

Kilmacolm Community Council

Chair's Annual Report 2019

This year has been another year of steady progress with the continuation of earlier initiatives by us and others.

The village centre projects fund was fully utilised and a number of projects were commissioned and completed. Not all were completed to our complete satisfaction chiefly the garden in the centre of the village which will be maintained by the Kilmacolm Horticultural Society. Other projects are ongoing.

Work on the Old Institute Building is still ongoing but the new Co-operative store opened in December 2018 and is well used by the villagers. The residential units and other commercial unit have yet to be completed.

The Police Scotland dedicated team for Kilmacolm attend the monthly meetings and report on the crime statistics for Kilmacolm. Over the past year there have been 33 reported crimes in Kilmacolm: 4 were road traffic offences; 5 acts of vandalism; 11 thefts; 1 assault ; 2 housebreaking/attempted housebreaking; 2 telecommunications offences; 2 frauds and 6 miscellaneous offences including: 1 sexual assault; 2 breaches of the peace; shoplifting; bogus caller and a poor workmanship dispute which has been handed over to trading standards.

The Community Council sponsored and ran a Community Clean-up in April at which 18 volunteers did a splendid job in picking up rubbish from several areas of the village.

On the planning front 44 planning applications were recorded of which 4 objections were made by the community council and a comment made regarding work in the Conservation area.

A new local plan was produced and immediately several developers challenged it and it was placed in the hands of a government appointed Reporter. The outcome of the report was good for the village in that it upheld the view that there was no requirement for the village to release any Greenbelt land for residential development.

Gladman Scotland Ltd submitted an application for 112 homes to be built on North Denniston and the Knapps. This was refused planning permission by Inverclyde Council and Gladman Appealed. The application for the development was placed with a government appointed Reporter who upheld the refusal. Gladman have since submitted a further application for Land at North Denniston for 88 residential units. The Community Council has raised a letter of objection to this along with 588 letters of objections from villagers. A Pre-determination meeting has been arranged for June 13th at 2pm in Saint Columba Church Hall where all interested parties have been invited to put their case before the Inverclyde Council Planning Board.

Taylor Wimpey submitted an application to build 72 residential units at Planetreeyetts and again the Community Council raised a letter of objection along with 261 villagers. There is to be a pre-determination meeting for this application in August at which interested parties can state their case for refusal or granting of planning permission.

Carsemeadow in Quarriers Village was another area for which Gladman Scotland Ltd submitted an application to build. This is now in the hands of a reporter and we await the outcome of this.

All of the areas under siege are classified as greenbelt and none of the applications fall within the definitions of the permissible development as defined in the Inverclyde Policy on the Greenbelt and therefore all will be vigorously defended when the time comes. We are on much firmer ground now over the refusal of planning permission because of the government reporter finding in favour of not releasing Greenbelt land in Kilmacolm.

The Kilmacolm Community Council, along with the Kilmacolm New Community Centre Company and a private donor, paid for and had installed a Defibrillator on the wall of the Library in the village square. Training sessions were held in the Kilmacolm New Community Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Community Council for all their hard work over the past year which was made especially difficult by the constant bombardment of planning applications by various developers.