

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

August 2015 No 34

Stirling Local Development Plan — Review

From: Alistair Gemmell, Planning Officer, Stirling Council

The current Local Development Plan for the area was approved in September 2014 and, as we highlighted in the June BVB Stirling Council has begun preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the area. The council has published the Main Issues Report (MIR), the first formal stage in the process, and is now seeking the views of local residents on the proposals it sets out.

The Main Issues Report is not a draft version of the new plan, rather it indicates key changes to the existing plan. It is expected that the new Plan will be adopted in 2017 and cover the period until 2027.

New Housing Proposal for Strathblane

The focus of the proposed changes is on the identification of sites for new housing, as required by Scottish Government. The current LDP pinpoints land for 5,577 homes across about 130 sites. The Main Issues Report includes options which propose land for a further 488 to 788 homes over 18 new sites. One of these is for 30 houses on the now-cleared conifer plantation which lies to the south of the A81—reference SBL06 in the MIR.

The proposed sites have been identified after a rigorous assessment process that considered 60 options put forward by landowners and developers. These included seven around Strathblane, Blanefield and Mugdock. All the sites assessed are listed in Appendix 1 of the the MIR.

Other Proposed Changes in the Main Issues Report

Other proposed changes relate to: *wind energy developments* (following the recent consultation on Draft Supplementary Guidance SG33) and a more restrictive approach to *new housing in the countryside*. The latter change would no longer permit new houses which are within existing rows of houses; which are within or close to existing building groups and clusters; and in infill sites in existing rows of houses. A further twelve 'issues for change' highlighted by the report are mainly minor changes to reflect updated Scottish Government Guidance.

Local Drop-In Session

To support the consultation the Planning & Policy team from Stirling Council are holding a session at the Village Club on **Thursday 17th September**. **Please drop-in at any time between 3pm and 7.30pm** to talk to the team about the Main Issues Report, sites identified for new development and the next stages in the process of preparing the new Plan.

Your Views and Comments are Welcomed

The Main Issues Report and related documents are available on the Local Development Plan webpage: www.stirring.gov.uk/localdevplan and copies have been sent to the Community Council and the Library. Stirling Council welcomes views and comments on any aspect of the MIR. These should be submitted in writing on or before October 9th 2015.

If you have **any queries** about anything relating to the LDP and the MIR you can contact the Planning & Policy team by phone: 01786 233660 or email: ldp@stirling.gov

Congratulations to Leanne Peters!



Leanne Peters from Blanefield was one of three athletes from the Stirling area who were congratulated by Provost Mike Robbins at Stirling Council HQ this week, after bringing back seven medals from the 14th Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles.

Cyclist Leanne (pictured on the left) who is a member of West of Scotland Disability Sport took silver in the 10k Road Race, and bronzes in both the 5k and 10k Time Trials.

In recognising their achievements Provost Robbins said that 'the Special Olympics is all about promoting respect, acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities all three are excellent ambassadors for the movement'.

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

Businesses can include an advertising insert which goes to every household. Contact cc@strathblaine.org.uk for

Community Council August Update — from SCC Chair Margaret Vass

This month's Community Council meeting was unusual in having **four guest presentations**.

First, we heard from **Alan Govan** about the arrangements for the **Mugstock Festival**. He also gave us an offer of reduced ticket prices for locals—and a phone number to call if there were concerns about noise.

Then **Stewart Smolarek** updated us on the continuing progress of the **Scottish Water hydro scheme**. There are to be workers on site for a few more months and work on the bridge and track will be completed at the very end of the project

Ian MacDonald who is in charge of road maintenance for this area provided more information about the road closure, bus services and access for residents directly affected. Concerns were expressed about the bollards in front of the shops on Glasgow road and the amount of damage done to cars whose drivers forget they are there.

Gillian Taylor, Customer Development Manager at Stirling Council, told us more about the **community pilots** that will be running in our community, Killearn and Balfron. This is a response to the Community Empowerment Act. Stirling Council hope to tap into our local knowledge, rebuild trust and be more open and responsive. There is a wish to challenge traditional roles and move away from standardised prov-

ision for everyone. Community empowerment should be strengthened through more collaborative work, and community design and delivery of services. This will be a huge change for the Council which is promoting itself through 'one team one service' that supports community leadership with a single point of contact. It is early days and the CC is reserving its position until we understand more about what may be involved.

Moving on to our 'normal business' we were pleased to see that at last the Coop has provided additional parking spaces.

We have been assured that we will be consulted about changes to bin collection for the private roads in our area.

We agreed that we would suspend the petition about the safety of the A809 pending promised work that includes a 40mph speed limit or flashing warning lights, levelling the embankment to improve visibility at the junction with Cuilt Road and high friction surfacing to be applied when the road is resurfaced - probably next year.

We agreed to oppose the proposed boundary changes to our Forth & Endrick Ward, which would include Cambusbarron and increase the elected members from three to four. This change does not fit with the rural character of the ward.

Copy Date for the September BVB is Monday 14th. Please send Calendar items up to late September and other news to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

The Village Club — To make a booking contact either Fiona Murray (murray-fiona@sky.com, 771497) or Keith Vass (keithvass13@gmail.com, 07778 181 175).

The Reading Room (£8 / hour) is ideal for small meetings. Wifi now available.

There will be a **Special Meeting of the Community Council on Monday September 21st at 7.30pm in the School**

to discuss the community's response to the Local

The regular **September Community Council** meeting will be on **Monday September 7th at 7.30pm** in the Primary School. Come along and give us your views.

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

<i>Blanefield Ward</i>		<i>Strathblane Ward</i>		<i>Mugdock Ward</i>	
Margaret Vass	770131	Alan Hutton	770537	Richard Arnold	770006
Avril Keen	07799261297	Marian Lever	770536	John Gray	771031
Willie Oswald	770497	Elsbeth Neill	771653	Grace Edmonds	770800
Julie Hutchison	770791	Sue Rand	770630	ONE VACANCY	

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

Strathblanefield Community Development Trust

Re-formed SCDT Board's First Meeting

The refreshed Board of SCDT, under its new chair Alf Young, held its first full board meeting in the Village Club on August 17th. Among the issues discussed were funding options being actively pursued to complete the upgrading of the old railway line path between the Al-lotments and Station Road; the latest assessment of the drainage problems and remediation costs on the King George V playing field and the children's play areas nearer to the school; and further delays in the conveyancing of the Gravediggers' Bothy in the corner of the church graveyard, which Stirling

is planning to hand over to the Trust. SCDT has been refused Big Lottery funding for a feasibility study to look at the options open to the community in the medium term in the face of some ageing social infrastructure and an increasingly impoverished local authority and is now, in association with the Community Council, exploring other funding options to meet the costs of that analysis. On every project front the Trust is addressing, there are significant costs associated. The board would be delighted to hear ideas from residents innovative thinking about how the other side of that coin - income generation - could be enhanced.

Have Your Say in Stirling Council's Priority Based Budgeting (PPB) Exercise

Stirling Council is once again seeking the public's views on Budget proposals. The latest round of **Community Conversations**, which provide 'a forum for you to sit down face to face with council managers' takes place in **September** with sessions at Balfron Campus from 7 to 9pm on Tuesday 22nd and Monday 28th

In addition you can submit ideas by email to
shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk

A New 'Peoples' Forum'

The PPB process is now working in a more dynamic way, with the aim of developing ideas throughout the year rather than confining most of the discussion to the budget-setting period. As part of this a new Peoples' Forum is being established to seek the public's views on specific proposals whenever they arise. If you would like to be involved with this you can register by emailing as above.

Background papers on the first two years of PBB can be found on the Stirling Council website at
<http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/council-and-gov->

Would You like to Monitor a Geocache?

If so, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is keen to hear from you. The SCDT Path Development Group has had a request from Catriona Scriven of SNH to find someone to monitor a geocache which they are installing on the John Muir Way (the railway path) between Strathblane and Lennoxton. For those of you who, like me, had not heard of geocaches here is Catriona's explanation:

" Please see the link, explaining geocaching a cross between treasure hunt and orienteering <https://www.geocaching.com>. The idea is that people download onto a smart phone the coordinates and try and find the hidden site. Once they find the site there is a container that is opened, they enter in the note book they have found the site with a date. The container also has local information, so the finder learns something about the immediate area. There is information in the way of a quote about John Muir, so people learn more about him. I also intend to include a wooden John Muir token and encourage the finder to take this to a national park or wild place and then update the Facebook page with an image telling us how far they have got the token. I understand that geocachers take this seriously and the sites are looked after and kept secret, there is a code of behaviour that users adhere to. I am looking for some help to keep an eye on the container to ensure it is not tampered with and the contents are complete."

