

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet January 2014 No.18

NEW YEAR—NEW WAYS OF WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY!

Margaret Vass, SCC Chair writes:

The BVB is two years old. The Community Council established it to keep residents in touch with what is going on in the villages, to try to engage people and give everyone the chance to be informed—and to give their views—on important community issues.

From feedback we have received, some of you find the news sheet boring — although you love the back page and find it really useful!

Well let us be honest too! I know many of you do volunteer, but lots of village organisations struggle to get people to help and a few of us sometimes feel fed up with being the ones left to do too many things around our community. We intend that things should be different this year as Community Councillors would like to have a life without feeling guilty about not arranging something or doing something in the villages. Importantly many of us who have just been re-elected will not be standing in 2017 and 'succession planning' is needed! The community needs more volunteers.

We have to change the way some things are done. For example, we will not plant the village tubs ourselves and it will only happen if others agree to help. The more helpers we get the less time it takes; just now four people have to put in half a day twice a year. In April we will be asking for volunteers, so come on allotment folk, keen gardeners and ex-members of the gardening club step up to the plate and help! We can then form a group independent of the SCC - like those in other local villages - who will take this important work on. This can happen with other tasks you ask us to take on; we will enable but not necessarily do them.

The one thing we will do is the BVB which we have plans to develop, and perhaps expand in the coming year.

We have worked really hard over the last four years to promote community spirit and a feeling of well-being. It is now time to see if that can bear fruit. Do you really want to be part of a vibrant community, or are you content to be a suburb of Glasgow? We fully understand that most lead very busy lives but if more people offer to help you don't need to give much time. It is great socially, you meet lots of people and, dare I say it, have FUN!

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This issue is sponsored by

The Dry Clean Depot

in Baljaffray Shopping Precinct
Owned and run by an old friend
of the village, Hardev Singh

Public Meeting on the Outcomes from the SC Priority Based Budgeting Exercise

Monday January 27th

7 -8.30pm at Balfron HS

This open public meeting is an important opportunity for us all to consider both the process and the outcomes of the Council's attempt to consult as widely as possible on the options as it faces of the need for further significant spending cuts. There will be a chance to meet in small groups with all the SC Heads of Service and discuss any new options which have come out of the process.

Strathblane and Blanefield have been well represented at the all stages so far. In the community's interest lets keep up our level of involvement.

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

Local businesses can contact every household in the village with an advertising insert, but we are happy to preserve the anonymity of public spirited individuals.

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

Please send all late-February & March events for the Calendar and other items to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk by Monday February 17th

The Community Council in January

Here we focus on the major issues discussed at the January meeting of the SCC. Some are dealt with in more detail elsewhere in this issue, and the full minute will be available as usual on the website and the village noticeboards.

Priority Based Budgeting: The future of local public services is the biggest issue facing the community at the moment. The meeting had a detailed discussion of its reaction to the SC priority Based Budget options and in many cases reluctantly agreed to support a number of proposals. In accepting the proposal to move to a four-weekly grey bin collection it was agreed, that residents should be expected to take more responsibility for refuse. There was widespread support for a relaxation of the Council Tax squeeze - and the implementation of a long-overdue property valuation to help maintain essential services.

Community Empowerment Bill Consultation: There was disappointment all round that the draft bill put so little stress on the role of Community Councils and the importance of community democracy in general. The CC will submit its comments by January 24th.

Communication Strategy: It was agreed that in the coming months the CC should work on three fronts: first, to develop a Welcome Pack giving information on the Villages for new residents—the SCC agree funding for this; second, to expand what the BVB can offer by investigating the feasibility of a quarterly 'colour' supplement reporting on village events; and, thirdly, to try to work with our webmaster to see if the village website can further expand what it offers.

Police Report: PC McNally's report featured a number of break-ins and thefts over the last few weeks (full details at www.strathblanefield.org.uk) He noted that in many cases valuable items had been left within easy reach. Residents and businesses are reminded to keep valuable property secure and out of sight at all times. Anyone seeing anything they believe to be suspicious should report the matter immediately by dialling 101 (999 in an emergency).

Litter on the Football Field: The SCC had also been advised of littering on the football field after matches which a resident had regularly cleaned up but was no longer willing to do so. The SCC agreed to contact Blanefield Thistle and

Please report any faults or problems which you find directly to Stirling Council using the links shown in the box below.

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

Elsbeth Posnett 770113

Sue Rand 770630

Mugdock Ward

Richard Arnold 770006

Philip Graves 0141 9561954

and

TWO VACANCIES

INFORMATION SOURCES: Strathblanefield website at www.strathblanefield.org.uk

Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; and the **Facebook** Strathblanefield Group

Current & past issues of the Bulletin can be downloaded from the village website.

