

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

April 2016 No 41

Transport Issues at the Top of the Agenda

Of the seven priority areas highlighted in the SCC/SCDT 2011 Community Action Plan - and confirmed in the 2015 review - three related to transport and they did not include road re-surfacing! Much has been happening on the *footpath and cycleway network*, solutions to our *car parking problems are more more difficult*, whilst we have had some limited success in getting speed limits enforced

Transport in the Local Community Pilot Scheme

The Community Council will be prioritising transport and roads issues over the next few months. As part of Stirling Council's community pilots scheme we will be working jointly with Killearn and Balfron Community Councils. The aim is to see if we can maximise the value for every pound spent in our area. This is a partnership with the Council's Environment and Housing service. It is early days but we expect more listening and common sense.

Proposals to be Considered?

Nothing is decided yet amongst the Community Councils and with Stirling Roads Department but what about:

- 20 mph on all residential streets off the main roads
- agreeing priorities for resurfacing for future years based on road survey information (There are plans for work on (Kirkhouse Road and Kirkhouse Crescent and a part of the A81 this year)
- publicising when maintenance teams are in the area so that all potholes, blocked gullies and other pressing issues can be drawn to their attention
- more signage to reduce traffic speeds
- a trial for average speed cameras through the village.

If you have other suggestions about how we can work smarter in partnership we are keen to hear them.

Please contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Dog Owners Take Care

A sad case reported to us of a local dog that may have been infected and made seriously ill through contact with dead animal remains should serve to draw dog owners attention to the need to watch out for and avoid such remains when walking a dog on farmland or in country areas in general.

Three Paths Temporarily Closed

As most of you will know the railway path upgrade — is now well underway and should be completed within the next week— weather permitting. work has begun on the other two projects — Danny's Brae and the John Muir Link Path. We expect all three will be completed sometime in May. **In the meantime...**

1. A reminder that Danny's Brae and the path up to the Gowk Stane track will be closed for about four weeks while work proceeds.

2. The Railway path is CLOSED (24 hours a day) until the contractor's work is complete. Could everyone—ESPECIALLY HORSE RIDERS—please avoid using the Railway Path so that the Toptrek surface is finally rolled and bedded in. It is vital that we do not damage the surface at this early stage. The contractor would not be responsible for the damage and we would have to foot the bill!

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION

Strathblanefield at Mugstock

As trailed in our March issue links between the local community and the family friendly Mugstock Festival— in Mugdock Country Park July 29-31 for its second year — have developed in two important ways.

Strathblane Showcase

There is to be a two hour session on Sunday afternoon on the second stage to showcase performers from the local community. The programme is being convened by George Thom who is still keen to get more participants. If you are interested please contact George at geothom@tiscali.com.uk

Discounted Tickets

A 50% discount on festival tickets is available for local residents and if you are over 65 or qualify for another concession these can be compounded to give a 75% overall reduction! Go to mugstock.org/neighbours/ (the password is 'goodneighbours') Visit mugstock.org for more festival information.

Much more in the May & June issues of the Bulletin

Many thanks to an individual community member for sponsorship of this issue

Why not join the growing number of local businesses and individuals who SPONSOR issues of the Bulletin?

Businesses can include an advertising flyer which will go to every household.

Contact cc@strathblanefield.org.uk for more details.

Community Council April Update — from SCC Chair Margaret Vass

Our April meeting was as busy as ever starting off with a discussion on Mugstock (see page 1) with the CC giving full backing to the group who are organising the Strathblane-field musical performances where we will showcase local talent on the Sunday afternoon.

Police Report: The police report covered more than usual; there have been a number of drug possession arrests, a malicious fire, a number of property thefts, two hit-and-run road accidents, one of these motorists has been charged and another driver caught driving without valid car documentation. Remember dogs must be kept on leads near sheep.

Health and Social Care integration. — Meetings are continuing to secure local services for care and support around the hub of the Strathendrick care home in Balfron. Both social work and health have, at long last, properly acknowledged the importance of rural based services to avoid the need for long distance travel. There is no doubt that there will still be a reliance on families, neighbours and volunteers to help within our villages. The community dementia care model being promoted by Strathblane Parish Church and Stirling Council is a key part of this.

Hospital Admissions — The CC has supported our local doctors who had to contend with our postcode problem when trying to get acutely ill patients admitted to hospital. They were being passed backward and forwards between Forth Valley and Greater Glasgow.

We wrote to Bruce Crawford on behalf of the community and the Health Cabinet Secretary has confirmed that while we are the responsibility of NHS Forth Valley because of our geographical proximity and transport links, the majority of acute care is provided by NHS Greater Glasgow. Our main referral hospital is now Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Councillor's Report — Cllr Muirhead updated us on Stirling's hopes for funding from the **City Development Framework** that would help growth in and around Stirling City. £2M has been allocated for projects in rural areas (this is tiny compared to the sums that the city might get).

