieraccini reminded the Partnership of the workshop scheduled for next Saturday.</p>	
8	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Vice Chair</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised that the Vice Chair position is currently vacant and that J McGee will email all Community Representatives to seek expressions of interest. The Partnership will then consider the appointment at the interim meeting in April.</p> <p>Delegated Powers</p> <p>J McGee advised the Partnership that an email will be issued to all LP members explaining the delegated authority process for grant decisions. Previously, no response was treated as no objection, but going forward no response will now be recorded as an abstention.</p> <p>Community Projects Fund</p> <p>J McGee advised the Partnership that the Regeneration team are seeking one representative from the Partnership to sit on the assessment panel for the Community Projects Fund. An email will be issued to community reps.</p> <p>The Chair asked J McGee to clarify whether representatives would be scoring projects from their own localities and how any conflicts of interest would be handled if a representative is involved with an applying organisation. J McGee undertook to find this information out and share with the response with the Partnership.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>J McGee</p>

The meeting ended at 9.08 pm



Locality Partnership: *Garnock Valley*

Date: *11th June 2026*

Subject: *HSCP Partner Update*

Purpose: For Information and Awareness

Background

Locality Planning is a statutory requirement of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Statutory guidance for both Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) and Integration Authorities highlights the importance of decision making at a local level, community engagement and partnership working.

North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and the CPP currently operate separate, though related, locality planning arrangements. While designed to meet different statutory requirements, these arrangements involve the same localities, many of the same partners, and overlapping data, engagement and priorities.

Thus, the IJB approved a change to HSCP locality planning arrangements to align more closely with Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structures. The revised model integrates HSCP locality planning within existing CPP Locality Partnerships, replacing previous standalone HSCP Locality Planning Review Groups.

This change is intended to reduce duplication, strengthen partnership working, and ensure a more coordinated approach to improving outcomes at a locality level.

New Approach to Engagement and Partnership Working

Under the revised model:

- HSCP Locality Leads (Heads of Service) will attend **two CPP Locality Partnership meetings per year**
- A **standing HSCP locality planning agenda item** will ensure visibility of HSCP priorities
- These meetings will be used to:
 - Provide updates on HSCP activity within Garnock Valley
 - Share emerging priorities and locality plan development
 - Facilitate discussion with partners and identify opportunities for joint working
- For the remaining Locality Partnership meetings, written Locality Planning updates will be provided to maintain visibility without increasing meeting requirements. In addition, the HSCP will give a general update on anything relevant to that locality.

Development of Locality Plans

Locality Plans for Garnock Valley will be developed by the Strategic Planning and Equalities Team, drawing on:

- Locality data and profiles provided by Public Health Scotland and our internal performance teams
- Engagement activity and community insight
- Input from HSCP services and partners

Draft Locality Plans will be presented to Locality Partnerships for feedback, ensuring that partners contribute to shaping priorities and delivery.

Implementation Timeline

- **June 2026:**
Introduction of the revised approach at Locality Partnership meetings, including:
 - Overview of HSCP locality planning
 - Explanation of changes
 - Outline of next steps and plan development process
- **September 2026:**
Partner update on progress presented to Locality Partnerships, as well as general service update related to the locality.
- **December 2026:**
Draft Locality Plans shared with Locality Partnerships for feedback and alignment with wider strategic planning

Implications for Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

The revised arrangements for Garnock Valley will:

- Strengthen alignment between HSCP priorities and CPP locality priorities
- Improve senior-level engagement with HSCP locality planning
- Reduce duplication across partnership structures
- Provide clearer opportunities for collaborative planning and delivery

Partners will have an ongoing role in:

- Contributing to the development of locality priorities
- Providing feedback on emerging plans
- Supporting delivery of agreed actions
- Identifying opportunities for joint working

This model ensures that HSCP retains statutory responsibility for locality planning while enabling partners to play a meaningful role in shaping outcomes locally.

General HSCP Update relate to Garnock Valley Locality

- There has been a few HSCP organised engagement events in Garnock Valley since the New year:
 - As part of wider engagement across North Ayrshire, A “*Delivering Social Care Services within Budget – Share Your Views*” drop-in session was held at Bridgend Community Centre, Kilbirnie: Wednesday 14 January, 4pm to 7pm.

This event formed part of a broader programme of engagement aimed at giving residents the opportunity to understand the financial position of the Partnership and to share their views on what matters most to them. The initial drop-in helped shape a wider consultation exercise, which was subsequently issued to all North Ayrshire residents by letter.

