

Petition: Officers' Response

Title: We, the Undersigned wish the Kilbirnie \ Lyall Bay Community Centre to remain on its existing site.

Primary Petitioners: Michael Taylor (Chair, Management Committee) and Beryl Smith (Community Co-ordinator)

Total Signatures: 443

Presented by: The Primary Petitioners – Michael Taylor and Beryl Smith

Contact officer: Sherilyn Gray – Senior Strategic Advisor

Director responsible: Teena Pennington, Director – Strategy, Planning and Urban Design

Officers' recommendation:

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the petition.*
2. *Agree to refer the petition to officers to inform their work in relation to the Kilbirnie Town Centre Revitalisation Plan, as well as the implementation of the Community Facilities Policy.*

Background:

The paper petition regarding the siting of the Kilbirnie Lyall Bay Community Centre was initiated in response to the Kilbirnie Town Centre Draft Revitalisation Plan which was publicly consulted on between 18 May and 21 June 2010.

The Draft Revitalisation Plan included reference to two potential future options for the location of the Kilbirnie Lyall Bay Community Centre – one being to redevelop the Centre on its present site; the other being to integrate the Centre into the community hub on Kilbirnie Crescent.

The purpose of the petition is to request that the Community Centre be retained on its existing site.

The paper petition was placed (unmanned) outside the Community Centre for people to sign. It was also made available at the public meeting organised by the Kilbirnie Lyall Bay Residents Association on the 8 June. The petition has a total of 443 signatures.

Officers' response:

The Kilbirnie Town Centre Draft Revitalisation Plan is a high-level strategic planning document that helps deliver on the City's approach to urban development set out by the Council's Urban Development Strategy (2006) and the Centres Policy (2008). The Kilbirnie Town Centre Revitalisation Plan will be considered by SPC on 19 August 2010. The purpose of this will be to report back on the consultation and to present a final town centre plan for adoption.

The purpose of the Revitalisation Plan is to show how the Kilbirnie town centre and its surrounds can be revitalised and enhanced, creating an attractive, vibrant, people-friendly and prosperous part of the City. The plan includes a series of goals to help guide future development within and around the town centre, and identifies thirteen key opportunities for revitalising Kilbirnie town centre.

The opportunities were identified during the community-based planning and design workshops held in August 2009. Further work has been carried out to better understand their feasibility and the actions required to realise each opportunity. Importantly, the opportunities are conceptual in nature – they are not intended to represent actual development outcomes. Their purpose is to show how the town centre strategy could be realised if the conditions were right, and to provide an illustration of the sort of development outcomes that might be achieved over time.

The Draft Plan identifies the opportunity that exists as part of the overall revitalisation of the Kilbirnie town centre area to better integrate the planning of community buildings and activities. Regarding the Community Centre, the Plan identifies two options in terms of its future potential location and development:

1. Redevelopment of the Centre on its existing Bay Road site.
2. Integration of the Centre into the community hub at Kilbirnie Crescent.

The draft plan does not favour one option over the other, but is written in such a way so that the feasibility (costs and benefits) of each option can be considered at an appropriate time as part of the implementation of the Community Facilities Policy.

Consideration of the options for upgrading the Kilbirnie Lyall Bay Community Centre will not take place until 2015/16. Funding is identified in 2015/16 for a feasibility study of the upgrade options. Any construction works related to the upgrade of the Community Centre will not take place until after the completion of this study – at this stage \$3.730m of funding is identified towards the end of the ten year period from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

In regards to the references in the town centre plan to the possible upgrade of the Community Centre, an additional advisory note will be added to page 26 of the plan (under '*Opportunity 6 – Community facilities integration*') which will be considered by SPC on the 19 August. The purpose of this note is to clarify that the Plan is not favouring one option over the other, but that all options regarding the Centre's future need to be thoroughly considered at the appropriate time to ensure the Centre meets the community's needs and also helps contribute to the revitalisation of Kilbirnie town centre.