The **new refuse regime** will start in September. There will be plenty of publicity to help us get to grips with four wheelie bins and one box.

Broadband developments remain a priority improving with the Advisory Group being renamed the Delivery Group. Killearn CC is leading on this. The current position is that one cabinet is live at Netherblane, one is undergoing "field survey" and will be live by October, two are in design and will be live by January 2017 and two are "planned". To find out more about broadband in general and the possibilities locally go to the **Killearn Broadband Group** page at killearncc.org.uk/kgb.html More in the next BVB.

Work to repair our **War Memorial** is due to start in the next few weeks.

The next SCC meeting at 7.30pm on May 9th in the **Primary Schools** will feature a presentation on the roads programme. Please come along and give us your views

Copy Date for the May BVB is **Monday May 16th**. Please send Calendar items and news for the period up to late June to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Edenkiln Surgery will be closed on Monday May 2nd for the Easter holidays. We can be contacted at 01360 770340. For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website at www.edenkilnsurgery.com
For out of hours help contact NHS24 at 111

The Village Club — enquiries and bookings:
www.villageclub1911.org
email — strathblanevc@gmail.com or
Contact — Fiona Murray 01360 771497
(Office hours only please)

Emergency Phone Numbers

Ambulance — 999 Fire — 999 NHS 24 — 202 Police — 999 [for non-emergency calls - 101]

MAKING CONTACT with the SCC Email us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Get in touch with your Community Councillors

Blanefield Ward

Margaret Vass 770131
Avril Keen 07799261297
Willie Oswald 770497
Julie Hutchison 770791

Strathblane Ward

Alan Hutton 770537
Marian Lever 770536
Elspeth Neill 771653
Sue Rand 770630

Mugdock Ward

Richard Arnold 770006
John Gray 771031
Grace Edmonds 770800
Rob Davies 771921

INFORMATION SOURCES: Strathblanefield website at www.strathblanefield.org.uk
Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; and the **Facebook** Strathblanefield Group

STIRLING COUNCIL

Councillors' Surgeries are usually at 7pm on SCC meeting nights in the Primary School

Report faults at info@stirling.gov.uk or ring 0845 2770000

Join My Stirling at www.stirling.gov.uk for updates

Loch Ard Sailing Club

The new season starts on **Sunday 17th April**. We are looking forward to using our new training dinghy to get more people out on the water to learn the basic skills.



Everyone is welcome to come & have free sailing taster session on **Sunday, 22nd May** as part of the RYA's 'Push The Boat Out' week. More details available nearer the time. Visit us at www.lochardsc.org.uk

RYA
PUSH THE
BOAT OUT

Strathblane Bowling Club



COME & TRY DAY
with BARBECUE
Saturday, 21st May, 2.00 pm

Why not get fit and have fun with a friendly game of bowls? An enjoyable social activity packed with fresh air and exercise — a sport for all the family!

COME ALONG AND TRY IT UNDER FRIENDLY
SUPERVISION

(Flat-soled shoes required)

**Membership available with substantial discount
for the first year**

Off The Page — Stirling Libraries' Book Festival

From 7th to 16th May all sorts of events are popping up all over the Stirling area. Here in Strathblane we are hosting:

"Colour Me Calm" with Yvette Walker and Martin Stepek

This event on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30 combines mindfulness and art for a relaxing evening. Yvette has produced a great new colouring book for adults around Scottish themes with simple ideas to expand the usual colouring in books!

"Raising Awareness of Dementia Evening" is a joint event with Drymen and Balfron libraries to be held in Drymen Church Hall on Thursday 12th May at 7.00 p.m. Speakers will be Professor June Andrews and Tommy Whitelaw. June's book "Dementia. The one stop guide is a practical, down to earth guide for those who are touched in any way by this condition and has been highly praised by professionals and carers alike.

Tickets at £5/£3 can be ordered & picked up from the library.



Strathblane Tennis Club

The new tennis season is upon us, and the Tennis Club is looking forward to welcoming members, old and new, to the courts. The club welcomes beginners of all ages, as well as experienced players. Gents' and ladies' teams compete in the Central District leagues, with the ladies winning promotion to Division 1 last year!!

Look in at any of the club times, or **join the club using the online form** on our website www.strathblanefield.org/organisations/tennis. Membership Rates are unchanged from last season: Senior- £115; Junior- £15; Cadet- £10; Family- £180; Concession - £60. Rates increase from 1 May so join and pay early! School holiday passes will be available again for only £5.

Saturday Morning Coaching starts 23rd April - We are delighted to introduce our new coach, Massimo Falsaperna. Massimo is highly qualified and is well-known for his work with both adult and junior groups at several clubs in the West of Scotland area, most recently at Virgin Active, Milngavie. Coaching is open to members and non-members.



For more info, see the website or contact Jane McCallum (tel. 771281) or Mark Roberts (tel. 771099).

A skirl of the pipes, freshly brewed coffee home baking and an incredible selection of plants for sale
.... and sales tables

**Don't miss the Annual
GUILD SPRING FAYRE
in the Kirk Rooms**

10.30 - 12.30 on Saturday May 14th

Hill Navigation Courses at the Library

On Saturday May 14th Bob Sharp will run two 3-hour courses in Stratblane Library (9am & 1pm 1 hour indoors, 2 hours outdoors). The course is for anyone interested in learning more about how to use a map, compass and smart phone apps, to navigate with confidence across low lying land, and in developing some basic skills (such as contour interpretation, grid references, estimating distance, walking on bearings, setting the map, what to do if lost) and develop peoples' confidence in navigating alone or with a group, in unfamiliar The course is free, does not lead to any kind of qualification; and is entirely experiential in nature. A follow-up course in a mountain environment could be arranged for those interested. **Places available am & pm-** Contact Bob Sharp at 770431; 07710524484 (M) or at lombondbob@gmail.com

BBQ and Gazebo for Hire £10 & £20 respectively.

Belonging to the SCDT, the gazebo is 4x3 metres approx and the BBQ is only suitable for larger events. — Enquiries to Robert Davy: 770145

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

SAT 16th	2pm	Strathblane Bowling Club - Opening of the Green for the 2016 Season - Gents
MON 18th	10.30am	Bookbug @ Fun Hut. The monthly time of fun and stories.
MON 18th-	- SUN 24	Cancer Research UK House to House Collection 2016.
TUES 19th	7.30pm	Book Group in the Library — <i>Songs of Willow Frost</i>
WED 20th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners resume in the Village Club
FRI 22nd	1.15pm	Craft and Storytime for 3-5 year olds in the Library. (Please phone to book a place)
SAT 23rd		Strathblane Tennis Club — Saturday Morning Coaching Starts (See P.3 for details)
SUN 24th	2pm	Strathblane Bowling Club - Opening of the Green for the 2016 Season - Ladies
SUN 24th	1 - 5pm	Electric Music Sessions in the Village Club. All welcome
SAT 30th	10 -3pm	Launch of Community Dementia Project in the Kirk Rooms

MAY

SUN 1st	4 - 5 pm	Lee Stetson - Outdoor performance on the Life of John Muir at Strathblane Kirk see - www.johnmiurlive.com
SAT 7th	2pm -	Strathblane Tennis Club Open Day All welcome to join in informal play (see p3)
MON 9th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome
FRI 13th	1pm	Storytime for the under fives in Strathblane Library
SAT 14th	10.30 -	Guild Spring Fayre in the Kirk Rooms See page 3 for more on this charity event
SAT 14th	9am - 12 & 1-4pm	Two 3-Hour Navigation Courses in the Library provided by Bob Sharp at no charge to interested members of the community. (See Page 3) Contact lomondbob@gmail.com
MON 16th	10.15am	Book bug Special - All Around the World Celebration at the Fun Hut — part of National Bookbug Week — an early start to fit in all the fun and activity!
THURS 19th	4.30-5.30	Young Readers Group (P7 - S1) Come along and chat about books you love - and some you won't even know. Quizzes & activities as well. See Beth in the library to register. This months topic is 'Girl Online'.
FRI 20th	1.15pm	Story & Craft for under-fives in the Library. Please book in advance.
SAT 21st	2pm	Come & Try Day (with BBQ) at Strathblane Bowling Club See page 3 for details.
SUN 22nd	All day	Free Taster Session at Loch Ard Sailing Club in the RYA 'Push the Boat Out' Week
SUN 22nd	1 - 5pm	Bus from Strathblane to Heart & Soul event in Edinburgh. Anyone interested please contact the church. More event information at www.heartandsoul.org.uk
MON 23rd	7.30pm	Strathblanefield Community Development Trust - AGM in the Village Club.

Four Woman Team to Walk WHW for Charity

Fiona Bennet, Sally Gray, Lynne James & Wendy Ross are walking the West Highland Way in early May to raise money for **Funding Neuro** a charity supporting research on conditions of the brain & spinal column. To support them go to www.justgiving.com/Sally-Gray2

Thanks to J&K Muir

The Scout & Guide Hall Management Committee and all the hall user groups would like to thank J&K Muir for generously supporting the purchase and installation of the new hall boiler. Without their advice, guidance and generosity the replacement of our creaky old boiler would not have been possible.

The Blane Valley Bulletin is published monthly (with the exceptions of July and December) by Strathblane Community Council and distributed to all households in our community council area. It is produced and distributed by a group of volunteers led by Alan Hutton and accountable to the Community Council. Contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk