

Action Note

Meeting:	Irvine Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	Monday 10 August 2026 at The Volunteer Rooms, Irvine at 6.00 p.m.
Present:	Cllr Christina Larsen Cllr Matthew McLean Cllr Shaun Macaulay Cllr Marie Burns Cllr Chloe Robertson Annie Small, Community Rep David Phillips, Community Rep Barbara Conner, TACT Lindsey Murphy, Senior Lead Officer
In Attendance	Karen Craig, Irvine Community Council Jim McHarg, Dreghorn Bowling Club Chris Lochwood, Irvine Tennis Ally Doyle, Irvine Tennis Club Dex Miller, Social Garage Project Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)
Apologies:	Greg Sutherland John McMillan, KA Leisure Ricky Donnachie, SFRS Cllr Nairn Angus-McDonald Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer Chris Pless, Irvine Community Council

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed those present to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded. Councillor Robertson declared an interest in the Tennis Club application as she is member of the Club.	Noted
2.	Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest – Social Garage Project The Partnership considered an Expression of Interest application from The Social Garage Project, which is seeking £100,000 from the Community Investment Fund to secure suitable premises, cover associated running costs, and purchase essential tools, equipment, IT resources, insurance and PPE. The proposed community garage would support mental health and wellbeing, practical skills development, peer support and financial resilience. The project also aims to work with local secondary schools,	

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	community organisations and Ayrshire College to create intergenerational learning and employability opportunities. The Project has been established since March 2026 and is receiving referrals from partners including the NHS and TSI. The group is progressing SCIO status and plans to engage with, secondary schools and Ayrshire College. It aims to support practical skills development, particularly for young people, and is open seven days per week. The project has received several donations, including cars, a jet ski and a boat. However, the current unit costs £2,700 per month and available space is becoming an issue. The Partnership queried • how the project had been funded to date and was advised that it has been self-funded, with banking records maintained. • Future apprenticeship opportunities. The project confirmed that, once established, it hopes to create opportunities such as apprenticeships. It was noted that the project is already providing hands-on experience for young people who have completed college but have not yet secured employment. The discussion highlighted that the project fills a gap between youth provision and older people's activities, with a focus on teaching transferable practical skills and encouraging people to support the wider community. The Partnership queried the organisation's status and was advised that it is operating as a CIC and has applied for SCIO status, following the appointment of a third Director. The project is receiving support from local partners and noted that this support has been positive. Early discussions have also taken place with a production company regarding a potential documentary. The Partnership asked how the project intends to become financially sustainable. The project advised that income could be generated through buying and repairing project cars for resale, accepting donated vehicles to fix up and sell, and wider fundraising activity and events. Full Application Dreghorn Bowling Club The Partnership considered a full application from Dreghorn Bowling Club which is seeking £40,000 from the Community Investment Fund to expand and modernise its toilet facilities, creating a new ladies' toilet, a fully accessible toilet and a larger gents' toilet. This investment will double their current toilet capacity and remove barriers that currently prevent some people with disabilities or mobility challenges from fully accessing the club.	
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	Additional funding applications are being submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund and Sport Scotland to meet the remaining project costs which totals £75,000/80,000. J McHarg advised that around 115 children attend each week to learn to play bowls. The proposed accessible toilet would help ensure that no one is excluded from participating due to accessibility needs. The club is also looking to expand its bowling activities, with carpet bowls having been reasonably successful and plans to continue this over the winter period The Partnership queried match funding and was advised that applications to the National Lottery Community Fund and Sport Scotland are expected to meet the remaining project costs, subject to the Community Investment Fund contribution being approved. It was also noted that the club plans to tar the footpaths around the green to ensure accessibility inside and outside. The Partnership was advised that professional drawings and quotes have been provided and that planning permission has been granted. Irvine Tennis Club The Partnership considered a full application from Irvine Tennis Club which is seeking £80,000 to construct a community clubhouse and accessible toilet facilities at our regenerated tennis courts in Irvine. The project will create a fully inclusive, accessible community sports facility supporting health and wellbeing, social connection, volunteering, skills development and affordable participation in sport for people across Irvine. The group advised that courts are well used and provide an excellent facility, but the absence of a clubhouse is limiting the club's ability to develop. The club currently pays monthly fees for a Portaloo, which is not suitable when accommodating larger groups children at one time. The proposed clubhouse would include two showers, a changing area, small catering area, meeting space and toilet facilities. Applicants left the meeting after their applications were heard and the Partnership discussed each of the applications: Social Garage Project The Partnership recognised that community hubs of this nature are needed and acknowledged the potential value of the project. However, it was agreed that further work is required before the application can progress, particularly in relation to the organisation's legal status, governance arrangements, business planning, health and safety requirements, financial understanding	
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	The Partnership agreed to support the project in principle, subject to the above areas being addressed and further information being provided. The group is to be invited back to a future meeting to: • present its business plan • provide further detail on its legal status • clarify governance arrangements • outline health and safety requirements • provide information on its financial position • confirm other funding avenues being pursued This information should be provided before the project is considered for progression to full application stage. Dreghorn Bowling Club The Partnership discussed this application and agreed to agreed award the funding for this project. Irvine Tennis Club The Partnership discussed the application and noted that a clubhouse may have formed part of the original funding application approved by the Partnership in 2022. The Partnership agreed to support the project in principle, subject to confirmation of whether the 2022 application included a clubhouse, whether increased costs prevented this element from being delivered, and whether the Partnership was consulted on any change to the original proposal. J McGee undertook to liaise with E Baxter regarding this. Cllr McLean noted that he did not vote in favour of the recommendation to proceed.	E Baxter E Baxter E Baxter
3.	Community Representative Discussion Further discussion will take place at September LP.	Noted
4.	AOCB J McGee highlighted that at the last meeting, the Locality Partnership approved two street names for the former High Flats site: Annick and Garnock. Planning has since asked whether the Partnership would be happy for these to be named New Annick Place/Street and New Garnock Place/Street to avoid any confusion with existing Annick street names in the Irvine area. The Partnership noted its preference that “New” is not included in the street names and agreed to retain the previously approved names.	L Dempster

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