GENERAL HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

IH, F 14.12.1962, 4ef — Article on Irvine in current edition of Lithgow Journal. In 1957, following the closure of the Royal Ordnance Factory, Irvine Town Council bought the site for £18,000, and developed it as an industrial estate. At the same time, there has been much new housing, including the 'outstanding' SSHA scheme at Ravenspark.

GH 9.12.1958 — reports a meeting between ITC Town Development Committee and the Minister of State. [is this the first inkling of the progressive work by ITC which led ultimately to Irvine's designation as a New Town].

GH, M 26.12.1960, 6h — The first of 1400 planned houses will be ready by February. Being built on the old Ravenspark Golf Course.

GH, Tu 3.12.1963, 15g — Meeting held last night between Councillors from Irvine and Troon to discuss amalgamation. Kilwinning TC were invited to send representatives, but turned down the invitation.

BI 77/912 March 1966 — The new Town plan is being prepared by **Hugh Wilson** of **Hugh Wilson & Lewis Womersley**, chartered architects and town planners.

BI 80/947 February 1969 — Work on the first stage began about Christmas 1968 - Pennyburn.

Ness, Landmarkis — Copy of brochure available in Kilwinning, 1969. Interim revised Outline Plan. The adjustments are:
Abandonment of original linear development concept.
Initial development will be (a) along the west-east link with Kilmarnock, (b) south of Kilwinning, and (c) along A78 south of Irvine.
New roads: (a) extension of existing bypass, (b) two east-west roads, (c) inner circulatory road.
Population estimated to be 116,000 by mid-1980s, and 144,000 by mid-1990s. First houses will be built along the Dreghorn-Springside corridor, where there is already infrastructure; the new town centre will be incorporated into the existing centre of Irvine; there will be encouragement of commercial development in Kilwinning; the Harbour will be developed for cultural, recreational, entertainment and residential uses; industrial zones will be (a) south of Kilwinning (b) south and west of Dreghorn (c) Meadowfield.

AP 10.9.1971 — The **Wilson** plan amended to take account of areas susceptible to subsidence.

AA, CO 3/10/5/33, FESC 21.1.1973 — Reported that IDC agreed at a meeting on 21st November 1972 to proceed with the development as Community Centres of the farmhouses at Cranberrymoss, East Broomlands, Towerlands and Fencedyke, subject to agreed leases with ACC.

BD 27.2.1981 — New Town conservation may sound a little premature, but IDC has followed up its Good design award of 1975 with a conservation award for building projects completed between 1975 and 1980. Irvine's

harbour area has suffered considerable destruction in the past and the award panel was suitably impressed with the restoration of 8-14 Harbour Street, which earned an award for architects **Duncan G MacFarlane & Associates** and the contractor **Robert Denney**, joiner and builder.
Architects **Niven & Connelly**'s design for St John Ogilvie church complex was judged "an inventive and exciting piece of work". The award was shared with **Rubie & Sons (Builders)**. A third award went to Glasgow architects **Hay Steel & Partners** and contractors **Palmer Bros** for a commercial development in Kilwinning.
Commended entries came from residents of Perceton Row for their landscaping work; **Hay Steel & Partners** for the design of Bourtreehill Parish Church, built by **Melville Dundas & Whitson**; **Barrett Developments** for Bourtreehill 9, and **James McKelvie**'s infill, the Porthead Tavern, built by **Thomas Findlay & Sons**.

Prospect 28, Autumn 1986

In Irvine, a variety of solutions to a range of untypical building problems has created a bright and interesting townscape. Irvine has special difficulties for the architect, primarily the need to maintain harmony with existing buildings in what was already an old established community when the new town was designated. This requirement applies equally to greenfield development around the existing town and to the infilling of gap-ites within the old built-up areas, but such harmony is often more difficult to achieve in the latter.

Notes of conversation with Robert Orr (SAC), formerly Principal Pallner, IDC (Ayr, 12th August 2010)

Planners were Trevor White, then Roger Peed (later Reed), then Grahm Ballantine. Orr was Principal Planner, c1974-1986
The original Wilson plan was beads-on-a-string, and was revised to give a stronger east-west orientation, and this is one of the reasons for the position of Crosshouse Hospital.
The major review of the plan was in 1987.
The Pensions building's design is a result of enhanced safety standards introduced after Flixborough/
Magnum planned from 1972.

CORPORATION

CHAIRMAN

- 1985 — Sir Charles O'HALLORAN (SRC PRC 14.3.1985 refers to his recent resignation.)

STAFF

CHIEF ARCHITECT
AP 16.3.1973 — **John K Billingham**, 38, appointed Chief Architect, IDC, to succeed **David Gosling**, who left in February 1973 for a post at Sheffield University.

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR
Fl. Jan 1975 — Michael S Thomson

MODEL MAKERS
Fl. 1975 (AP, F 24.1.1975) — Craig Sutton; John MacDonald

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BROOMLANDS GATE CENTRE

AP, F 27.5.1977, 45g — Towerlands (Bourtreehill) has been given go-ahead. Similar to Cranberry Moss and Townend. Also approval for construction of new Centre at Broomlands Gate.

BRYCE KNOX COURT, LAWTHORN

nr — 1989-91, sheltered housing.

George Wren — Job architects: **Roan Rutherford** and **George Reynolds**.

Prospect, May 1998, 70 — 1992 Saltire Society Housing Design Award. **H Roan Rutherford**, IDC.

CHEVIOT COURT

nr — First IDC sheltered housing complex, opened in 1984. Has sculpture by **Mary Bourne**.

