

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet April 2012 No. 1

Welcome to the new monthly news sheet from your Community Council

Communication is an essential part in the fabric of any community. No community council can do its job properly without reliable two way communication. Your community council has recently carried out a review of communications in the villages to see where gaps exist and what changes might be a good idea. We were especially interested in two things:

- first, how we on the Community Council could get better at letting people know what we're doing, and – most importantly – at creating ways for people to get back to us with their ideas and views; and
- second, how to make it easier for village clubs and organisations to inform the whole community about forthcoming activities and events.

The news sheet you are reading is the major result to emerge from this exercise. We will be producing a news sheet every month (except July and December) and delivering it to every household in the villages. It is designed to complement the quarterly Blane magazine which is a valued source on village life, past and present.

The Bulletin will provide clear and accurate reports on each month's SCC meeting together with a preview of the coming month's meeting. It will also contain a running Calendar of forthcoming activities and events in the villages.

At the same time developments have gone ahead on several other fronts: we now have a new noticeboard for the Blane field end of the community; the community website (www.strathblanefield.org.uk) continues to develop; and, in a future issue of this Bulletin, we will be delivering a Community Information Sheet detailing village organisations and how to make contact and get involved with them. All this information will also feed into a Welcome Pack to be prepared for all new residents in the villages.

It is also great to see the active development—independently of the Community Council—of lively discussions of community affairs in the 200-plus strong *Strathblanefield Group* on Facebook. If you are already on Facebook you could think of adding yourself to the Group; if you're not on Facebook maybe you could start using it just for the Strathblanefield pages.

All this material in the Bulletin is, of course, also available on the village website (and elsewhere) but we are well aware that not everyone is a regular internet browser!

We hope you find the Bulletin useful and we welcome your suggestions on ways to improve it.

MAKING CONTACT

Email the SCC at

cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

**Get in touch with your
Community Councillors**

Margaret Vass	770131
Richard Arnold	770006
Philip Graves	0141 9561954
John Gray	771031
Alan Hutton	770537
Marian Lever	770536
Mike McNulty	770076
Fiona Murray	771497
Willie Oswald	770497
Elsbeth Posnett	770113
Sue Rand	770630

INFORMATION SOURCES

Strathblanefield website;
Library; Noticeboards;
Shop windows;
Local press (weekly);
The Blane (quarterly);

Follow and contribute to the
Strathblanefield forums
www.strathblanefield.org.uk
and the **Facebook**
Strathblanefield Group

STIRLING COUNCIL

Report faults at
info@stirling.gov.uk
or ring 0845 277000
Join *My Stirling* at
www.stirling.gov.uk for updates

April Community Council

Community council issues can sometimes seem a bit mundane, but when things go wrong they really matter to every household in the villages. We can usually get action as the recognised representative body for the community.

Here is a resumé of the main discussions:

Police Reports

The police have stepped up patrols to prevent theft from cars and there was a break-in at a garage outhouse.

A dog running free is likely to have been the culprit in a serious case of sheep being killed and injured at Craigend Farm. This led to a general discussion on the *irresponsibility of some dog owners* throughout our area, including the perennial issue of owners not picking up after their dogs and the associated diseases for humans and animals that may result. We are still amazed at how many do pick up after their dogs and then seem happy to decorate our trees and hedges with polythene bags!

PC David McNally reminds us to continue to report anything suspicious to prevent crime.

Planning

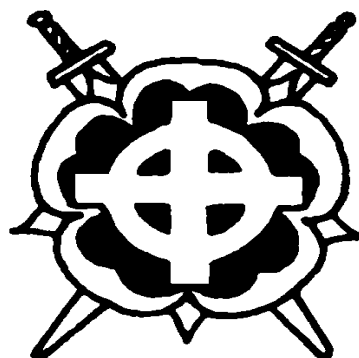
Under planning we viewed presentations prepared by Philip Graves on two *windfarm developments* that may impact on us (available on the website for those who are interested). We agreed not to make representations to West Dumbartonshire about the Merkins site as it is not likely to impinge on us and reserved our position on the Craigievern site at Drymen. One issue that we will have to decide is whether we should bid for a share of the Community gain if the development goes ahead.

We discussed the likely sale by Stirling Council of *Craigend Castle* at Mugdock and are pleased to see that all proceeds will be ring-fenced for Mugdock Country Park.

We will discuss other community assets at our next meeting.

Jubilee Events

Celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics were discussed. Events are happening everyday from Friday 1 June up to and including Tuesday 4 June. We are delighted that both the Community Council and the Community Development Trust have won grant funding from Stirling Council and, as a result, we now have £3,000 to contribute to the events. The help of lots of residents will be needed to make sure that the celebrations are a success and that everyone has fun. More information on this soon! Our permanent reminder of the Jubilee will be groups of cherry trees in prominent positions.



Lunch Club

Marian Lever is working with the lunch club to develop proposals for an improved *meal service* for the most vulnerable in the community. The present service is meals on wheels twice a week with the lunch club on Wednesdays. Current users would like this to increase to a twice weekly lunch club with meals on wheels three times a week. If this is to happen the help of many more volunteers is required. More on this to come!

Environment

A resident raised the issue of *litter* and we have agreed to get a group of adults together at the same time as the guides and scouts do their

litter pick to demonstrate to the community that litter should be picked up when seen. Sue Rand is taking this forward.

We were delighted to receive a cheque from the residue of the gardening club funds as a contribution to the *tubs* which are looking so lovely just now.

Dick Arnold is battling with the Council about the dangerous *collapsed bank of the Blane* close to the football pitch and playground. If you are concerned about this too please add your voice by contacting Stirling Council.

Resignation

Sadly at the end of our meeting Fiona Murray, our Treasurer, indicated that she would be resigning from the community council at our AGM in June. This means that we will have two vacancies one in the Blane field ward and one in the Mugdock ward. Anyone interested please contact Margaret Vass.

May SCC Meeting

Because of public holidays our May meeting is brought forward to 30 April at 7.30 in the school.

Issues to be discussed include:

- The implications for bus services of the *closure of the A81* from the distillery to Duntreath from 14 May to 1 June.
- The protection of **Council land and buildings** in our area for long-term community benefit. We will invite a speaker to talk on Stirling Councils plans.
- *Meals for the vulnerable.*
- *Progress of the allotments site.*
- *West Highland Way issues.*

We always welcome contributions from residents so please come along and give us your views and ideas.

Minute Secretary

The Community Council still urgently needs a Minute Secretary to cover its eleven Monday night meetings at a rate of £30 per meeting.

Anyone interested, or wishing to know more, should contact Margaret Vass at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Could be an ideal opportunity for a young person wishing to gain experience and enhance her/his CV.

On-line Business Directory

This is a listing of businesses/services (free insertion) on the Strathblanefield website for existing local organisations and individual operators. The Development Trust is keen to encourage new occupations, trades and enterprises to participate. A *Linkedin* network amongst local concerns is also being created. Contact Ian Hamilton on 01360 771037 or h15dun@btinternet.com

Allotments Site

With the relevant agreements and resources now in place, the Allotments Group have commenced ground preparation and fencing work on the site by the old railway line.

Music For Young People

After encouraging preliminary soundings, a workshop will take place this month to gauge the extent of interest, to assess potential resources, and to discuss the structure of a project group for *Music for Young People*.

Details of the work of the
**Strathblanefield Community
Development Trust**

can be found on the village website:

Closure of A81 - Impact on Bus Services

Everyone must be aware that the A81 from the distillery to Duntreath will be closed for significant repairs from 14 May until 1 June. The Community Council is concerned that the villages will lose our direct bus service for the whole of that period. We continue to push for some acceptable alternative arrangements which we hope might be made before our May meeting. Further details will be posted on the noticeboards and on the village website as they emerge.

The Community Council (SCC) and the Community Action Plan (CAP)

The Community Action Plan was published last year following extensive consultation throughout our community in a joint exercise (with SCC) led by the Strathblanefield Community Development Trust. The SCDT is a membership-based, registered charity with the power to raise funding and other resources for community projects. The Plan forms the basis of its business plan, which is approved by its members at each AGM.

Current priorities for action were presented to the Community Council at our March meeting and we will continue to be consulted about ideas/ projects to be developed each year in June.

Below we note progress on some of the key action points from the Plan. Other projects will be covered in next month's Bulletin.

The Old Railway Path from Blanefield to Strathblane

In last year's lengthy consultations on our draft Community Action Plan one suggested priority which gained widespread support was the 'development of safe walking and cycling routes around the villages and to connect us with neighbouring communities.'

The Community Council is pleased to report that the Strathblanefield Community Development Trust has now established a Path Development Group to begin that task. The Group's first project will be to secure the necessary improvements to the path at the Station Road end of the old railway track linking Strathblane and Blanefield. The present condition of this section makes it a difficult walk—and a cycle route only for the most intrepid (see below). The aim is to establish a solid, durable, off-road walking and cycling route for users of all ages between the villages. This is a substantial project and contacts have already been made with Stirling Council and others to start the process of raising the necessary resources.

The Community Council and the SCDT are keen to get views, ideas—even offers of help—from community members. Please get in touch at cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk or contact the Paths Development Group Convenor, Alan Hutton, directly at alanhutton@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

MON 23rd	7.30	Come and celebrate World Book Night & Shakespeare in Music with Lizanne McKerrell in Library. Admission free. Donations to Book Aid International. Free book to take away.
WED 25th	2.30 -3.15	Bookbug - Rhymes and Stories. Mums and toddlers welcome. Library
THUR 26th	8-9pm	Womens' Football - Balfron Campus, Every Thurs., £3. No previous experience required, Contact biggroove@hotmail.com or 07817 419723 for more details and to be added to list.
FRI 27th	7.30	The Life and Music of Cole Porter - Village Club - BYOB - Raffle - Tickets £5 from Library.
SAT 28th	10 -12	Guild Spring Fayre in the Kirk Rooms, Tea, Coffee, Plants & Bric-s-brac. Adults £2, Children free. In aid of Children's Hospice Ass. in Scotland.
MON 30th	7.30	Strathblane Community Council Meeting - Strathblane Primary School - all welcome.

MAY

April 15th - May 13th		Alasdair Gray & Joyce Gunn Cairns - Exhibition at The Smithy Gallery Blanefield
THURS 3rd	7am-10pm	Local Council Elections — Edmonstone Hall
THURS 3rd	7pm	Mens' Steak Night , Blane Valley Inn. All men welcome, just turn up.
SAT 13th	5.30	Casino Royale Fundraiser - Tickets from Blanefield Thistle team or Strathblane Out of School Care members. BYOB and bar available.
TUES 15th	8.00	Library Book Group - Strathblane Library
TUES 15th	7.45	Village Club AGM in the Village Club
SAT 19th	7.30	Red or Black? - Music from Semblance (Jane Button,Vocals) - Edmonstone Hall - Fun Hut fundraiser - Tickets: Suzi Ure, Nicky Corrigan or other committee members
SAT 21st	From 2.30	Tennis Club Open Day All welcome - join friendly doubles tournament or just find out more.
WED 30th	2.30 -3.15	Bookbug - Rhymes and Stories. Mums and toddlers welcome. Library

JUNE

FRI 1st		BBQ and Ceilidh - Edmonstone Hall
SAT 2nd		Community Summer Fair - Primary School
SUN 3rd	12.30	Big Lunch - Kirk Rooms
MON 4th		Afternoon Tea for Senior Citizens - Primary School
MON 4th	10pm	Beacon Lighting
TUES 5th		Fun Games and Open Afternoon - Village Club
SAT 9th	12 - 2pm	Fun Hut Family Bar-B-Que at Mugdock Park (Pond Site) All welcome
FRI 15th - SUN 17th		Duntreath Garden Show - www.Duntreathgardenshow.co.uk for more details.

We must apologise if we missed your event in this month's Community Calendar. Please let us have details of future events for inclusion in the next issue - copy date of 16 May - by email if possible to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

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, convened by Alan Hutton, and accountable to the Community Council in all editorial and practical matters. Contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk