

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

January 2016 No 38

Strathendrick Care Home — the battle begins!

Our local Stirling Councillors along with your Community Council have stopped the closure and sale of Strathendrick Care Home — for the time being. Stirling Council were planning to use the money from the sale of the home to help fund a centralised Stirling Care Village to be created on the site of the Old Stirling Infirmary. This was to take place without any local consultation.

At their December meeting however, the Council have now accepted unanimously a motion from Cllr Berrill that:

1. Strathendrick will not close for as long as any of the current long-term residents want to continue living there.
2. Strathendrick will not close unless and until the Council (i.e., councillors) are satisfied that adequate provision (whether Strathendrick or an acceptable alternative) is in place for rural areas.

We acknowledge that the provision of care services is changing with long term care being replaced with the need for nursing home provision. The integration of social care and health (see page 2) aims to help people stay at home for longer.

All community councils in the catchment area have now received an apology and we have been briefed by senior staff. A small group has been formed which includes Marian Lever and Grace Edmonds from SCC to help shape services for our area.

There is now a real opportunity that Strathendrick will evolve into a 'care hub' for this part of the Stirling Council area. We will try to achieve a pattern of service provision that means carers and friends do not have far to travel to support individuals needing a bed for assessment or re-enablement. It would also be good to have a more local MECS team to provide a quicker response when individuals call for help. Strathendrick could provide assessment beds and intermediate care beds. We think that, working together, an appropriate development of this kind could be a 'spend to save' initiative. Please get in touch if you have views.

What is in no doubt is that we will need to do more in our community to support those who need care.

Work Underway on Affordable Homes in Campsie Road



Before Christmas, in the presence of Strathblane PS children, Community Councillors, Cllr Lambie and officials from Rural Stirling Housing Association the ceremonial turf-breaking for the building of 14 affordable houses to rent on Campsie Road was carried out by local resident and founder member of RSHA David Frood who said:

"Strathblane was one of the priority areas for new homes when the association was established (25 years ago) but it was always difficult to find an affordable site. It is great we have finally managed to get there in close consultation with the Community Council. These homes will be a village asset."

Register Your Interest

These will be the first affordable house to be built in the village for 40 years, and once again we must urge anyone with local connections interested in renting to register their interest as soon as possible with RSHA and Stirling Council.

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by the Village Club

Copy Date for the February BVB is Monday 18th. Please send Calendar items up to mid March and other news to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

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

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

Community Council January Update — from SCC Chair Margaret Vass

Our December and January meetings focussed on Stirling Council's **Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)** and **Social Care and Health Integration** highlighting how the important issues involved will impact on our community.

The CC's PBB response is on the village website but here are some highlights. Despite its potential to engage and empower communities we felt last year that proposals lacked deal and were concerned that Councillors were required to vote on options whose impact on citizens was unclear. This year again the bland language is back and the bad news hidden. For 'modernisation' and 'transformation' we must too often read 'job loss' and 'service reduction'. The current process was set to save £25m over 5 years but recent local government cuts mean that further £4.99m must come off this year's budget. Further consultation will now take place (see below).

We have supported changes to waste services—the introduction of a 7-day service and increased recycling. The need to retain the Balfron Depot was highlighted. Whilst not opposed in principle to a proposal to move libraries into other council-owned buildings our own Primary School does not currently offer the space to maintain the excellent range of library services. Childrens' Homes and facilities for long-term care are likely to be cut.

Further PBB Conversation Balfron Campus Wed Feb

3rd 6 - 7.30pm Further SG cuts mean Stirling Council are having to make extra savings. Proposals will be published on the council website, along with a survey by the end of January. Community councils & resident's then have an opportunity to discuss the options with senior management.

The CC has now responded to the **draft strategic plan for social care and health integration** which was summarised in the November BVB. We agree with its main aim of developing a person-centred approach to meet the needs of individuals, minimising the need to go to hospital and supporting people to stay safe, healthy and well at home. There is not enough detail to allow a proper assessment of the effectiveness of implementing the plan especially in rural areas. The development of a Stirling Care Village offering intermediate care between home and hospital is in itself a good idea. Our strong concern, however, is that resources might be lost from the rural areas to help fund it. The Strathendrick Care Home is under review (see Page 1).

Early intervention and prevention is good and we suggested more information on preventive strategies such as encouraging a more active lifestyle would be welcome. The plan proposes that service users are supported to self-manage and plan care proactively giving individuals choice and control, but that kind of self-management may be significantly limited in rural areas by the limited range of services available. Equality of access across urban and rural areas is essential. Lack of transport in rural areas causes difficulties with accessing hospital appointments and getting home in a reasonable time frame. There is no mention made in the plan of how to deliver palliative care and, especially important for our community, how to deal with cross border integration between the Integration Board and Greater Glasgow Health Board which is used by many in this area as access is easier, especially for emergency care and in hospital care.

The **next Community Council** meeting will be on **Monday February 1st at 7.30pm**

in the Primary School.

Come along and give us your views.

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 — 111 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

Elsbeth 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 2777000

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



This weather leaving you a **Whiter Shade of Pale?**
Feeling a bit **Mony Mony**
and you **Gotta get Out Of This Place?** Be a **Cool Jerk**
and set your **Wheels on Fire** for a **night of live 60s music** with the pop band BackBeat...

and a fish supper too!

