

KILWINNING COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Monthly meeting held on
Thursday 20th February 2014
Kilwinning Academy

Present - Community Council

Jim Watson(JW) - Chair
 Janey Grier(JG) – Secretary
 Andy Robb(AR)
 Ted Somerville(TS)
 Nairn McDonald(NM)

Bill Taylor (BT) - Vice-Chair
 Jim Kennedy(JK)
 Jim Miller(JM)
 Colin Hedley(CH)

Visiting

Councillor John Ferguson(JF)
 Local Police

Councillor Robert Steel(RS)

ACTION

1.0	<p><u>WELCOME</u> The meeting was opened with a welcome from JW. Usual business will be suspended for the evening, as two speakers present.</p> <p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Stephanie Krus(SK) - Treasurer</p> <p><u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Thursday 16th January 2014</u> Approved by JM, seconded by NM</p>	
2.0	<p><u>POLICE REPORT</u> 437 calls to police, for a variety of reasons, since last report. 19 House break-ins, which is a major concern – police doing everything they can to detect these crimes. General disorder in the Main Street has improved. JW updated on walk round town with Inspector Conway – a more visible presence of police has been recommended. AR brought concerns from shop keepers re litter on Main Street at lunchtimes. The Campus officer at the college has been approached to help with this. JW suggested that school should be approached to help also.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>JENI PARK – NORTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY YOUTH CONTRACT MANAGER</u> Jeni Park, from the Department of Work & Pensions based at ‘jobcentreplus’ in Saltcoats – explained in detail how North Ayrshire are tackling the very serious issue of unemployment in the 18-24 age group. ‘The Youth Contract’ initiative was introduced two years ago to provide support and encouragement to this vulnerable group who are seeking employment and it is designed to ensure that every young person who needs support gets it, while at the same time encouraging local employers to create opportunities, training and jobs for these young people. At one time North Ayrshire had some of the highest unemployment statistics for this age group – with the help of ‘The Youth Contract’ Jeni and her team have started to reverse this trend and January 2014 saw a 31% reduction in job seeker allowance claimants from the previous year, and the lowest figure since October 2008. ‘The Youth Contract’ offers wide and varied ways for young people to gain training; experience; extra education and genuine job opportunities. Strong support is provided, with a dedicated adviser being assigned to each individual. JW thanked Jeni for her interesting and encouraging presentation.</p>	

4.0	<p><u>COLIN YOUNG – ACES GROUP – MCGAVIN PARK</u> ACES are a pro-active community group working with young people in the Woodwynd area of the town since 2005. The group now wish to expand their area of work with the redevelopment of McGavin Park. This project aims to upgrade all of the sports amenities in the park, including the tennis courts, the football pitches and the crazy golf. A full refurbishment of the pavilion will take place, with the opportunity of a cafe. It is Colin’s vision to create a town centre park for all residents to enjoy, with new features and activities enhancing the already existing aspects of the park. Funding is being sought to help progress the work. JW thanked Colin for his interesting and enthusiastic presentation.</p>	
5.0	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</u> <u>Main Street</u> JW gave brief update of walk round town and Abbey grounds with police and roads department – signage on Main Street was a cause for concern and was looked at. Police will increase patrols in the Abbey area. Kilwinning Heritage are planning to engage more with schools to encourage interest in the history of the area.</p>	
6.0	<p><u>TREASURER’S REPORT</u> None</p>	
7.0 7.1	<p><u>AOB</u> JG New Community Craft shop has opened in the town.</p>	
	<p><u>DATE, TIME & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Thursday 20th March 2014 – 7.15pm Kilwinning Academy, Dalry Road</p>	
	<p><i>Minutes compiled by JG</i></p>	