

Kilwinning Community Council – AGM 2013

- This year has seen the refurbishment of the western end of the Main Street and this is now a more pleasing entrance for visitors and I'm sure is appreciated by the residents.
- It is very encouraging to hear that Buzzworks has bought the Stag & Hound building and will undertake a redevelopment to provide a restaurant with flats above. We have high hopes this will be a very positive addition to the town.
- The number of occupied shops in the Main Street remains relatively high and Thorne Travel's move into the arcade corner unit is very welcome.
- Despite often poor weather the Farmers' Market continues to attract a steady level of interest.
- The two outstanding problems in the Main Street are the former Job Centre and the Post Office retail unit, we hope that Irvine Bay and North Ayrshire Council will work with the owners to bring these buildings back into use in this pivotal part of the street.
- Elsewhere in the town news of the development of a new head injuries unit in the Dirrans and the move to set up a social enterprise at Hazeldene are positive additions.
- The development of the new car park at the railway station has left questions about the process the council follows in such developments. The monitoring of traffic flows, foot traffic and the safety of road users has not been as thorough as we would wish. This development has brought extra traffic into a part of the town with only limited capacity and on to the designated walk to school route for many children.
- The lack of progress in lighting and surfacing the path between Woodside and Dalry Road is disappointing. We have reached the time of year when days are short and many youngsters are once again walking this route to school in darkness.
- While appreciating the constraints of planning regulations it is very disappointing that the housing development in Eglinton Park remains in very poor condition. Apart from moving some earth around there appears to be little tangible progress. Eglinton Park is a valuable asset for the town and the wider area and it is now time for this development to come under greater scrutiny by the relevant departments of North Ayrshire Council. If planning permission cannot be rescinded then the owner of the land should be encouraged to come up with an alternative way of developing the site and if this cannot be achieved soon then the site should be landscaped to a standard that blends in with the rest of the park.
- The development of new commercial space in the town is urgently required to promote employment. While the planning permission for Nethermains is welcome, it has always been conditional on new housing at West Byrehill. The delay to this planning permission is disappointing and the Council must act quickly to resolve any issues and focus on Kilwinning's economic development.
- As a result of the hard work of Stephanie Krus we are now online with our website and we can start to use this to raise our profile in the community. In the coming year we hope to explore new ways of seeking opinions from Kilwinning residents and attracting new representatives onto the community council.

Jim Watson