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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date: 16 January 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No: ERC/RT/GMcF/18.610</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Gail MacFarlane</b>	<b>Contact No: 01475 714800</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Kilmacolm Parking Consultation</b>	

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise on the outcome of the public consultation on proposed parking locations in Kilmacolm village centre.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 A public consultation was undertaken after a study was carried out to review the parking demands in Kilmacolm Village Centre and found that there was a need for some additional parking in the village. The public consultation period was carried out from Monday 21 October to Sunday 17 November 2019 and there was a drop in event on the evening of Wednesday 23 October 2019 where respondents completed a questionnaire either online or in paper form and then handed in to the Kilmacolm Library or on the drop in evening. The drop-in allowed people to ask questions about the proposed sites. A total of 150 completed questionnaires were received.
- 2.2 The consultation looked at the 3 suggested locations which were recommended from the meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee on 7 March 2019.
- 2.3 These sites were identified as:
- Behind Old Police Station on Lochwinnoch Road
  - Multi-level on Lochwinnoch Road
  - Corner of Moss Road/Gillburn Road
- 2.4 This report outlines the findings of the consultation, outlines the options available and the implications.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 After the public consultation exercise to consider public opinion on the location and anticipated usage of the proposed car parks on Lochwinnoch Road with access from Bridge of Weir Road and Moss Road/Gillburn Road it is recommended that the Environment & Regeneration Committee:
- Remits to the Head of Service – Roads and Transportation to carry out a design and cost for the top two preferred options of the corner of Moss Road and Gillburn Road and behind the Old Police Station.
  - Notes that a report will be brought to a future Environment & Regeneration Committee detailing the outcome of the detailed design.

**Gail MacFarlane**  
**Head of Service – Roads & Transportation**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A study was undertaken to review the existing parking provision and parking demands in Kilmacolm Village Centre. The study included parking surveys to identify occupancy rates, duration of stay, incidences of illegal parking, etc. and on and off-street parking.
- 4.2 As a result of the study a small shortfall in parking was identified. It identified a need for 24 parking spaces. This is generally the result of long stay parking in Lochwinnoch Road Car Park.
- 4.3 The study considered where a new car park could be constructed close to the Village Centre which could accommodate this demand. Several locations were identified and at the meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee on 7 March 2019 it was agreed that the following sites should be considered by a public consultation to seek the opinion of the public of their preferred site:

Location	Spaces	Comments
Old Police Station	44	Access to and from the site could be challenging. May be too far from the Village Centre to encourage people to park here.
Lochwinnoch Road Multi-storey	34	Within the heart of the Village with good links to the Village facilities. Could provide medium and long stay parking to cater for a variety of needs.
Moss Road/ Gillburn Road	31	Within reasonable walking distance of Village facilities.

- 4.4 The public consultation was held between 21 October and 17 November 2019 where an online questionnaire was made available and paper surveys were available in the library.

A public consultation evening was held in the Kilmacolm New Community Centre on Wednesday 23 October 2019 where paper surveys were available and members of the public had the opportunity to visit, view the proposals and ask questions of Council officers.

### Consultation Findings

- 4.5 A total of 150 completed questionnaires were returned, from online and paper questionnaires that were returned to Kilmacolm Library or collected on the evening of the consultation event in the Kilmacolm New Community Centre.
- 4.6 In answer to ranking 1 to 4 (1 being the most preferred) of what car park option the respondents would prefer the results were as follows:  
The overall score is calculated by assigning 4 points to rank 1, 3 points to rank 2, 2 points to rank 3 and 1 point to rank 4.  
Example  
 $R1 \times 4 + R2 \times 3 + R3 \times 2 + R4 \times 1 = \text{Score}$   
 $47 \times 4 + 20 \times 3 + 16 \times 2 + 8 \times 1 = 288$

Location	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Rear of old police station	47	20	16	8	91	288
Multi-level on Lochwinnoch Road	30	15	27	7	79	226
Corner of Moss Road/Gillburn Road	49	33	10	1	93	316
No additional parking required	22	1	7	31	61	136

4.7 When asked when they would use it, the reply was:

Time	Response
Morning	87.20%
Afternoon	85.60%
Evening	48.80%

4.8 When asked how often they would use it, the reply was:

Time	Response
Daily	24.43%
Few times a week	53.44%
Once a week	8.40%
Less frequent	13.74%

4.9 When asked how long they would use it for, the response was:

Duration	Response
Less than 3 hours	85.94%
3 hours or more	14.06%

4.10 Of the respondents they identified themselves as:

	Percentage of Respondents
Resident	87.94%
Business	2.13%
Regular Visitor	4.96%
Occasional Visitor	0.71%
Other	4.26%

4.11 Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide further comments in relation to parking. The feedback for each site was:

Behind Old Police Station

- Old Police Station is on a greenbelt. Several years ago the "Save Milton Wood" campaign fought to preserve this area.
- If the car park is approved here it will open the application for more housing on other green belt elsewhere in Kilmacolm.
- It would mean traffic using part of a Core Path used by schools, walkers, dog walkers and horses as a "safe pedestrian route".
- It is not close enough to the shops.
- Both entrance and exit to the car park has a bad line of sight.
- There has already been a young female fatality on the Bridge site several years ago when there were a much smaller car/transport number of cars in the village.
- It will need surveillance for safety reasons as the area is not overlooked and there is already undesirable activity in the Woods - from drugs use, fires and alcohol bottles etc.
- With traffic backed up turning right and left it will cause unnecessary pollution in an otherwise green wooded area, plus make the homes there into a roundabout.
- Light pollution will affect the wildlife and public causing great disruption to daily living.