The consultation focused on three proposals relating to social care services. Following this process, the Integration Joint Board approved the proposals in March as part of efforts to achieve a balanced budget. As a result, eligibility criteria for social care have changed, with services now prioritised for individuals assessed as being in critical need, moving from the previous threshold of substantial need.

The HSCP is currently undertaking reassessments of individuals who receive care to ensure alignment with the revised criteria. It is recognised that these changes will have wider implications across the system, including potential impacts on partners, particularly third sector organisations, who may experience increased demand for support.

- John Geates has been appointed as the new Independent Chair of the North Ayrshire ADP.
- A new North Ayrshire Self-Directed Support website has been launched, offering a comprehensive source of clear information on the SDS options and how they work. The site also provides details around NAHSCP eligibility criteria, FAQs on employing personal assistants, and advice on Guardianship/Power of Attorney, as well as a list of useful links to legislation, guides, and practical tools/resources.
- The 1st of April 2026 saw the launch of our new fostering scheme in North Ayrshire, Fostering Futures, marking a renewed and strengthened commitment to supporting children and young people to remain within loving, stable family environments. The programme reflects our ambition to grow and sustain our local foster care provision, ensuring that more children can stay connected to their communities, schools, and relationships.

As part of this, we have introduced improved terms and conditions for foster carers, including enhanced fostering fees and allowances, recognising the vital role carers play and strengthening our ability to recruit and retain high-quality local provision.

If there are members of the public interested in becoming a foster carer for North Ayrshire HSCP, we would encourage you to get in touch. Further information can be accessed via our website: <https://www.nahscp.org/children-young-people-families/adoption-fostering-short-break-and-kinship-care/fostering>.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

Locality Planning Changes

- HSCP locality planning is now aligned with CPP Locality Partnerships (approved by IJB).
- Standalone HSCP locality groups removed to reduce duplication and strengthen joint working.

What this means for Garnock Valley LP

- HSCP (Heads of Service) will attend 2 meetings per year with a standing agenda item.
- Other meetings will receive written updates on locality planning and HSCP general updates.
- Focus on shared priorities, discussion, and joint working opportunities.

Locality Plan Development

- Plans being developed using data, engagement, and partner input.
- Draft plan to come to LP (Dec 2026) for feedback before finalisation.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

To note and endorse the new Locality Planning arrangements.

For more information please contact: *Elizabeth Stewart, Head of Service, Children, Families & Justice, HSCP/ Rebecca Black, Team Manager, Strategic Planning & Equalities*

Completed by: *Rebecca Black, Team Manager, Strategic Planning & Equalities*

Date: *3rd June 2026*

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership Update

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Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Work and Local Community

Past 3 Months

- Continuing fire safety education for community organisations involved in employability and volunteering.
- Strengthening referral pathways with local partners for vulnerable individuals.
- Supporting local groups as they deliver early-year programmes and activities.

Current Activity

- Embedding fire safety modules into employability course content.
- Increasing joint visits with health and social care staff.
- Expanding outreach within community clubs and societies ahead of spring/summer activities.

Next 3 Months

- Continue working with Garnock Community Campus Leadership programme
- Identify opportunities and partners to work with in delivery of our Fireskills programme

Moving Around (Public transport, Traffic and Parking)

Past 3 Months

- Continuing engagement with road safety partners on access and transport-related risks.
- Providing input on emergency access considerations for road layout changes or diversions.
- Engaging with transport operators to support safe service delivery.

Current Activity

- Supporting spring road safety campaigns targeting vulnerable road users.
- Collaborating on infrastructure planning to protect emergency access routes.
- Enhancing local messaging on travel safety during increased seasonal activity.

Next 3 Months

- Currently awaiting of VR headsets in order to deliver young driver initiatives
- Good Egg car seat safety check day being planned with partners from ARA

Facilities and Amenities

Past 3 Months

- Assisting local groups preparing for spring programming in community centres.
- Continuing HFSVs near facilities undergoing refurbishment or increased seasonal use.
- Strengthening fire safety management plans for venues across the Garnock Valley.

