

The Executive Committee continues to have regular, bi-monthly, meetings at the Cargill Community Centre in Kilmacolm. Our latest meeting was held on Thursday 29th January 2026. We have sixteen very active and enthusiastic committee members with a good range of ages in the team. Four members of the Committee live in Quarriers Village.

We consider and discuss a wide variety of topics. These include the architectural merit and acceptability (or otherwise) of Planning Applications that are submitted to Inverclyde Council during the course of each year. During 2025, the Committee considered a total of fifty one planning applications and made formal objections to Inverclyde Council in the case of four of them. We had no objections in the remaining cases, although we sent constructive comments to Inverclyde Council on some of them. Our key focus at present is the production, and submission to Inverclyde Council, of what is called 'The Kilmacolm/Quarriers Local Place Plan'. During 2025 the KCT, in conjunction with the Kilmacolm and Quarriers Community Council, formed a 'Steering Group' to organize a 'Local Place Plan' (LPP) for our area, to be presented to Inverclyde Council for consideration in the Council's deliberations for their 2026 Inverclyde Local Development Plan. Following the Scottish Executive's latest planning guidelines this is now the only way to influence the Local and National Government's planning process. The KCT continues to oppose large-scale housing development plans on Green Belt land in the Kilmacolm/Quarriers and Local Area. Production of our LPP is progressing. We expect to have a Draft Place Plan ready in the next three or four weeks after a Steering Group meeting with Inverclyde Council, and to submit the Final to Inverclyde Council by the end of April this year.

Over the last few years the membership of the Kilmacolm and Quarriers Civic Trust has reduced considerably. Interest and support is still high, but this is not reflected in membership figures. The Trust is looking for ways to make the process of joining much easier, removing the need to fill in a mandate form. This would mean that the only information needed would be Name and e-mail and perhaps an Address.

The archive has recently sent a large number of items to a digitising service. About 1,000 images will appear on-line in some four to six weeks. The items, themselves, are either donated or collected over the last five

years. The descriptions of these items appear in the 'search facility' of the archive with numbers beginning with 211 and 212.

Amongst these is a thirty one page paper on James Austin Laird, architect, who designed and built over sixty houses in Kilmacolm.

There is also a copy of the first ever Kilmacolm Advertiser of 8th September 1900, and an old book of photographs of Kilmacolm pre 1900's.

The AGM of the Trust is always accompanied by a talk or lecture. This year, at the end of April, we hope to have an event discussing the various house styles in Kilmacolm.

Use the Kilmacolm and Quarriers Civic Trust website:
kilmacolmcivictrust.org.