### Lochwinnoch Road

- Making the existing Lochwinnoch Road Car Park a 'double decker', would look far too modern set within the historic village centre. It would detract from the huge amount of successful work having renovated the Community Centre building and the Library/GP's etc. and blight the centre visually.
- Such a construction would be detrimental to the sensitively developed Cargill Centre, with loss of daylight affecting many of the Community Centre rooms.
- To build another level here is contrary to the ethos of a Conservation area, which the centre of our village has been designated.
- Bridge of Weir Road is too busy with heavy traffic often travelling at excessive speeds in both directions. An entrance/exit on this road would be dangerous.
- Lochwinnoch Road (an additional tier, tastefully designed and engineered) to complement the conservation area would be ideal. There would be no land purchase costs.
- There would inevitably be considerable disruption to traffic around the centre of the village and a requirement for the entire car park to be closed for some length of time during construction.
- This proposed project would no doubt be very costly.

### Corner of Moss Road/Gillburn Road

- A Gillburn Road/Moss Road Car Park would be a great idea for the residents who park outside their front gates, which cause congestion and a danger to pedestrians all day and night.
- It is only a short distance to walk to shops and doctor's surgery.
- It will probably be used by residents nearby as many do not have parking available except on the street meaning it will not help the parking issue for visiting the shops in the centre.
- Construction cost may be prohibitive i.e. retaining walls etc.
- The car park looks very narrow.
- It is too close to residential properties and would cause too much disruption.
- It seems to be the safest one as it does not enter/exit on to a main road.

4.12 Along with feedback for each site, we received further comments and suggestions about the parking issues within the village centre such as:

- The types of people who drive from nearby are unlikely to walk to the shops from Moss Road or the former police station.
- I think parking and car use should be discouraged as far as possible. Lochwinnoch Road on street parking could be repurposed for disabled parking and move other spaces further from shopping areas.
- Close 100 yards of Lochwinnoch Road and 'Pedestrianise' the shopping area. Then build any of the proposed car parks on the perimeter and shoppers will have to use one of them!
- We need far safer driving traffic lights at the cross & proper safe crossings for pedestrians (& the disabled).
- Make long stay and short stay car parks.
  - Max 2 or 3 hours stay at Lochwinnoch Road car park
  - Placing a charge for over 2 or 3 hours parking
  - Free all day parking at a car park further from the centre like behind police station to encourage drivers who leave their vehicles to all day for work purposes to free up the car parking in the centre.
- There should be residents' parking.
- Parking meters and wardens would create more space and fewer hazards. The wardens help especially by clearing those who park on single/double yellow lines.

- Parking was better when discs were in operation.
- Opening up the square on Lochwinnoch Road for car parking during the week.
- The main Bridge of Weir Road near to the surgeries should have yellow lines. This is a bus route and parking on both sides narrows the road to a dangerous level, and encourages pavement parking too. Let's see more control measures in place.
- Another alternative, as the churches will combine in the near future knock down one of the church halls and create a new car park there
- To solve all the parking issues within Kilmacolm is to implement all three schemes.

### Overall Findings

- 4.13 The overall consensus was that there is a parking issue within the Village Centre and consideration should be given to additional parking.
- 4.14 The most preferred location is on the corner of Moss Road and Gilburn Road and the majority of the visitors to the village centre are residents who have said they will be using it for 3 hours or less in the morning and afternoon.
- 4.15 Consulting with Regeneration and Planning they have commented that the proposed car park behind the Old Police Station was associated with a then proposed new school campus and it was part of a campaign by the residents of Kilmacolm to stop any works in the Milton Woods area. For this reason they believe there will be a lot of opposition to this proposal. They said that, as the site is within the Green Belt, appropriate justification would have to be provided for its development. Their initial thoughts are that it is not a site they would support.
- 4.16 Regeneration and Planning have also mentioned that the site in Gillburn Road probably offers more potential being within the built-up area but this view is based on a desktop assessment as they have not visited the site. Any planning application would have to go through neighbour notification and they believe there would be objections from neighbouring residents with regard to noise and activity. With that in mind, they therefore also have reservations about the suitability of this site.
- 4.17 A detailed design process of the two top options of Gillburn Road and Moss Road and behind the Old Police Station is recommended to identify any engineering issues with the site and to estimate the cost of the construction.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

- 5.1 There will be a cost to undertake a detailed design and construction of the preferred car park option.

#### One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
02506	Parking Strategy Revenue	20/21	£25,000		Detailed design

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>With Effect from</b>	<b>Annual Net Impact £000</b>	<b>Virement From (If Applicable)</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>

**Legal**

5.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

**Human Resources**

5.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

**Equalities**

5.4 There are no equality issues arising from this report.

**Repopulation**

5.5 There are no repopulation implications arising from this report.

**6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted on this report.

**7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.