Current Activity

- Increasing involvement in planning for facility upgrades and repurposing projects.
- Delivering refresher fire safety briefings for staff and volunteers.
- Expanding outreach for groups using outdoor amenities as seasonal programmes resume

Next 3 Months

- Operational Intelligence visits continuing in facilities and businesses
- Continuing to create a register of derelict buildings and highlighting these to our partners to ensure public and partner agency safety

GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY REPORT JUNE 2026



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



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Locality Priorities for Garnock Valley



CALLS TO ACTION



ACTION & DECISION MAKING

Stronger community action & pride, local decision-making, responsive public services



PARKS & OUTDOOR SPACE

Managing, maintaining & enhancing our parks and the outdoor spaces for health & wellbeing



TOWN CENTRES

How they look and feel, & what they have to offer: more homes and more facilities



HOUSING & POPULATION

Good quality, affordable, sustainable homes for everybody - existing & new-build



GETTING ABOUT

Excellent public transport, walking & cycling - within the Garnock Valley & to other places, accessible to all



YOUNG PEOPLE

More opportunities for our young people: work, play & participating in the future of their place



COMMUNITY LIFE

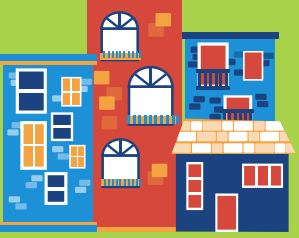
Top quality community spaces, services, shops, restaurants etc - with more events & activities



JOBS & BUSINESS

Support local business & jobs, modern manufacturing & the visitor economy





Locality Updates

The Dalry She Shed

The She Shed continues to run on a Tuesday at Dalry Scout Hall and is well attended. The committee members recently attended committee skills training that was organised by locality staff and delivered by TACT. They reported that the training was beneficial to them and they have learned new information that will help them going forward.

The She Shed Dalry provides a safe, welcoming, and supportive space for women within the local community. Through weekly sessions every Tuesday, creative activities and peer support, the group continues to have a positive impact on wellbeing, confidence and reducing social isolation.

So far this year, the She Shed has built positive connections with other She Sheds across the Three Towns and Kilwinning, attended committee skills training, and had representatives attend the Older People's Network conference. They have also been making things for the Dalry Windfarm Open Day event, where they held a stall.

More recently, members have taken part in journalling activities focused on mindfulness, reflection, and self-care, with many finding this beneficial for managing stress and improving wellbeing. Upcoming mindfulness and wellbeing activities are also planned with external activity coordinators.

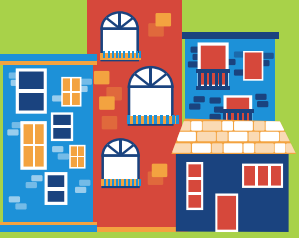
Discovery Award

This quarter the group have completed sessions in Qui Quong, which they all enjoyed and felt was very beneficial to their physical and mental health.

One of our members also completed the Tartan Warrior challenge while raising funds for a project to build new toilet blocks at a school in Malawi.

One member attended the AGM of the Discovery Award in Glasgow, which she enjoyed and has given her a good insight into the running of the programme across Scotland.

The Garnock Valley Discovery group for over 50's has reached a major milestone with almost all members getting close to completing their gold awards, which is a unique achievement. One Member has already completed their Gold, and is this first to do so in North Ayrshire. The Discovery group are planning a summer event in August.



Locality Updates

Garnock Valley Allotments Association

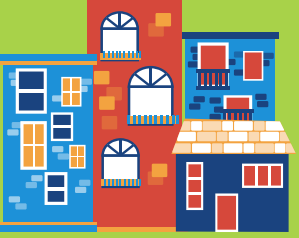
As a result of the positive relationship and support with the committee, they were successful in gaining five new committee members. This included members who had previously had no experience of being within a committee or having an office bearer role. Since April, they have met three times and are settling into their roles well and progressing with developments including, membership fees, planning a flower show as well as the general work tasks. Two of the new members recently participated in the committee skills training.

Barmill Community Association

The Locality Team have been supporting the new volunteers who have taken up the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. The on-going positive relationship and communication with TACT has resulted in new OSCR information being shared with Barmill. Both new volunteers participated in the recent committee skills training and, in doing so, enhanced their knowledge and understanding of their roles, helping to strengthen the Association's capacity for community development.

Committee Skills Training (Bridgend Community Centre)

Due to several community organisations within the Garnock Valley having new members, especially office bearers, it was identified there was a need for training. The Ayrshire Community Trust delivered committee skills training on Tuesday 5th May, where nine local volunteers participated in the session, covering the roles of different committee members. As a result of the support they received, Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Association, Barmill Community Association, Garnock Valley Allotments Association, and the Dalry She Shed volunteers all feel more confident in their roles.