The ideal candidate is someone who is a regular walker on this part of the path. SNH are looking initially for a weekly check so they have an idea of use, then a check about every three weeks.

If you might be interested and would like Catriona to call you to discuss the role please send your number to..

Catriona Scriven, SNH Policy & Advice Officer, People & Places 0141 951 0871 catriona.scriven@snh.gov.uk

Heartstart Classes —New Dates

Since our June issue the proposed September Class has been changed. There will be a Class in the Village Club on August 25th - but that is now full. **Another class is now scheduled for October.** The date will be notified as soon as we know it. To sign up for the October class contact Nicola Thomson at
nicolathomson@btinternet.com

The new session of the Campsie Crooners

begins **Wed 26th August** in the Village Club at 7:30pm ready to start at 7:45pm.

This is the ideal time for new members to join so please either come along on the night or for more info email Barbara Fleming at crooners@strathblanefield.org.uk

The first practice of the season for the Dumbartonshire Wind Ensemble

is on **Tuesday August 25th** from 7 to 9pm in Douglas Academy. The band is always looking for new young members. If you are interested come along with your instrument. For more information contact Keith Vass at keithvass13@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

TUES 25th	6.30-7.45	Strathblane Brownie Registration Night in the Scout Hall. Anybody wishing to place their daughter on the current waiting list please come along to this event where the form can be completed.
WED 26th	7.30pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club. 7.30 for 7.45 start. Come all and join us (see p. 3)

SEPTEMBER

WED 2nd	7.30pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club. 7.30 for 7.45 start. All welcome.
SUN 6th	3pm	Messy Church in the Kirk Rooms
MON 7th	10.30am	Bookbug at Fun Hut. Bookbug is raring to go after a Summer Break with new stories and favourite rhymes and songs
MON 7th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome.
WED 9th	7.30pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club. 7.30 for 7.45 start. All welcome.
WED 4th	7.30pm	Village Club Concert - Kathleen MacInnes (Gaelic singer, actress, television presenter) with Mhairi Hall (piano) and Mike Vass (guitar & fiddle) Tickets £15 available from library For more info music@sheilahall.co.uk
TUES 15th	7.30pm	Book Group — in Strathblane Library. We would love to see new members so feel free to come along and join us.
WED 16th	7.30pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club. 7.30 for 7.45 start. All welcome.
MON 21st	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council — Special Meeting on our response to Local Development Plan proposals in the Primary School Please come and give us your views.
WED 23rd		Campsie Crooners in the Village Club. 7.30 for 7.45 start. All welcome.
WED 30th	7.30pm	Heritage Society - Craig Mair on Suffragettes in the Village Club. All welcome.

Food Bank Collection Points

Donations of goods for local Food Banks, which are welcome at any time of year, can be made by placing items in the boxes at the entrance to Strathblane Library and the Kirk Rooms porch. The contents are regularly delivered to Start-up Stirling and Glasgow City Mission respectively.

For a list of useful things to donate see: <http://www.trusselltrust.org/resources/documents/food-bank/ShoppingList.pdf>

LET'S DANCE at MUGDOCK

ENROLLING NOW including the new popular Mugdock Movers 60+ classes.
Runs every Wednesday during school term

9.45 - Tots age 2 - 3.

10.40 & 2.00 - 3 - 5 years.

11.35 & 12.45 -Mugdock Movers 60+
4.00 - 5.00 - P1 - P3.

Contact 01360 551689 / 07500 213473 to

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

The surgery will be closed on Mon Sept 7th for a Forth Valley Holiday.

For help contact NHS24 at 0845 4242424

The surgery can be contacted at 01360 770340 For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website at www.edenkilnsurgery.com

For a full list of the wide range of events and activities for all ages at

Murdock Country Park

go to <http://www.mugdock-country-park.org.uk/cgi-bin/calendar/calendar.cgi>

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