



Killearn Community Futures Update to Killearn Community Council 17 June 2020

The on-going medical and social crisis has resulted in everyone's horizons shrinking to a largely local level and KCFC is no exception. Some of our groups' activities have been curtailed, while others have found ways to continue in a responsibly distanced manner – a brief summary, with apologies for anything I have missed:

Colourful Killearn – maintained and (more particularly) watered the containers. The daffodils, then the violas, have responded to the sunny weather & given a wonderfully bright and colourful display. The time has now arrived for the swap to summer bedding but, with plenty of flowering left in them, the violas have been distributed and planted in gardens and beds throughout the village. The daffodils have been lifted and will be stored for re-use next spring. CK is expanding the array of wall-top troughs, with a couple more at the top of the village on Balfron Road and we are seeking Council approval to put some opposite the Outdoor Classroom on Main Street. Wildflower patches at the Co-op “island”, the Village Hall and the Sports Pavilion are more or less established and showing a diversity of species, which will continue to evolve over the years.

The Courier – still intending to publish the August edition, which will highlight the changes and challenges wrought upon the village and its people by Covid-19. Production is in full swing despite the editorial difficulties.

Fireworks – still provisionally booked in for this year, but with considerable uncertainty over how responsible and viable the display would be under current circumstances. Decision time will be later in the summer, when further payments and license applications fall due.

Heritage Trail – groundwork continuing, with design and content of the information boards being finalised and the website constructed. The launch has been delayed until Spring next year.

Paths Group – obviously workparties have not been possible, but individual action on path clearing and litter picking has occurred throughout the Spring. Use of the path network has increased substantially, with large numbers walking and cycling throughout the village and beyond. The impact of this on degradation and erosion will be assessed for future improvement works. Behind-the-scenes work on the Killearn/Boquhan path has continued to establish the exact route and detailed design for construction to commence when possible.

Sustainability Group – had to cancel the planned Eco Fayre in May. Group members have been very active in providing support to vulnerable villagers and in undertaking food deliveries and pick-ups. Funding from Energy Saving Trust Scotland has been secured to purchase four electric bikes to launch a loan (try before you buy) scheme in the village. The intention is for this to become active over the summer.

Village Hall – with no income and substantial overheads, the Hall Committee have been taking what measures they can to limit costs while still maintaining the fabric of the building and high standard of presentation. Possible use of the Hall by Stirling Council Education unfortunately came to nothing, but hopefully community activities and weddings will be able to resume later in the year. The space is there and available if anyone has a creative (and safe) idea of how to use it!

Mike Gray, Convenor.