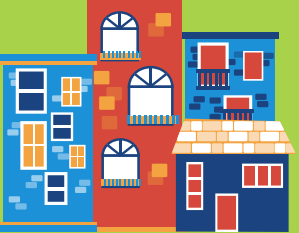
Locality Updates

Project Kilbirnie - Project Kilbirnie SCIO are delighted to report that they now have a new bank account up and running. Their Volunteer of the Year event will be held on Saturday 6th June and this year they have expanded their competition from one to four categories: Young Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Organisation of the Year and Local Small Business of the Year. Project Kilbirnie have continued to use paper nomination / voting forms but this year, they have also introduced online forms as well. They have received over 750 votes cast, with about a third using paper votes and two thirds online. The presentation evening will be on Sat 6th June in the Garnock Valley Social Club. They have four invited guests to present the awards, including the Locality Team's very own Susan Mack as well as Depute Provost John Sweeney

Tour de Garnock 2027 - Now that Project Kilbirnie have their new bank account in place, they will begin the process of planning the event and applying for external funding. The main purpose for this event is for participants to raise funds for organisations of their choice. The concept was inspired by the Garnock Valley Rotary Club's sponsored walk round the Dalry Blair Estate that ran for many years. They just made the route a bit longer!

Kilbirnie Auld Kirk Future Group - The Kilbirnie Auld Kirk church building was purchased from Church of Scotland in January of this year. Work has been going on since then to establish a new charity to manage the care for this building so that it can be secured for future use. On 1 May, KAKFG received confirmation that their charity application had been accepted by OSCR. The group are currently working on a feasibility study, which will be presented to a public meeting in due course. They are in to process of planning for the building to be open for visitors and then securing funding, which will improve facilities. They are planning a community gala for May 2027 to celebrate the 900 Year anniversary of the Auld Kirk.

Kilbirnie Greenspace - Project Kilbirnie has taken over hosting the Kilbirnie greenspaces project. This project is being supported by the Locality Team to encourage active citizenship. During May, efforts were concentrated on growing flowers and contacting garden centres for donations. Work is also being done to promote the summer evenings starting in June, where a team of volunteers will be out every Wednesday. The group had a litter pick and have registered as a community greenspace with Keep Scotland Beautiful. This is to be listed on a national map for active communities.



Locality Updates

Kilbirnie Library - Kilbirnie Library have Beginner and Intermediate Sewing Classes running with great success. All classes were full and, due to great demand, they have new classes starting on 1st June - Beginners/Intermediate and Advanced/Intermediate. They are all now full and they have a waiting list again. Their Good Ol' Days, Poetry, Craft and Movie groups are growing in numbers.

Dalry Community Development Hub - Dalry Community Development Hub are delighted to be working collaboratively with local groups and the wider Garnock Valley on the Local Place Plan. They believe this has the potential to help make our communities thrive, making our towns better places to work and stay.

A new board promoting visitors to tidy up and keep the Lynn Glen clean has been ordered and will be installed soon. The group have applied for funding for their community garden, to install a permanent covered area which will enable them to hold events and school group visits in all weather.

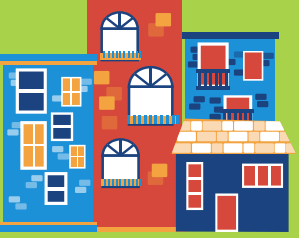
Dalry Community Sports Club – Parklives has restarted for the summer and will take place every Friday evening at Dalry Public Park, 6pm – 8pm, with multi activities for various ages.

The community allotment project is progressing well, with phase 1 perimeter fence, field & kissing gates erected. The Community Investment Fund proposal was approved and ratified at Cabinet on 2nd June. Further funding has been applied for, which will progress other key requirements including a carpark area.

The Sports Club's community larder and warm space continues to provide essential lifeline for local families and they have various events coming up over the summer including Summer Camp, Skirt the Skeith, Wind Farm Open Day, GV Carves, and the Community Cinema. They will also be hosting tournaments and activities as part of the Summer of Sport programme.

Barrmill Jolly Beggars - Barrmill Jolly Beggars held a concert on Sunday 26 April 2026 featuring the internationally renowned Glasgow Phoenix Choir. This was held in Beith Parish Church. The event was a musical success and raised £1,900 for Garnock Valley Disability Forum.

The club also held a concert on Sunday 26 May 2026 in Kilbirnie New Parish Church. The aim was to raise some funds for Kilbirnie Auld Kirk Future Group, who recently took ownership of the historic Auld Kirk in Kilbirnie. The concert will feature the talented musicians of Irvine and Dreghorn Brass and the choir of Kilbirnie New Parish Church. All were welcome at the fantastic musical extravaganza.



Locality Updates

Garnock Valley Recovery Hub

The Hub was set up to offer a safe, welcoming, and non-judgemental space for individuals affected by addiction. At the hub, they also offer support and guidance to family members or friends who are affected by a loved one's addiction and provide information and resources about addiction, treatment and recovery. The group meet every Tuesday.