Strathblane Village Club, **Saturday 13 Feb 2016**

Tickets £15 available from Barbara Fleming
(oldbs@hotmail.com)

PROCEEDS TO STRATHCARRON HOSPICE

Help us Clean and Care for Our Lovely Village Club Hall

Small part time cleaning job available

Flexible hours - approx. 2hrs per week

For more information please email us
at strathblanevc@gmail.com or
call Sheila 01360 771266

Harry Potter Night

February 4th 6.30 -7.30 p.m.

in Strathblane Library

The second annual celebration of all things Potter!
Come along in Hogwarts costumes(optional!) with
your very best wands to enjoy an hour of fun and
games with a Harry Potter theme!

BOOK AND DVD SALE

WITH AN ADDED EXTRA!

Saturday February 20th 11.30-2.00 pm

Ex-Library Stock at Bargain Prices

Two local boys who are raising money for their
Ecuador expedition in 2017 will also be in the library
providing **refreshments!** Come along and help them
with their fundraising AND leave with a whole pile

STUDYING FOR EXAMS? DISTRACTED AT HOME? NEED A QUIET SPACE?

If you are studying for prelims this month, or later for
the exams., you can use our quiet work space away
from all the distractions of home(T.V., internet,
games!) we will even hold your phone for you if you
think that might help! The back room at Strathblane
Library has space enough for two to three students.

Farewell and Welcome at Pestle & Mortar

We must record our thanks to Stuart Boyd for all his
service to the community — and to a wide range of
local organisations — over thirteen & a half years
running the deli and wish him well in his hard earned
retirement. He will be sorely missed.

At the same time we are delighted to welcome and
wish every success to Bella Ross who has taken over
the business. To quote Stuart he has demonstrated
'that businesses can survive in Blane field'.

Rural Stirling Housing Association

First Registered in December 1990 RSHA recently
celebrated the start of its 25th anniversary year with a
social event attended by current Committee and staff
members as well as some of the people who played a
key role in setting the Association up at that time.

The Association was presented with a Stirling Council
Civic Plaque by Baillie Violet Weir (the Council's Hous-
ing Portfolio Holder). Baillie Weir commended the As-
sociation for its contribution over the years to meeting
housing needs in the rural area, in partnership with the
Council.

RSHA Chair Margaret Vass spoke about the achieve-
ments of the Association during its first quarter century
and highlighted the particular role played over the time
of the Association's formation by several people present
at the event. She described the Association's particular
pride in continuing to build new homes in the rural
area — most recently demonstrated by its starting work
on 14 new affordable houses to rent in Strathblane (See
page 1) She noted that these had only been possible
because of the many thousands of hours of time and
effort contributed by volunteer Management Commit-
tee Members. And new volunteers are always needed
— see box below.

Rural Stirling Housing Association

Opportunity to Join Management Committee

The Association is overseen by a volunteer Manage-
ment Committee of local people. We are currently
seeking to recruit up to two additional members with
particular skills/experience, at a management level, in
relation to:

- Housing development or procurement of
building works more generally.
- Finance and business management

We also always welcome interest from RSHA tenants in
joining the Committee.

The Committee holds monthly evening meetngs. Trav-
el and other eligible expenses are payable.

Please contact Tony Teasdale (Director) by 26th February
for more information about what is involved and to
register an interest (tony@rsha.org.uk).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

MON 25th	7.30pm	Guild Burns Night Celebrations - in the Kirk Rooms
WED 27th	7.30pm	Heritage Society — Alan McBride - A Local Presentation from the Country Park Ranger in the Village Club All welcome
WED 27th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Kirk Rooms (also on Feb 17th). Otherwise in the Village Club
THURS 28th	2pm	Cuppa Time — and Every Thursday
FRI 29th	8pm	Youth Cafe — and every Friday during term-time until Easter
SAT 30th	6.30pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms — Far from the Madding Crowd & Turbo
SAT 30th	6.45pm	Blane Valley Burns Club 36th Annual Burns Supper - 3 Course Meal, Piper, Entertainment, Raffle and more. BYOB & Glasses (No bar at event) Tickets £17 from Strathblane Library or George Eastcroft (01360 770390)

FEBRUARY

MON 1st	10.30am	Book bug @ Fun Hut - All the usual songs & rhymes with Library Bookbug!
MON 1st	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome.
THURS 4th	6.30-7.30	Harry Potter Night in Strathblane Library (See box on Page 3)
FRI 5th	1.30pm	Pre-school Storytime @ the Library
MON 7th	10.30pm	Book bug @ Fun Hut
THURS 11th	2pm	A 'LOVELY' craft and stay session. Please book a place in advance - strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk
SAT 13th	7.30pm	Back Beat – 60s Pop Group in the Village Club - in aid of Strathcarron Hospice See P.3
TUES 16th	7.30pm	Book Group @ the Library - 'The Marble Collector' by Cecelia Ahem
WED 17th	7.30pm	Heritage Society — Robert Davey 'The Royal Yachts- how the other half lived' in the Village Club All welcome
WED 17th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Kirk Rooms - All other Wednesdays in the Village Club
WED 17th	7.30pm	Youth Sports Re-start in the Edmonston Hall
SAT 20th	9.30am	Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Prayer Breakfast - in the Kirk Rooms
SAT 20th	11.30-2	Book & DVD Sale {with refreshments} at Strathblane Library (See box on Page 3)
SAT 27th	6.30pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms

Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On

A Big Thank You to Edenmill Farm for the magnificent tree, the Co-op for the mince pies, the Mirsa store and the Blane Valley Inn for wine, Pestle and Mortar for Mulled wine syrup and Dumbarton Wind Ensemble for the wonderful music.

Thank You — Marian Lever would like to thank friends, neighbours, and community members for all the messages of support after Bill's sudden death in early January.

Edenkiln Surgery — The surgery 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 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