Community Council Elections in February

Still on our agenda is the need to fill the two remaining CC vacancies in the ill-named Mugdock Ward which also covers most of Strathblane. A further set of elections will take place in February and, if you live in that Ward, you will have received a flyer with this issue of the BVB. Please consider joining us in what can be very rewarding work for the good of the village. Contact Chair, Margaret Vass, (770131) for more information or go to <http://www.stirling.gov.uk/services/council-and-government>

Campsie Road Housing Development

The Community Panel convened by RSHA met with representatives of the developer Cala Homes to discuss their revised proposals for the site which are likely to form the basis of a planning application to Stirling Council in February. The plan is now for 28 houses including 14 affordable homes ranging from one bedroom flats to a three bedroom bungalow.

A number of issues were raised by community members mainly relating to significant potential traffic problems (and the need for major traffic calming), footpaths, access to the site and the need for the new housing to blend well into the character of the village. All of these issues should be taken up by the planners in Stirling and we can all comment again when the application is submitted. We hope to be able to display the latest plans in Strathblane Library in the next couple of weeks.

Assuming all goes well with the application, and with funding availability for RSHA, it looks as if building could begin in 2014-15 for the private houses, and 2015-16 for the much needed affordable homes.

Once again we should stress that in order to ensure that we get the mix of housing that we need, anyone potentially interested in renting an affordable home on this site should register their interest with Rural Stirling Housing Association—more information on the village website.

request they take responsibility for clearing up the mess after their matches.

Elected Member Report: In his contribution Cllr Ian Muirhead re-emphasised the Council's challenge of making total savings of £4.72m over five consecutive years. He thanked the SCC for its comments on the budget option which would help him represent community views at the at the February 20th Stirling Council meeting.

February Community Council Meeting

The SCC meets on Monday February 3rd at 7.30pm in Strathblane Primary School when we have a speaker from Scottish Water. Come along and give us your views.

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 2777000

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

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Path Development Group

Following the successful completion of our Feasibility Study of the **upgrading of the old Railway Path to Station Road** the next task is to complete the construction of the upgrade together with a link path to the bridge on Station Road. If our fundraising strategy is effective (there is much work to be done) we hope to see work completed during 2015.

With the help of *Living Streets* we have completed a 'street audit' of the difficult walking conditions down Station Road. The aim of this exercise - which we plan to repeat in other parts of the villages—is to identify problems for all kinds of walkers and to come up with potential solutions to them. The Station Road report will shortly be available on the village website. In this case 'solutions' are not always easy to find but we are keen to get the experiences and ideas of those who live nearby.

In the next couple of weeks we hope to have discussions with **Scottish Water** on the possibility of a real 'community benefit' from the lengthy project in the form of a thoroughly resurfaced path alongside the football field and a new high quality walking and cycling route up the hill from the Allotments entrance to the Gowk Stane Road. That new path can then form part of the new **John Muir Trail** a cross-country long distant path to be opened in April and which will pass through Strathblane. (See the February BVB for more on this.)

First World War Group

Set up to research, and produce a booklet on, those men from the villages who died in WW1 and who are named on the War Memorial, this project goes on apace unearthing some fascinating material. This month it got feature coverage in *The Herald*, the *Stirling Observer* and the *Milngavie & Bearsden Herald*.

In the first half of 2014 the Trust aims to increase membership and expand the set of active groups with community projects that operate under its auspices. Life membership costs only £5.

For further information on membership and Gift Aid contact cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk

Blane Valley Allotments Association — Although we currently have a waiting list for small plots, we have a few larger plots available. If you're interested in growing your own fruit, veg and flowers with a motley collection of like-minded individuals (and families), please contact the Secretary, Val McNulty, at val.mculty.waitrose.com. It's hard work but fun, rewarding, and a great excuse for getting dirty.

STRATHBLANE BOWLING CLUB IS 'DEVELOPMENT CLUB OF THE YEAR'

At the Stirling Sports Awards Evening on 19th November at Dunblane Hydro, where all aspects of sporting activity were represented, Strathblane Bowling Club beat six other nominees to win the '**Development Club of the Year**' award. The award was given for the Club's work with Strathblane Primary School pupils during the 2013 bowling season. Club members gave their time both in the final school term and during the summer holiday period to tutor the pupils in the basics of bowling. This after school club project was run in conjunction with Active Stirling and with the backing of the school. Initially six P5-7 pupils joined but, through their keenness and enthusiasm, the word spread amongst their friends and by the end of September over twenty were regularly attending. In September a team of six pupils from Strathblane played a match against juniors from Torrance Bowling Club. Honours were shared and a good level of skill was shown by all. In addition, one afternoon in June all pupils from P5-7 —over sixty children—came to the Club for a brief introduction to bowling.

The Bowling Club starts its season again in April this year and intend to restart the after school club. Having managed to enthuse the younger people of Strathblane, there is now a challenge to teenagers and adults – go along and join with the members of the bowling club for a taster session and see how sociable and competitive the sport is. Look out for further details in the Bulletin.