The Hub provides a safe, structured environment where participants can access peer support, therapeutic sessions, and personalised recovery planning. Activities are designed to promote wellbeing, build resilience, and support long-term recovery.

Achievements include:

- Consistent engagement, with group sizes ranging from 6 to 12 participants per session.
- Progression of members into volunteering roles, supporting community intergenerational programmes.
- Achievement of Discovery Awards, including: One participant achieving a Bronze Award and one achieving a Silver Award, currently working towards Gold
- Continued delivery of tailored, person-centred support.

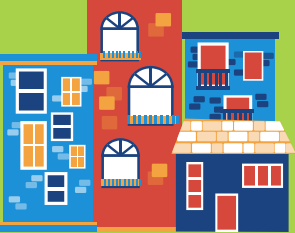
These achievements highlight both personal development and meaningful progress in recovery journeys.

Activities Delivered:

- ACD (Alcohol and Drug Awareness) sessions
- CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) based sessions
- Group discussions and peer support
- Personal development activities
- Six-week well-being programme delivered by NODA

The recovery hub has clear plans for growth and development. These developments aim to strengthen the hub's impact and reach within the community.

Work is underway to expand the service to have a support group in Dalry.



TACT Awards

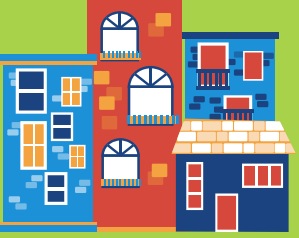
The annual Ayrshire Community Trust Volunteer Awards were held on Wednesday 3rd June in Ardrossan Civic Centre. There was a strong representation from the Garnock Valley at the event, nominated across several categories, representing and time and commitment given across the locality. Nominees include Dalry Community Sports Club, Dalry Community Development Hub, Dalry Larder, Café Solace, Our Garnock Valley, alongside individual volunteers from Beith Trust, Beith Community Garden, Garnock Valley Pipes and Drums and Barrmill Community Garden. Elspeth Johnston won the Long Standing Volunteer award for her work with Age Concern, and two Beith Trust Volunteers won Young Volunteer of the Year.

Elspeth deserves to be the winner of this award to acknowledge and celebrate her hard work and commitment to helping others. For nearly 30 years she has given her time freely to ensure others feel included, valued and less lonely in older age. Over the years, her role has developed to where she is now, the driving force and back bone of the Age Concern group in Kilbirnie and Glengarnock. Even during times of personal grief and illness she has been the mainstay, consistently supporting others to continue socialising and attend events that help maintain positive health and wellbeing. Examples of this include the weekly group that offers a warm welcome and a safe place for older people to socialise, play bingo and chat over a cuppa. The summer outings to places such as Aberfoyle and the Christmas Meal at Seamill Hydro attracts up to 150 older people from Kilbirnie and Glengarnock.

Along with this she also dedicates time to volunteering at the Wee School Pantry and Cafe Solace and encouraging younger people to see the positives of volunteering and helping out. She also gave her time in 2025 as a community reviewer for Participatory Budgeting applications within the Garnock Valley Locality, which allowed numerous community groups to go through to a public vote to receive funding for their projects.

While she has a straight talking attitude, she has a heart of gold and is a very caring person. When visiting her group she is always laughing and having fun with members and giving sound and thoughtful advice. She is a well thought of person and a very much valued member of the community.





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 engagement with the local community and stakeholders.

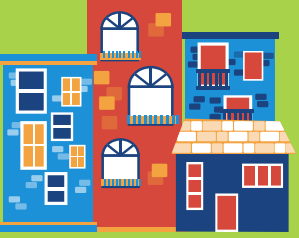
The group were nominated for an award at the TACT Volunteer awards.

The group have been meeting regularly and have submitted a proposal for a Garnock Valley wide art strategy. The new development worker, who will help progress the plan, has now started and is looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to work.

CALLS TO ACTION



 ACTION & DECISION MAKING Stronger community action & pride, local decision-making, responsive public services	 PARKS & OUTDOOR SPACE Managing, maintaining & enhancing our parks and the outdoor spaces for health & wellbeing
 TOWN CENTRES How they look and feel, & what they have to offer: more homes and more facilities	 HOUSING & POPULATION Good quality, affordable, sustainable homes for everybody - existing & new-build
 GETTING ABOUT Excellent public transport, walking & cycling - within the Garnock Valley & to other places, accessible to all	 YOUNG PEOPLE More opportunities for our young people: work, play & participating in the future of their place
 COMMUNITY LIFE Top quality community spaces, services, shops, restaurants etc - with more events & activities	 JOBS & BUSINESS Support local business & jobs, modern manufacturing & the visitor economy



Café Solace

Customer numbers remained steady during January to March this year with a slight fall off during April, although still averaging 80-90 per week. They conducted a survey of their customers to determine which menu items were their favourites. The majority verdict was that they enjoy everything they put on the menu, which is good news! There were only a few suggestions for different menu options, which they will consider. The Recovery Hub numbers have increased with an average of ten now attending each week. NODA have been very supportive, attending on a fortnightly basis to talk to the group and let them know what is available in the wider area for support. Iain continues to reach out to other organisations who may be able to offer support to group members.

