

20th August 2016
KILMACOLM CIVIC TRUST INPUT IN RESPONSE TO
REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENTS IDEAS FOR KILMACOLM VILLAGE CENTRE

The Kilmacolm Civic Trust offer the following ideas for discussion at the Kilmacolm Community Council Meeting on 30th August 2016.

1. The pavements in the centre of Kilmacolm Village are a disgrace.

The surfaces are badly cracked low quality concrete and spotty tarmac on Lochwinnoch Road/Port Glasgow Road/Bridge of Weir Road.

The centre of the village is a conservation area!! We believe that simple steps can and should be taken/executed to enhance the area.

Several years ago the town of Renfrew did a wonderful job to upgrade the dreadful, dilapidated, rundown, shabby appearance of the central part of their town (see images at Annex). A few years later Greenock did a similar thing to the area of Cathcart Street/Cathcart Square (see images at Annex). In more recent times (the last two years) Port Glasgow has also had an upgrade (see images at Annex of what it looks like now). If they can do it – we should be able to achieve an upgrade too!!

The style that we are particularly keen on is the idea of the use of an interlocking pattern of **granite** slabs for our pavements; and also, for short time vehicle parking on the designated ‘short-stay’ parking areas on Lochwinnoch Rd, Port Glasgow Rd and Bridge of Weir Rd.

2. The very tall and utilitarian regulation street lamps in the centre of the village are ugly and detract from the Victorian/Edwardian character of their environment. The numerous traffic speed, and parking prohibition signs on poles are also an ugly sight.

It would be nice if something could be done to bring some joy to the stark and bleak appearance of the street-scape by lowering the eye level with the introduction of useful replicas of the very pleasant looking Victorian/Edwardian style street gas lamps that used to be functional features of the village centre. They could be installed in a number of places: Market place; The Piazza; and here and there in imaginative locations on the pavements outside the shops on Lochwinnoch/Port Glasgow/Bridge of Weir roads. If SP Energy cannot be persuaded to put low-energy lighting in them (which they probably would balk at) the Horticultural Society or Colourful Kilmacolm would probably love them and be able to use them to great effect during the ‘growing seasons of the year’. And wouldn’t they be wonderful places to install really lovely, pleasing Christmas lighting instead of the boring, cold looking, cheerless, uninspiring silver/blue things that Inverclyde Council install for us each ‘festive season’ (the Christmas tree lighting looks very boring, cold and sinister too!).

3. Park Benches in Birkmyre Park.

There have for many years been pleasant looking/functional park benches in various parts of Birkmyre Park. People use them – except for one bench which used to be a favourite, but which can no longer be used because it has been derelict for some years. It is in a delightful spot. It overlooks the old millpond, the farmland beyond, and way out to the Renfrewshire hills. Inverclyde Council have not repaired or replaced it. Perhaps nobody has ever told them about its condition (see the images at Annex).

4. **A Small (discreet) Roundabout at The Cross to reduce traffic speed.**

We have suggested this before, over the years, but the 'Roads Department' have on each occasion ruled that it is 'not viable'. We do not accept this. They are no doubt hidebound by their rulebook and therefore unimaginative and inflexible.

Despite 30mph speed restriction signs on the outskirts to the village, and '20mph is Plenty' advisory signs in the very centre of the village many drivers are oblivious to the reasons for them, do not 'see' them, ignore them and travel through the centre of the village far too fast – particularly on Port Glasgow/Bridge of Weir Roads. It will not be long before somebody is knocked down/badly injured/killed. It is generally only in those circumstances that 'Roads Departments' anywhere in the UK take note and 'do something' (but always too late!).

We yet again suggest that a small (discreet) roundabout at The Cross would help to reduce traffic speed at the centre of the village on Port Glasgow/Bridge of Weir Road and force drivers to be more considered of pedestrians (particularly the elderly, and mothers with prams, or with young children on foot/prams/scooters or small bicycles) trying to get across the road. Many, many drivers pay no attention to the two designated pedestrian crossing points on these roads and thunder through in their self-important haste.

Two places where small, discreet roundabouts have been created and are very very successful in slowing traffic (because it **has to** slow down) are: **(1) The very heart of Edinburgh** at the 4-way junction of **Market St (from both sides) with Waverley Bridge/Cockburn St** (see image at Annex), and **Port Glasgow** (see image at Annex).

If it can be introduced in EDINBURGH (successfully), and Port Glasgow (also to the benefit of many) it cannot be beyond the wit of the Inverclyde Roads Department to use a bit of imagination and do the same for the benefit of Kilmacolm (**or, if the Roads Department persist in resistance to the idea, for Inverlyde Council leaders to tell them to do it**).

Images Annex to KCT 'Ideas' Paper:

See Annex A.

- Images 1 - 3 (Renfrew)
- Images 5 - 7 (Greenock)
- Images 8 - 10 (Port Glasgow)
- Images 11 - 12 (Birkmyre Park Bench)
- Images 13 - 14 (Small, discreet, roundabouts in Edinburgh and Port Glasgow)