

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet August 2012 No. 4

Bring Back the Village Officer?

Scottish Government Consultation on 'Community Empowerment and Renewal'

'These are uniquely challenging times.. (in which we must) ...unlock the knowledge, abilities and potential of all of Scotland's communities.'

So says the introduction to this new Scottish Government consultation exercise—a pre-legislative process designed to help formulate a Bill which, after further consultation, will reach the Scottish Parliament early in 2013. In their current form, the proposals lack coherence and definition, but two key aspects are of continuing interest us:

- increasing engagement of communities in the planning and delivery of local public services; and
- community ownership of public assets to be used for the common good.

As a community we are already engaged with our local authority, Stirling Council, in these respects and we hope for further progress on both fronts. (Was a Village Officer not a good idea?) At the same time this national consultation is one of a number which will help shape the capacity of Scottish communities' to influence local service provision and facilities in the future. It is vital, therefore, that every individual and organisation with a viewpoint responds. The deadline has been extended until September 26th.

The Consultation Paper and other documents—including an 'Easy Read' version — can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/06/7786/downloads>.

The Community Council has established a short-life working group which will report at the September meeting. We would welcome any thoughts you would like to feed into the deliberations of the group—please use cc@strathblanefield.org.uk.

And come along to our September meeting to contribute to the final version.

MAKING CONTACT

Email the SCC at

cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Get in touch with your Community Councillors

Margaret Vass	770131
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Philip Graves	0141 9561954
John Gray	771031
Alan Hutton	770537
Marian Lever	770536
Mike McNulty	770076
Susan Morgan	771747
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 2777000

Join *My Stirling* at

www.stirling.gov.uk for updates

August Community Council

In this brief report we highlight major items dealt with at the August Community Council meeting. Some of these are followed up elsewhere in the Bulletin.

The New Coop

Unfortunately the meeting began with a disappointment. We expected a presentation from the Coop on the development of its new store, but no-one arrived. (We are assured that this will now take place at our September meeting)

Community Benefits from Duntreath Garden Show

The Duntreath Garden Show in June saw significant inputs from our community - including both Church and Community Council members. Our thanks to all the volunteers.

In recognition of these efforts it was reported that a sum of £2000 has been given back to the community. The Community Council formally administers this money and it was agreed that it should be disposed as follows: £800 towards the cost of permanent floodlighting for Strathblane Parish Church; £500 towards the Playpark; and £700 to be made available for other community projects.

Green Belt Tightened

An import victory to report: the Reporter's decision dismissing the appeal for three house on a plot of land in Mugdock was welcomed with great satisfaction. It unequivocally reinforces the Green Belt a way that strengthens Stirling planners' hand and gives clarity to developers thus avoiding wasteful applications of this kind in future. A tribute to the tireless efforts of our Planning Corespondent John Gray.

Re-opening the Kirkhouse Inn

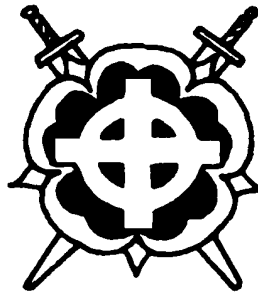
The Chair was able to report that the Kirkhouse Inn is due to re-open at the end of August and will be run by the owners of the Strathblane Country House Hotel. The Comfort Partnership with Stir-

ling Council for public toilet facilities has now been moved to the Blane Valley Inn. The continuation of a centuries old village institution and the related return of local jobs were greatly welcomed.

Safe Walking in Villages

In discussions of a possible move of the Lunch Club to the Village Club (see right) - and at other points on the agenda - issues of safety for those walking around the villages were raised. It was noted that this was one of the issues in the remit of the SCDT Path Development Group. Initially a listing and a map of the locations of footpath and pavement problems will be produced.

(Any thoughts on these issues to Alan Hutton at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk



Community Council September Meeting

Our next meeting, on Monday 3 September at 7.30pm in the school will begin with a presentation by the Coop on plans for the new shop.

Whilst the September meeting will cover the standard set of topics, in publishing the Agenda (see Noticeboards & village website) we will try to highlight the specific issues to be discussed, one of which will be our response to the Community Empowerment consultation (see page 1)

As always you will have the chance to raise issues that concern you. Please come along and contribute..

Progress with Prepared Meals Discussions

The Bannockburn Pilot for frozen meals will soon be completed and we need to firm up our proposals for the meals on wheels provision and the lunch club. We expect the Council will roll out provision of the frozen meals service as quickly as they can once the pilot scheme ends. At the request of local volunteers the CC is working with the lunch club and meals on wheels to see if it is possible and affordable to provide a local alternative provision to frozen meals. We would like to offer local residents a choice when they are asked to decide about frozen meals. We will meet again later this month. Any change of venue to the Village Club, to ensure compliance with Environmental Health requirements, is dependent on the lowering of the kerb. Renovations to the Village Club kitchens are complete. Issues raised at the SCC meeting will be discussed. If decisions are made to offer an alternative meal provision, the recruitment of volunteers will be essential.

In order to support the meals provision, over the summer and with the support of the CDT a grant proposal was submitted to cover such things as equipment renewal, support of volunteers including any training needs, and the registration with the PVG scheme.

The Village Club

is available for Club Activities and Private Parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett for availability (770113).

PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Last year the Community Council put in a lot of work in collecting and representing community views on Stirling Council's *Draft* Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP). Stirling Council will discuss the Proposed LDP in September and, if approved, it will be published on October 15th.

There is then an eight week formal consultation period - up to December 10th - and it will, be open for all organisations and individuals to make written representations in this process.

The LDP will feature on our Community Council agenda for November and we will hold a **Public Meeting in mid-November** before making any formal community response.

You can follow the LDP process at www.stirling.gov.uk/localdevplan.

Your Community Council Needs You

There remains one vacant place on the Community Council and it would be great if we were able to co-opt a willing volunteer.

If you might be interested in serving the community in this way please contact the Chair, Margaret Vass at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk to find out more.

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

About the SCDT

The SCDT is a company, limited by guarantee, and a registered charity whose purpose is "to assist in improving the quality of life for those who live and work in Strathblane, Blanefield and Mugdock, and also for visitors to the area, working in partnership with other organisations or individuals."

It is a community-owned company with a current membership of about 200 local people and is operated by a voluntary Board of Directors appointed by the members. Members are informed and consulted about activities and outputs and through a number of channels. These include Newsletters, monthly reports in the Blane Valley Bulletin and an AGM (to be held this year on Wednesday 26 September at 7.30 in the Village Club).

The SCDT led the exercise of producing our Community Action Plan with the Community Council.

As a community-based organisation, the SCDT depends on the voluntary efforts of members and aims to mobilise the wide range of experience and talent available in our community for the common good. The preferred approach in the pursuit of community priorities is through the establishment of working groups of volunteers. (A brief report on current Groups and Projects is provided on this page).

Further information on activities, outputs and how to join (only £5 currently buys a Life Membership) can be found on the community website at <http://strathblanefield.org.uk/CDT/cdt.html>

SCDT- Activity Update

Allotments -The site at the old railway track was officially opened by Sir Archie and Lady Juliet Edmonstone on Saturday 2 June. All 30 plots have been taken up by local residents and a waiting list is operational. Layouts are in place and uniform greenhouses/sheds are being erected. Margaret Meager chairs of BVAG and Dai Hutchinson is CDT Director.

Paths Development Group - Funding services are being explored for the potential upgrade of the old railway line from the allotments entrance to Station Road. Informal discussions are taking place with Scottish Wildlife Trust on the possibilities of a new walking route from Strathblane to the Loch Ardingning Reserve. Alan Hutton is the lead director of this group which comprises John Malloy, Keith Vass, George Thom and Ian Wright.

Music for Young People - Discussions are in train with Stirling Council Youth Services Group (Art, Music, Culture) on providing a pilot programme (8-10 sessions) of popular music by professional musicians and tutors in the Autumn. A "taster" session is earmarked for mid September in the Kirk Rooms (see Calendar on Page 4 and notices on the website and around the village) Gordon Ash is the lead director of a project group which comprising Moira Barnes-Graham, Frankie Ritchie, Richard Begg and John Gray.

Property Group - Working on the lease for the gravediggers' bothy at Strathblane Parish Church. Monitoring status and development activity at the "Toilets" site and the Kirkhouse Inn. The Group includes David Dool, Alan Dickson and Ian Hamilton.= with Dai Hutchison as lead Director

Interpretive Map/Signage - Potential paths/walkways and landmarks have been trialled over the summer months and appropriate funding sources for publication and marketing are being explored. Jude Gregor is the lead director of this project with assistance from Anne Balfour and Jim Neill.

Greenheart - Fundraising continues for the final phase (potentially a Bird's Nest Tower and Whirlwind) of the toddlers' playpark. Stirling Council Land Services are now investigating and costing a relevant drainage scheme for the possibility of a grass MUGA (recreational games area for teenagers) and also researching different types of stored equipment. The Group comprises Linda Barclay, Steve McCooey, Susie Ure and Christine Baume, with Robert Davy as lead Director.

Village Photo History Book -Hoping to publish in the Autumn. Anne Balfour is the lead director with assistance from Martin Shields and Murray O'Donnell.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

Until SEPT 16th	11 -5 SUN 1 - 5	Current Exhibition at the Smithy Gallery - David Martin, Sian MacQueen & David Smith For more information see: www.smithygallery.co.uk
TUES 28th	6.30pm	Rainbow/Brownies/Guides & Scouts/Beavers/Cubs Registration Night - Guide & Scout Hall
AUG 24th - OCT 12th		Tennis Club - New Coaching block (Members £50; Non-members £60) Further details: Chris Jewell 07837 339558 For club membership etc.: Sally Gray 771037 or Allison Allen 770629
SUN 26th	1pm	Jam Session in the Village Club. All welcome
27th - 31st		Mugdock Country Park - Cinema Night (Waterloo Bridge 7.45 on 27th); Pond Dipping (7 - 8 on 28th); Theatre Night ((Marrakech 31st & Sept 1st) Full details of these and other events and activities at http://www.mugdock-country-park.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

SAT 1st	11 - 4pm	Strathblane Parish Day Out - Loch Katrine. All welcome. Bus leaves from church at 11. Contact: Margaret McIntyre 770536 or Murray O'Donnell 770748
SUN 2nd	7pm	Community Dedication Service Strathblane Parish Church. All welcome
SUN 2nd		Rainbow / Brownies /Guides Fundraising Sponsored Walk - Killearn to Strathblane
MON 3rd	7.30pm	Community Council - Monthly meeting in the Primary School. Come along and participate.
SUN 9th	12 - 2pm	Fun Hut Family Barbecue -Mugdock Country Park (Info. Rachel Osbourne 07879430747)
THUR 13th	7 - 9pm	Music for Young People - Taster Session in Kirk Rooms. All welcome
THUR 13th	7.30pm	Strathblane Bridge Club at Country House Hotel. The Club meets every Thursday - serious bridge in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. New members welcomed (Contact Ann Ryan 770509)
MON 20th	10 -12.30 & 2 - 4	Macmillan Coffee Day hosted by Tom and Sheena Turner at The Highlands, Moor Road Strathblane
TUES 25th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens - Dr David Lawson on Medicine Edmonstone Hall - A warm welcome to all A varied programme of meetings every 2nd Thursday. For more Info: Lorna Young 771705
WED 26th	7.30pm	Strathblanefield Community Development Trust AGM (See piece on page 3)
WED 26th	7.30pm	Heritage Society Dr George Farrow on 'What makes a city' Village Club. All welcome.

OCTOBER

MON 1st	7.30pm	The Guild The Gargunnoch Singers - Music and Verse in the Kirk Rooms All welcome Annual membership £10 (For more information ontact Cathy Adams 770534)
SAT 6th		Loch Ard Sailing Club - Solo Dinghy Class Regatta All solo class sailors welcome.
WED 17th	7.30pm	Heritage Society Dr David Lawson on 'James Hutton' Village Club. All welcome.

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

The surgery will be closed for staff training from 12.30 on Thurs 20 Sept & Wed 3 Oct. For urgent help use phone. 01360 770340. Prescriptions can be ordered online at www.edenkilnsurgery.com

Sorry 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 Monday 17 September - 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