Their external catering has become very popular, with seven bookings already completed this year and another ten in the diary.

Café Solace received a very generous donation of £1,142.73 from The Community Payback Team, which was a great boost to their funds. This was the proceeds from sale of garden furniture made by the Payback team.

The team will be attending a training day on 3rd June to renew their REHIS certification.

Two of their young volunteers are going to Malawi next month as part of a school's initiative and they look forward to hearing all about their adventure on their return.

The Café Solace team have been nominated in the TACT volunteering awards, and in the Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Organisation of the Year category, run by Project Kilbirnie. Janet Johnstone and Garry Caldwell have been nominated in the Volunteer and Young Volunteer of the Year categories respectively, and everyone at Café Solace wishes them every success on 6th June when the winners will be announced.

During Volunteer Week they will be running some social media articles to encourage more people to volunteer with Café Solace.



Bridgend Mural

In April, the Mural Project got underway bringing together Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Association, Youth Synergy and Discovery Award members. Funded by the Association and the Garnock Valley Youth Forum, this intergenerational project has brought together community members to engage and create an art project that celebrates the users of the community centre. As a result of this, ideas and stories have been shared between generations and participants feel a sense of pride in their community space.





Active Schools



Active Schools Locality Partnership Meeting - Garnock Valley Locality

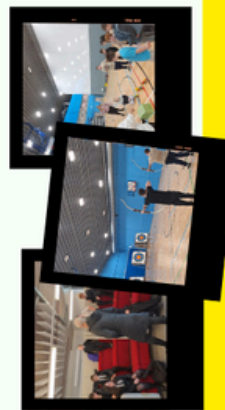


Priority 1

Moving Around (Public Transport,
Traffic and Parking)

Elle has left her post and Ewan Jamieson (3 days) and Gary Moore (2 days) started as GV Active Schools Coordinators in April. Ewan covers GCC, Garnock Primary, St Bridget's and Beith with Gary covering GCC, Dalry, Moorpark and Gateside.

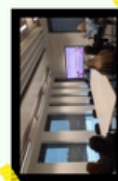
- Within our cluster we've worked closely with multiple partners including schools where we've supported the running of 55 clubs in the summer term. These clubs have provided a wide range of sport and physical activity opportunities delivered by volunteers before, during lunchtime and afterschool which allows us to remove the barriers and can access within their own school and in turn reduces transport costs.
- Sports days and health weeks involving local clubs are being run in primary schools and at Garnock Campus.
- From August 2026 Summer of Sport money will deliver racket sports, martial arts and disability sport across all schools and in the community.
- We will work with the PE department to modernise the after school sports programme to include fitness activities as well as all the extracurricular sports provision



Priority 2

Work and Local Community

- North Ayrshire Sports Academy is about to start recruitment at GCC with hopes of between 10 and 20 young people taking part in a series of sports qualifications through the 26/27 school year.
- NA Young Ambassador programme is also due to start recruiting with a minimum of 2 pupils from every year group at GCC forming the GCC Sports Council.
- Active Schools are supporting 45 pupils to take part in 4 days of outdoor leadership at Arran Outdoors in June.
- We received funding to take 8 care experienced pupils on a 5 day sailing trip from Oban around the western isles with the Ocean Youth Trust
- GCC has completed the pilot project of Empowering Young Females. Seven S4-6 females took part one period every Thursday for 6 weeks in seminar around female health and nutrition from local female coach and finished with a KA gym induction and membership.
- Presentations were given in schools at My World of Work Week



Priority 3

Facilities and Amenities

- Summer of Sport money will be used to develop evening sports clubs across the Garnock Valley through regular sessions and promotions in schools as well as supporting KA holiday camps.
- Active Schools will support Dalry Community sports club with the delivery of regular sports sessions in Dalry Public Park throughout summer.
- 3 summer holiday water sports trips for 30 targeted children from the Garnock Valley





Summer of Sport and summer programme

GARNOCK VALLEY - SIGN UP REQUIRED

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Darts Afternoons 12 years +	July - 6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th Aug - 3 rd 10 th	Mon 1-3pm	Beith Community Centre
Zumba for Young People	July - 6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th Aug - 3 rd 10 th	Mon 11-12pm	Beith Community Centre
Akido	July - 10 th 17 th 24 th 31 st Aug - 7 th 14 th	Fri 4:30-7:30pm	Beith Community Centre
Badminton	July - 9 th 16 th 23 rd 30 th Aug - 6 th 13 th	Thurs 11-12pm	Beith Community Centre
Football	July - 7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th Aug - 4 th 11 th	Tues 6-7pm	Beith Community Centre
P1-P7 Football/Rugby/Racket Sports	Tuesday 14 th July- Thursday 30 th July	1-3pm	Dalry Public Park
Beith Trust Holiday Club	Daily Monday to Friday scan to book	10-2pm limited spaces	Beith Astro / Meadowside Pavilion

Sign Up Here!

An extensive programme of activities has been planned to run over the summer, ensuring young people in the locality have the opportunity to access free and fun things to do. Working in partnership with Dalry Community Sports Club, Garnock Valley Youth Forum, Beith Trust and Beith Community Association, a number of sport themed activities are scheduled across the Garnock Valley.

The team will also be running digital photography sessions in Beith Library on a Thursday morning. Full details available on our Facebook page and with posters through the towns.

The Locality Team will be running some of their groups over the summer, as well as delivering detached youth work sessions, as part of the Safer Shores initiative. This will ensure local young people have access to information to keep themselves safe over the summer months, as well as diverting young people to the wide range of activities available.

Finally, the team are currently working with partners to plan the popular **Lochshore Games**, which will take place on Saturday 8th August, 1pm - 4pm, at Lochshore Park.



GARNOCK VALLEY

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Skirt the Skeith Under 16s Race	Sunday 21 st June	10-12pm	Dalry Public Park Sign up below
Beith Park Pop Up	Aug - 7 th 11 th 15 th	2-4pm	Beith Orr Park and Beith Community Centre
Dalry Park Pop Up	July - 14 th 22 nd	2-4pm	Dalry Park
Kilbirnie Park Pop Up	July - 21 st Aug - 12 th	2-4pm	Kilbirnie Park
Parklives	Weekly event	6-8pm	Dalry Park
Lochshore Highland Games	8 th Aug	1-4pm	Lochshore Park
Barrmill Drop in age 11+	9 th and 28 th July	2-4pm	Barrmill Community Centre

Keep Updated Here!



Youthlink Awards - Jess and Aimee

At an award ceremony held on Wednesday 3rd June, Garnock Valley's own Aimee Mason and Jessica Parker won the Youthlink Youth Worker of the Year, beating nominees from across Scotland.

Aimee and Jess are initiative-taking, creative, and highly skilled youth workers who consistently go beyond in their practice. With over ten years of involvement in youth work through Community Learning and Development, beginning as participants, progressing to volunteers within the Garnock Valley Youth Forum, and now leading groups independently, they have made a sustained and meaningful impact on local young people.

Their leadership influences youth work practice and supports young people's development and progression. They have grown through this journey in Community Learning and Development together, which is why they were both nominated as a pair.

Aimee and Jess have built strong, positive relationships with young people across the Garnock Valley through their youth work delivery over the past five years. Their leadership has strengthened youth participation in the Youth Forum and Youth Synergy groups, helping young people grow in knowledge, confidence, and community involvement. As a result, young people's voices are now heard locally and nationally.

Aimee and Jessica's commitment ensured that young people's views were heard and embedded in the 'Our Garnock Valley' plan through the creation of a dedicated youth section. Their input has helped embed youth perspectives into future development priorities for the area. Their leadership in delivering school workshops, alongside their collaboration with six community organisations, strengthened this work, highlighted the importance of community engagement and co-production in shaping a local plan.





Youthlink Awards - Jess and Aimee



Aimee and Jess are outstanding youth workers whose passion, dedication, and commitment have made a significant and lasting impact on young people in the Garnock Valley. As local members of the community, they bring invaluable local knowledge and lived experience that shape their practice and allow them to build authentic, trusting relationships with the young people they support. Their ability to inspire, motivate, and empower others is clear across all areas of their work.

Aimee and Jessica played a key role in setting up the Garnock Valley New to You through their work in the Youth Forum. Created in response to the cost-of-living crisis, the service provided essential support to families by reducing the financial pressures of the school day. As the first initiative of its kind in the area, it set a model for sustainable uniform provision which was adopted by all local primary and secondary schools. Under their guidance, the project grew into a wider free clothing exchange offering toiletries and sanitary products, further strengthening community wellbeing.

