



Monday November 28th 2016

The Committee of Milngavie Heritage Centre wishes to submit the following to the current Town Centres Strategies consultation. It can be regarded as a specific response to the following thread in the On-Line survey:

8. What do you feel are the 3 biggest challenges or requirements for Milngavie town centre?

List item 10: Improved visitor and tourism facilities:

9. Do you have any suggestions regarding ways to address these challenges or requirements in Milngavie town centre?

Our two suggestions are:

1. A permanent space for Milngavie Heritage Centre.
2. Improved publicity in the pedestrian precinct for Milngavie's distinctive heritage and cultural assets

1. Premises for Milngavie Heritage Centre

We wrote the following in November 2013 in our response to the Main Issues Report : http://www.milngavieheritage.org/MHC_MIR.pdf

“Since 2011, The Heritage Centre Group has mounted a series of highly successful exhibitions, well-researched and well-attended, using temporarily rented accommodation. In any future re-modelling of council properties providing public facilities, serious consideration should be given to providing permanent space for a Heritage exhibition.”

To this should be added space for essential activities such as storage, conservation and cataloguing. (We note that virtually all the many donors to the Centre's collections have specified that their gifts must be made readily available in Milngavie.) In effect this would be a mini-museum for Milngavie and the surrounding area, reflecting the Heritage provision at Kirkintilloch Town Hall.

“Such a facility, a significant visitor attraction, could share premises with library, gallery or community hub. It would augment the footfall both of any partner and of the wider town centre and present an outstanding example of collaboration between public and voluntary sectors”.

The list of possibilities for premise-sharing should now include the proposed Gavin's Mill Community Project, which we hope East Dunbartonshire Council will strongly support.

2. Improved publicity for Heritage assets in the pedestrian precinct

The Heritage Centre is extremely gratified that in the new Development Plan, the designated Town Centre has been expanded as we and others suggested, to contain within its limits, presently excluded buildings which contribute to footfall and Milngavie's special identity: e.g. Town Hall and Art Gallery, Primary School and Railway Station. See again:

http://www.milngavieheritage.org/MHC_MIR.pdf

However, visitors to Milngavie, whether for example shoppers attracted by the much coveted attractive ambience of the precinct, those on day-trips for local walks, or walkers intent on one or other of the several long distance routes which converge in Milngavie, could be better served with information about, and pointers to Milngavie's Heritage (and natural and cultural) assets.

Something of this could be achieved digitally, via "Our Buzz Milngavie".

<http://www.ourbuzz.co.uk/milngavie/>

However, we suggest it calls for a new centrally-located town map, covering a greater area than the present one, to include assets just outwith the central retail area. It could also include illustrations and brief explanatory text and be duplicated at the railway station.

Milngavie's peripherally-located assets which could benefit from enhanced central publicity could include:

Lillie Art Gallery, (including details of current exhibitions) with Town Hall, and Court Room
 Gavin's Mill
 Victorian Railway Station
 Milngavie Primary School
 Waterfall and Fish Pass
 Milngavie Library and Community Education Centre
 Lennox and Allander Parks
 Milngavie Reservoirs

Besides Milngavie Heritage Centre, a variety of community groups and others should contribute to populating such a new map.

Chairman: Councillor Eric Gotts, Secretary Don Martin