Choral Evening

with the **Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir**

Friday February 21st in the Village Club

Tickets £10 (Proceeds in aid of Village Club Funds)

Doors open at 7.30pm, the performance starts 8.00pm. Tea included in the price will be served at the interval. Due to the size of the choir audience space is limited so purchase your tickets to avoid disappointment.

Contact: Keith Vass keithvass13@gmail.com Tel 770131
Dick Arnold richard@eslpaisley.freemove.co.uk Tel: 770006

Wednesday Lunch Club

Would you like to join the group of really nice senior citizens **who meet in the Lower Edmonstone Hall every Wednesday at 12noon for lunch and a chat?**

We will happily collect and return anyone would like to come along but has mobility problems.

You will be made very welcome.

If you would like to join us or want more information please **contact Sheena Turner on 01360771433**.

ACTIVE STIRLING WALKING NETWORK

Walking is an ideal form of exercise to promote good health and wellbeing. You can do it anywhere and at anytime and you don't need special equipment. The walking groups, with trained walk leaders, are a great way for people to get out and meet other people and they are also social and fun! Community walks are held on Thursday mornings, health walks on Thursday afternoon, in different villages. Why not come along and try one!

For further information please contact Tricia Cumming
T.03000280101 M 07557439111 or
Sandra Ritchie T.01360771211

There is also a class for **Otago** in Killearn on Thursdays from 1pm for 30 minutes. This is a gentle, easy to follow class designed specifically to prevent falls and improve strength and balance.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

SUN 26th	1 - 5pm	Village Jam in the Village Club. All welcome
MON 27th	7 - 8.30pm	Feedback Report on Stirling Council Priority Based Budgeting Balfroon High School

FEBRUARY

SAT 1st	7.30pm	Comedy Night for Strathblane PS in the Village Club Tickets £10 incl. Finger Buffet. Bar 'til 1am
MON 3rd	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in Strathblane Primary School. All welcome.
TUES 4th	7.30pm	Senior Citizen's—Mary's Meals Talk and Slides in the Edmonstone Hall
FRI 7th	4.30-6.30	Messy Church , £6.00 per family
FRI 7th	1.15pm	Pre-school Craft & Story Time - Book a place in the Library
THURS 13th	1.30-2.45	Holiday Story & Activity Session 5-7 years Something for your SWEET heart? Places limited — Booking essential.
SAT 15th	10 -12	Sale of Ex-Library Books and DVDs in Strathblane Library. Prices from 20p.
TUES 18th	7.30pm	Bookgroup - Book for discussion : 'March' by Geraldine Brooks
TUES 18th	7.30pm	Senior Citizen's—AGM & Felix Lennon Music Night in the Edmonstone Hall
WED 19th	2 - 2.15pm	Baby Bookbug - Rhymes and songs especially for babies up to one year old
WED 19th	2.30pm	Bookbug - Bouncing rhymes and stories for children aged four and under
WED 19th	7.30pm	Heritage Society - Pat Thomson 'Who do you think you are?' in the Village Club
FRI 21st	1.30pm	Storytime for 3 to 5 year olds. No booking required.
FRI 21st		Fish Supper Night in Kirk Rooms
FRI 21st	8pm	Choral Evening with the Kirkintilloch Male Voice Choir in the Village Club. Tickets (in aid of Village Club Funds) £10 (Tea included) Doors open 7.30. See P3 above for more details.
SAT 22nd	7.30pm	Ceilidh Evening Fun Hut. Fundraiser Tickets £10. Burns Brothers Ceilidh Band. Bar & Auction

MARCH

SAT 8th	7.30pm	Strathblane Tennis Club Ceilidh in Edmonstone Hall Ian Thomson Scottish Dance Band. £10 BYOB. Tickets & info 01360 771031 or 771571
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Police Surgery Times for February at the Office in

Strathblane Primary School (crime permitting)

Sunday 2nd — 2pm - 3pm
 Thursday 13th- — 3pm - 4pm
 Thursday 20th — 11am - Noon
 Wednesday 26th — 3pm - 4pm

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

Strathblane Library News

Gaelic Month — The library will be showcasing its lending collection of Gaelic children's and adult books throughout February for those who may be interested in borrowing any of these titles.

Taste IT — If you are interested and are available for a February series of Beginners' Computing classes on a Thursday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m, please give your name in to the library

Book and DVD Sale — Sale of Ex library books and DVDs. From Picture Books right up to Bill Bryson's History of Nearly Everything. Prices from 20p.

The **Village Club** is available for club activities and private parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett (770113), Keith Vass (770131).

Foot Health Clinic for Strathblane

Starting in March—initially on the 2nd Wednesday of the month—and based at Strathblane Pharmacy. Services will include nail cutting, removal of corns and calluses and treatment for Verucas. For details contact Jacqueline Morton at 07703799112 or 01360 550374. See the flyer in the current BVB.

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