

# Carpark makeover could be a winner

By **Clair Fullarton**

**THE KILMARNOCK** area has claimed two spots on the shortlist of a competition aimed at brightening up faded metal structures.

Artwork on the Kilmarnock's Foregate multi-storey car park and benches at Cunningham Watt Park in Stewarton have been named among the six finalists.

The Brighten Scotland competition aims to find Scotland's most deserving public structure for a free metal make-over.

If the Foregate car park is selected as the winner, the gable artwork will be transformed into a festival of colour while Cunningham Watt Park can look forward to a bright, rejuvenated look if its six metal benches come out top in the final.

Councillor Jim Buchanan said: "In Kilmarnock, the bid to revitalise the artwork on the multi-storey car park, would have a big impact on the attractiveness of the town centre.

"Its highly prominent position adjacent to the bus station would ensure that a colourful make-over could see the artwork become a real feature within the town. The project is very much in line with our commitment to regeneration and enhancement of Kilmarnock as a place to live, work and shop.

"In Stewarton the plan to transform benches in Cunningham Watt Park would provide real improvements to this valuable local asset.



**FOREGATE CREST:** The gable end of the multi-storey car park could be in line for a metal makeover.

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Local community groups and schools have already put considerable efforts into transforming the park.

"East Ayrshire Council are fully behind the improvement of public parks and would be delighted to see the benches given a new lease of life with eye catching new colours.

"We will be keeping a close eye on the result of this competition when it is announced in the new year and I am very hopeful that one of our worthy entrants will come out on top."

Geoff Crowley, managing director

of Highland Galvanizers, who sponsor the competition, said: "We received dozens of nominations from residents all over the country and we were pleased to see local authorities really got behind the initiative.

"It's heartening to see people taking pride in their communities and supporting the spirit of the competition – to inject some colour into Scotland's built environment.

"Choosing the most worthy structures for the shortlist has involved some tough decisions, but the judging panel have an even harder task ahead – picking a winner out of these six worthy projects for a colourful make-over."

The winner will be announced in January 2012 and restoration will be carried out early next year.



**SUPER SEATS:** The benches in Cunningham Watt Park, Stewarton, are also on the shortlist.

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