

Some of the Feedback after Conference

Morning Chair – Kinlay Laidlaw

Dear Esther,

Many congratulations for an enjoyable and successful conference today and thanks for inviting me to participate. I'm sorry I had to leave before the end as I would have liked to hear and contribute to the conclusions. Will you be able to arrange to summarise the outcomes on the website?

Everyone I spoke to at lunch – speakers and attendees were very impressed with the talks and said it improved their awareness of the considerable assistance & support available. It was certainly very useful CPD for me which I hope to put into practice and I'm sure it served its purpose very well as learning & inspiration to community groups and SAC.

Best wishes

Kinlay

Phil Prentice – STP Speaker

Esther, just a quick thank you for arranging such a good event yesterday.

If this sort of positive relationship can be maintained between key stakeholders then I think things will start looking up pretty quickly.

Well done for organising all of this - perhaps the stimulus that the town needed

Regards

Phil

Phil Prentice

Chief Officer

Scotland's Towns Partnership

Malcolm Cowie – Speaker Asset Transfer from Community Empowerment Scottish Government.



Feedback from the end 30 minute discussion on Ayr Town Centre from Alistair who chaired PM session.

Hi Esther

I hope you get some good feedback from yesterday. I have noted down the key points that came out of the concluding discussion.

- Keep the best and lose the rest (Esther)
- Save the Station (Most people)
- Get people living in the Centre (Man with beard)
- Wider retail picture / Circular economy / Current negativity (young businessman – Alan Moore?)
- Ayr needs co-ordination of various masterplans / studies, including a vacant land audit (Rebecca Caddie)
- Car parking organisation / does it have Ringo system? (Lady with green dress) – Douglas Campbell indicated it did.
- Shopping better out of town (middle aged lady).
- Lack of Hotels / attract young people / work together (Various)

Alistair Scott Architect and Consultant

David Henderson – Speaker, COSS

Hi Esther

Thanks for the invite yesterday. Hope you felt the day was useful.

I didn't want to say anything at the end because it was for your communities to speak but my thoughts were that while people were thinking of the bigger picture strategic stuff e.g. more housing in the town, parking etc, absentee landlords etc there is room for a more community based response.

There is a bit of that in Glasgow with the 'Stalled Spaces' programme. Local groups being encouraged to adopt/use unwanted and apparently 'unloved' patches of land.

Best of luck

David

Una Richards - SHBT

Dear Esther,

With many thanks for pulling together yesterday's conference – it was one of the most interesting ones that I have attended for some time and the range of speakers were very useful in looking at Ayr as a whole to give some thought as to what could be done. It was also very good that the Council leader came along and updated people on the Station Hotel – let's hope that the report is issued soon.

I also met someone who I didn't catch his name briefly who is working on the Kyle Centre and looking at a new cinema. I suggested that he might look at the existing cinema and referred him to our work on the Hippodrome and also the Dominion in Edinburgh and take the opportunity to create a destination, but not sure how keen he was – John Scott MSP seemed to know him, so if you can find out who he is, he might be someone worth having a longer chat to.

My takeaways from the conference were substantial and meeting Alan Moore who appears to be the younger generation in trying to get something done in the High Street was quite inspirational. He has some good ideas about taking over a number of shops to provide tourist services and information on what is on in Ayr as a one stop shop as well as organising some events/tours which might attract people back into the town centre at night.

My takeaway from yesterday are:

- it might be worthwhile approaching Philip Prentice from Scotland's Towns Partnership to see whether they might do an audit of Ayr to pull together the various reports which have already been undertaken and pull together what could be used as a masterplan for future development, which could also feed into a rationalisation of where the shops are placed and whether there is any scope for persuading some shops to move back into the Town Centre, thereby freeing up some of the back areas for different development. It seems that if you have the backing of Phil and his group, this might be able to influence both the government and the local authority to do something and have the facts to support this.
- In tandem with the above, it might be useful to have an audit of all the historic buildings within the town centre.
- The above might also feed into the development plan that the council are working on for the Town Centre

Well done Esther, it was brilliant and was a very positive contribution to the discussions in Ayr.

With all good wishes and look forward to a catch up when we get the Structural Report.

Rebecca – Participant

Hi Esther

It was very good to see the turn out yesterday for the conference and the quality of the speakers and the subjects covered was very strong for helping to see Ayr in the context of current issues and concerns of town centres. very re-assuring to see you are getting positive feedback from those who spoke and attended. Hopefully there will be positive action that Ayr can work on in collaboration with the council and their plans and feasibility studies.

Regards,

Rebecca

Michael – Participant and committee member

Thank you Esther for pushing it all together – an excellent day enjoyed by all and we made good new contacts as well as renewing old contacts.

Michael

Robert – Participant

In the 'Spirit of cooperation' as discussed yesterday at the Town Centre Conference and the call for collaboration, Fresh Ayr CIC would like to invite you to our current project BREAD arts lab - www.freshayr.co.uk.

Robert – Participant and SAC employee

Esther,

You really did well with that meeting today

It was very good indeed and the speakers were excellent

So many thanks for doing that and thanks for the invite

You said that some of the speakers were going to leave copies of their speeches etc, if they have left any of these with you, I'd be grateful to get a copy

Just so I can make some bullet points from the entire meeting (I did get some extensive notes myself, but just so I can distil it to bullet points for my boss)

Congrats....you can now have a well earned rest...

Harry – Participant and committee member Action Group

Esther

The meeting was good. The conference showed a lot of people the way forward.