Aimee and Jess consistently show exceptional youth work skills, knowledge, and values. Their person-centred approach, innovative thinking and commitment to continuous improvement have strengthened youth work provision across the area. Drawing on their own experiences, they mentor young people across all youth work outcomes, with strength in developing active citizenship, amplifying youth voice, and enabling positive change through the Garnock Valley.

Aimee and Jess were nominated as a pair for their shared journey—from young participants to volunteers to colleagues—proving collective growth, strong leadership, and a meaningful impact on their community.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

Youth Synergy

Youth Synergy continue to run in Bridgend Community Centre on a weekly basis. With the loss of the youth space at the Walker Hall, the dynamics and motivation of the group members have changed. Some of them have lost a bit of motivation however towards the end of the Mural project and seeing it come to life has given them a renewed energy. They have really enjoyed it and have worked well along with the other participants from the community association and the discovery award to engage and share ideas. Their progress on the mural has been amazing, and they have reported that they have learned a lot about what it was like to grow up in Kilbirnie from the older people. Next, they will be participating in Heart Start training and tidying up the Garden at Bridgend Community Centre.

The S3 Community Leadership programme

The group progressed onto volunteering at Lochshore Park, planting trees, flowers and helping with preparing raised beds. Since April, the young people have been participating in a Fire Skills programme at Kilwinning Fire Station. In doing so, the young people have been developing their skills, knowledge and understanding of fire safety. As a result of their participation in the programme, they have gained nearly 50 hours of volunteering for an Ascent- Saltire Award. They have reported they have learned how to make a roux for macaroni, how to cook spaghetti, how to use a fire hose and how to use the fire equipment safely.

S1-S2 Youth Group (Bridgend Community Centre)

The S1-S2 youth group continues to thrive with a mixture of both S1 and S2 young people. The young people continue to shape the programme and promote the group. Almost all the young people have evaluated the provision highly, highlighting that they have gained confidence through participating in new opportunities and experiences. They have worked well within teamwork activities, learning new skills through working with others on group tasks and following instructions reliably. The young people are reporting that they can express their thoughts and feelings to appropriate adults and feel more confident speaking in a group and share their opinions. With fifteen young people attending regularly, the group have participated in quizzes, LGBT history month activities, team games, positive quotes, bring a special item along, local walk, and have enjoyed various snacks.

Garnock Valley Youth Work

Arran Pride

On 29th May, 21 young people from the Garnock Valley started their annual trip to Arran Pride, along with 18 others from across North Ayrshire. The residential weekend was full of activities, from cold water plunges, t-shirt designing, campfire activities to the main event of the pride march. The march was followed by glitter tattoos, face paints, cyber and wellbeing activities, and a pride quiz hosted by the drag queen Coco Fabulicious. To round off the weekend, young people enjoyed a disco and karaoke. The feedback from the action-packed weekend from young people was the "best thing ever" and "life changing". As a result of this, our young people from the Garnock Valley are already asking to go back again next year. They are keen to be more involved in the planning, to enable more to attend which will include looking at reducing barriers that may affect young people attending the event.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

Voices of Pride

Over the last quarter, Voices of Pride have been heavily involved in the annual Arran Pride. This year, they applied for £1200 to cover the transport costs to enable any young people in North Ayrshire to attend, removing the cost barrier of attending the event. Through Youth Scotland's Inspiring Ayrshire Fund, they had to research, plan, and price the transport, then create and present a Power point on why this was needed. The group assisted in planning some of the activities for Arran Pride, where they helped workers decide on and plan campfire activities for the first night during the trip. In addition, that they also have started planning for an event to take place during National Youth Work Week around trans rights, where people can come without prejudice and ask questions and learn with a view to gaining an understanding of this marginalised community. This was inspired from an event that ran 10 years ago that hosted the same themes, but the young people recognise that this is something that is needed more than ever in the current political climate



Garnock Valley Youth Forum

Members of the youth forum continue to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award. With most of their sections complete, they are now looking to embark on the expedition which will hopefully be complete by the end of July. They have welcomed two new members, who wish to use youth voice activities to fulfil their volunteering section for their bronze section, which they are completing through the school. They have been very proactive and shown enthusiasm towards engaging. One of them attended the recent Joint Youth Forum meeting, where they contributed their ideas and views to discussions. Given their enthusiasm, staff have put them forward to participate in the Columba 1400 Programme that will take place over the summer.

The group are also in the process of planning three pop up sessions over the summer in each of the towns of Dalry, Kilbirnie and Beith. These will bring activities to young people and create an opportunity to engage with them around youth voice topics and their local community.

For further information contact:

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