DREGHORN

PHASE 1

Prospect, May 1998, 67 — 1971, Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation. **G Hesketh**, IDC, architect.

GIRDLE TOLL 6

nr — same architect (**Crichton**) as the Book Ends in Harbourside.

HAWTHORN COURT, NETHERMAINS

nr — Sheltered housing opened in 1989. Has a sculpture by **Mary Bourne**.

George Wren — Job architects: **Roan Rutherford** and **Robin Wilson**.

Prospect, May 1998, 70 — 1989 Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation. H Roan Rutherford, IDC, architect.

HEATHFIELD SHELTERED HOUSING

SRC, WSC 22.5.1984, 519 — Negotiated tender, IDC, Heathfield Sheltered Housing, Kilwinning Road.

Prospect, May 1998, 70 — 1986, Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation. H Roan Rutherford, IDC, architect.

HOSPITALITY INN (opened as SKEAN DHU HOTEL), ROSEHOLM

SRC, 12.10.1982 — IDC reimbursed for cost of sewers at Skeandhu Hotel and Annickbank development.

nr — 1984-85, **Scott Brownrigg & Turner**, Glasgow, architects.

KILN WALK, East Road

nr — 1989-91, general needs housing. **Allan Stewart**, (IDC), architect.

LANG DRIVE

IV, STANECASTLE to EGLINTON

AP, F 24.6.1977, 2d — Opened on Wednesday. £800,000.

LAWTHORN

MILLBURN

Prospect, May 1998, 70 — 1991 Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation. **H Roan Rutherford**, IDC, architect.

7

nr — Being built late 1996. Architects: **CRGP Architects and Surveyors**, Glasgow Ayr & Motherwell.

LOW GREEN, IRVINE
TOILETS

George Wren — Job architect: **Roan Rutherford**. Said by GW to be Rutherford's entry for the Dundonald Castle Visitor Centre competition.

MIDDLETON ROAD BRIDGE

George Wren — Architect was **Ramesh Hadap.**

MUIRFIELD PLACE, Kilwinning

nr — On site, 1991. Grey finished general needs housing, with gable ironwork. Sculpture by **Lucy Baird**.

PERCETON HOUSE

See Dreghorn: Castles and Mansions.

RED CROSS HOUSE, 46 TARRYHOLM DRIVE

nr — 1989-91, for Red Cross. Housing and facilities for young disabled. Spreading single storey development in render and tile. Good internal use of wood. **H Roan Rutherford** (IDC), architect.

Prospect, May 1998, 71 — 1993, Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation. H Roan Rutherford and A Stewart, architects, IDC.

Civic Trust Awatds, March 1995, 61 — IDC Department of Architecture. Project architects George Wren, Roan Rutherford and Allan Stewart. CT Commendation, 1995. Complex of day centre and 41 houses, for chronically disabled young people, with sheltered gardens and courtyards.

SKEAN DHU HOTEL, and ANNICKBANK DEVELOPMENT

SRC, W&S 12.10.1982, 1272 — Sewerage costs agreed between SRC & IDC.

SOUTH APPROACH ROAD
PHASE II

SRC, H&T 19.3.1981, 498 — IDC acting as agents. Tender, Shanks & McEwan (Contractors) Ltd., Glasgow, £481,456.

STANECASTLE GATES AND BRAEHEAD

Civic Trust Awards 1980, p.70 — 137 homes on a site bounded on the south by two privately owned listed buildings – gate houses to the vanished Eglinton Castle. Owner: IDC. Designers: Department of Architecture, IDC, Henry Rutherford, project architect. Contractor, Wimpey Construction UK Ltd.
Pleasant series of courts, very nicely detailed, characterise Braehead housing, which contains some very interesting house types. This housing is concentrated along the crescent shaped gravel ridge of the site, making use of poor ground for gardens, and freeing space for a small linear park. The proposed bus route should help to give the scheme's layout more cohesion.

Prsopect, May 1998, 69 — 1979, Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation. **H Roan Rutherford**, IDC.

STANECASTLE, SOUTH

SRC, WSC 15.1.1985 — SA, IDC, 34 plots, South Stanecastle.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

George Wren — **Crichton & Crotch**, architects. William Crichton (spelling?) is a former IDC architect, and responsible for the Bookends.

TOWERLANDS CENTRE, Towerlands Farm Road

Saltire Society: Housing Restorations completed during 1982 and 1983: Commendation.

IDC Architects' Department. Towerlands Centre is the admirable product of co-operation between a large number of benevolent agencies and has been formed by restoring and converting the former Towerlands farmhouse and its associated dwellings and outhouses, and by the addition of a club-house, 10 amenity houses and other facilities including a bowling green and car park. Conversion and restoration of existing buildings has provided a caretakers house, 2 holiday home cottages for the Scottish Paraplegics Association and, by sub-division of the substantial farmhouse, 4 flats for rental. [Housing element entered for award].

The Awards Panel have considered these buildings both in isolation and in the context of the Centre as a whole and find that their design both lends to and receives distinction from an overall treatment that is most successful in architectural terms. What was earlier a farmhouse of little quality has become a most handsome central courtyard set about by the community centre, the SPA cottages, the caretaker's house and an artist's studio and the sensitive handling of the conversion of these older buildings is continued in the design of the new. IDC's architects have achieved a character which is strong, unaffected, recognisably of Ayrshire and as lively as the community and the various agencies whose efforts and goodwill it reflects.

Prospect, May 1998, 69 — 1983 Saltire Society Housing Design Commendation for Restoration, 1983. **D McDonald and A Kerr**, IDC, architects.

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