



Convenors Report Annual General Meeting 26th October 2023

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the incorporation of KCFC. Over the last two decades there have been a number of significant achievements of which we all should be proud. However looking forward, there are challenges and opportunities that we need to meet head on to ensure the next 20 years are as successful.

We need to broaden our membership and, as the proposed resolution sets out, we need to increase our subscription. Success in both of those will only follow if awareness of KCFC is increased and if the village feel we are worth the effort. Our 20th Anniversary and the development of the Local Place Plan present a real opportunity for a focused short life working group to help review and revise our operations to ensure that KCFC remains relevant and valued.

It is planned that the Board will establish this working group to develop a 7 point plan to be implemented over the next two years. The working group will report to the Board and be drawn from all ages and all sectors of our village. We are a village with an enormous pool of capabilities and talents and we must find ways to draw upon that pool for all our our benefits. Successful realisation of the plan will safeguard KCFC's position as a viable and vibrant component of life in Killearn. The objectives of the 7 point plan shall be:

- To work with others and develop our Local Place Plan
- To use LPP consultation and engagement to understand what else matters to our village.
- To reaffirm and refine the vision and objectives for KCFC
- To increase awareness of and knowledge about KCFC
- To increase membership of and involvement with KCFC
- To strengthen the links within KCFC and across other village organisations and societies.
- To strengthen the links with other villages in the south west of Stirling

1 Local Place Plan

Currently KCFC is working with the Community Council and The trust to develop a shared vision with a Local Place Plan. This is a proposal by a community body about the development and use of land in their community. These plans are a way for communities to set out their aspirations for how their local places might look in the future. By producing an LPP, a community will take a proactive role in the development planning process because a planning authority must consider valid LPPs when preparing a local development plan. A LPP working group with membership of KCFC, KCC, the Trust and other key stakeholders will meet monthly to progress this work. Critical to its success will be a range of engagement and consultations to ensure we capture and reflect what those who live and work in the village think both about the place plan and about other council activities on transport and climate change.

2 What else does the village think; what matters to its residents.

While a place plan looks at the development planning process, the underlying consultation can be used to capture far more about what we think as a village. We can capture our present challenges

and our future hopes and fears. While many people suffer from survey fatigue by ensuring that we take an integrated approach across a range of engagements we should limit this issue but still maximise our understanding of our village. We can then use that understanding to inform our future plans as a community futures company

3 Reaffirm vision and objectives for KCFC

Going back to our Memo and Arts; They are relevant and we are following their terms. We “*provide facilities for recreation and leisure time*”, we “*preserve, restore and improve the environment*”, we “*promote and operate schemes for the benefit of the community*”. But how relevant, important and urgent is all that we do? What are we not doing that is a real need within the village? Building on the findings from the consultation we can revisit our 2015 review. How many of our objectives have we realised? How many of those objectives need reassessed and rewritten to meet the fresh changes and challenges that have since emerged?

4 Increase awareness of and knowledge about KCFC

Too few people are aware of what KCFC is, even fewer are aware of why it is. What it does for the village, what it does for them. For the most engaged that knowledge should lead to greater participation, for those with other priorities sheer self interest – wanting to protect their property prices and to maintain our status as one of Scotland’s 4 most desirable villages – should surely be worth a tenner a year. But we need to ensure they know about KCFC and we need to demonstrate we are more than just the sum of the groups.

5 Increase membership of and involvement with KCFC

We need to have a real drive to we attract a higher number of members to KCFC. In a village of 2,000 people we have about 5% membership of KCFC, we should be much closer to 50%. This is the third step. We need to ensure we are relevant. We need to ensure we are visible. We need to get more members and we need to get those members to get involved.

6 Ensure better linkages for KCFC Groups

The Courier is integrated by design, it works hard to ensure its coverage extends to all the different groups and activities within the Killearn. The Village Hall is integrated by default, a high percentage of village groups’ activity is in the main hall or the garden room. For all other KCFC groups it is a mixed report card. We need to strengthen the links between different groups both within KCFC and across the full spectrum of village organisations. There is some great connectivity but there are also some real opportunities that we have not yet seized but which we need to embed.

7 Ensure links with other villages

There are already strengthening links with many of our sister villages (Strathblane, Balfron, Drymen); the re-establishment of the South West forum for community councils and the establishment of West Stirling Settlements for climate change groups are good foundations. Activities like Strathendrick Rugby Club and the G63 Food Growers were founded on the belief of what teamwork and collaboration can achieve. However there is much more we should be doing both in joint working and in raising a unified voice in engagement with Stirling Council and other entities.... and that takes us back to where we began at Local Place Plans

We need to invest in our volunteers and our village so we can safeguard our facilities and our future “Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”