

Revitalising Kilbirnie – proposed Bay Road upgrade 2012

This information sheet provides an update on the proposal to revitalise Kilbirnie town centre and outlines the work that is proposed in 2012.

You may remember that the Council adopted the *Kilbirnie Town Centre Revitalisation Plan* in August 2010. The plan was developed with help from the local community, interest groups, organisations and businesses.

The plan outlines a long-term vision for a more vibrant town centre. It includes:

- better quality public spaces and amenities
- more people using the area's shops and facilities
- more people living and working in the area
- better access to public transport
- improved pedestrian and cycle access.

The plan identifies a mix of potential development opportunities to help revitalise the centre – some to be achieved within the next five years, and some to be achieved over a longer timeframe. The Council will not be able to achieve this change by ourselves so we plan to work closely with the community, businesses, investors and other others to improve the town centre.

Council's initial focus is on improving the look and feel of the main shopping street, Bay Road. This is an important first step in making the shopping centre more attractive and welcoming to residents and people from surrounding suburbs to visit, shop in and do business.

Some of the aims of the improvements include:

- Establishing a sense of identity and vibrancy for Kilbirnie, including a stronger coastal character
- Celebrating and endorsing Kilbirnie's 'high-street, small-scale character
- Creating more social space in the town centre for people shopping, visiting or working
- Improving accessibility and connectivity for all.

Bay Road upgrade – what's proposed?

The upgrade will focus on Bay Road, making it more attractive, safe and welcoming. It will focus on three key areas:

1. Pedestrian crossing points:

- by the big pohutukawa tree (see indicative picture below)
- by the community centre
- a new crossing point at the Bay Road-Coutts Street junction.

The area by the big pohutukawa tree is an important space on Bay Road. We're going to make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross here. There will be more space for pedestrians, more landscaping and seating.

We are also going to improve the crossing point at the community centre. We want pedestrians to be able to cross safely and more easily at this point so we will be narrowing the road and raising the crossing to slow traffic.



Indicative illustrative view south along Bay Road toward new 'Pohutakawa' crossing and space

2. The central main street area

We would like to improve the footpaths and public space in the central Bay Road area (between the two pedestrian crossings) by:

- widening the footpaths to improve accessibility for all
- traffic calming through landscaping and crossing points
- creating flexible space in the central 'heart' for markets/festivals
- improving public space around crossing points and meeting areas.



Indicative illustrative view north along the wide footpath in the 'heart of the high street'

3. The Coutts Street and Bay Road corner

The Coutts Street/Bay Road corner is the southern gateway to the shopping centre. Currently this space is being used as a car park. We would like to convert it into an attractive outdoor space, where markets and other events could happen.

Cabbage trees, coastal plants, lighting and seating would help improve the appearance of this area and make it a space that people want to use. The accessway would stay and so would three car parks. We also want to make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross Bay Road in this location so we will be creating a new crossing point.



Indicative illustrative view north across Coutts-Bay corner public space and shared surface and along Bay Road

In line with the proposed upgrade works, there will also be changes made to car parking layouts and time limits to help support businesses and customers.

When will the proposed work begin?

At the moment we are developing detailed design plans for the upgrade works which will then be costed. We plan to start construction in midway through this year. While there will be some disruption to access and parking during the construction work we will do everything possible to minimise disruption during this time.

More information

- If you would like to find out more about the Bay Road upgrade, please visit Council's website Wellington.govt.nz or phone 499 4444.
- If you have specific questions about the project, please email KilbirnieTownCentre@wcc.govt.nz or phone 499 4444.