

Forehill, Holmston & Masonhill Community Council

Article by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick for inclusion in the annual newsletter/update on the CC webpage

I am hoping that after the long winter we have experienced that you are taking advantage of the sunshine and hope that it continues. The last year has passed fairly quickly and I, like most of us, wonder where the time has gone.

Last May my Conservative colleagues won twelve Council seats. As you will know we were unable to form an Administration due to the fact that Labour with five seats joined the SNP with nine, and along with two Independents, formed the Administration. So for the last year my Group has been the opposition. Unfortunately I was somewhat indisposed for most of the winter months as I had to have a hip replacement. I would like to thank the staff at Ayr Hospital and am now hopefully on the way to full recovery.

We have had a busy year in opposition and have tackled issues such as the stopping of music tuition in schools, which I am very sad about. I have been inundated with complaints from parents and grandparents and will continue to oppose this decision.

The last Council Administration had agreed a Masterplan for the bottom of Ayr High Street. For those of you who managed to see the projected drawings I am sure you will agree that they were both exciting and extremely pleasing. Unfortunately the new Administration decided to scrap these initial plans and replace them with their own, which meant bringing in new Architects at a considerable cost to the Council. The design of the proposed new council building upset residents in their hundreds. What will happen to the empty site now?

Many of you will be aware that Ayr Cemetery has been extended. There have been reports about dog fouling so I would encourage all dog owners to keep their dogs under control and pick up after them to respect the area and South Ayrshire.

I have had a fair few enquiries regarding parking in and around my Ward and am trying to persuade Ayrshire Roads Alliance to have a look at small areas which could be converted to additional parking for residents.

I've also had many concerns regarding the increase in hall lets which affects many local groups, including After School Clubs. I would like to assure you that we as a Group are challenging these increases.

Something to look forward to will be the new Queen Margaret Academy which is taking shape and promises to be a superb building for the pupils. I had the pleasure of attending the Sod Cutting by John Swinney, MSP, The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. We are all looking forward to the opening of this wonderful new facility.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to get in touch with me and look forward to serving you all as I go into my second year of this current term of office. Please get in touch with any problem you may have, big or small – it is a pleasure serving the people of Ayr East.

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