

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet March 2014 No. 20

Contaminated Land Issue Resolved Scottish Government Fills the Funding Gap Remediation Can Begin!

Fiona Murray of the Blane Residents Association writes:

Scottish Government Offer:—Last month the BVB reported that the Treasury had agreed a grant of £255,000 towards remediation of the 13 contaminated sites. On February 25 with some trepidation, Margaret Vass, Fiona Murray and Martin McGougan took the train to Edinburgh for a meeting – arranged by Bruce Crawford MSP - with John Swinney *Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth* in St Andrews House. Also in attendance, at our invitation, were the One Show's Glasgow team. All our tensions were finally released and the meeting ended in absolute delight, and not a few tears, when after tea (with a shared teabag) and a civilised chat about the unfairness of our situation as no-fault owners, Mr Swinney announced that the Scottish Government would complete the funding required up to a **staggering £300,000**.

Remediation Work Can Start—This means that the remediation work can go ahead as soon as is practicable and certainly before autumn this year. Stirling Council estimate that the work will take under one week for each of the 13 affected gardens; so the work could be completed before winter sets in. The relief for all concerned of such an enormous financial burden is huge and will mean that we can get on with our lives, after a prolonged, stressful period of more than two years. The full funding is made up of an initial grant of £125,000 from Stirling Council which added to UK Treasury £255,000 and Scottish Governments £300,000 will more than cover the estimated total bill of £630,000.00. We are also advised by Stirling Council that this full funding will mean that there will be a greater degree of reinstatement of gardens, which will take away some of the pain of the upheaval still to be faced by those of us requiring remediation.

Celebration—At this fabulous result, the residents of Blane Crescent/Place/Avenue decided that a get together was in order and we met up in the Village Club on Friday evening 14th March. Nearly everyone who had helped us to get to this point was invited. Most of the residents and their families came along laden with party nibbles and home baking. Mrs Anne McGuire MP, Mr Bruce Crawford MSP local Councillors/Officials and our very own group of local supporters. A gathering of around 70 people was entertained by the Village Club Jammers—who had written a song about the One Show—and were privileged to hear Ryan Conlon on the pipes. It was wonderful to see everyone in such a happy relaxed mood.

Thank you to all who helped us! WHAT A RESULT!

This Month's Main Topics

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Contaminated Land Result | 1 |
| Campsie Rd Development Concern | 2 |
| 10 Years of SOS | 3 |
| Songline for John Muir | 3 |

Blane Valley Inn - Update

We understand that the village will once more have two hostleries from mid-April, when the Blane Valley Inn is expected to reopen under new management. Through an agreement with the new landlords, owners Belhaven Breweries are currently investing in refurbishing the interior and upgrading toilet facilities. More news to come as we get it....

The Threat to Strathblane Library

Our "temporary" library building has been given only five years life. Stirling Council's forward budgetary planning rolls on, and part of the process is an evaluation of expenditure on Library Services. This could mean that opening hours could be drastically cut. As the publicly provided focal point of the community we need to defend our library

But all protestations will be disregarded unless more people use the library. The heavy use of the car-park for dropping off and collecting children from school doesn't count. However, if you pop in to read the newspaper and shelter from the rain while you wait for school to come out, that does; Lynne and Isabel are really quite friendly!! Gone are the days when libraries were whisper-zones, today you can borrow DVDs and ebooks, view exhibitions, go on the internet, buy a coffee or join a computing course. Lots of dog-owners collect poo-bags (free at present) and the Village Diary helps you choose the best time for a fund-raising ceilidh. And the Library is our only publicly available 'office' for Stirling Council.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

Keith Vass

PS. if you would like a tailored course in computing, let the librarians know what you want, and we'll try and provide it.

This edition is sponsored by Nancy Sharp of One Fine Day and The Finer Detail

www.onefinedaycakes.co.uk and www.the-finerdetail.com.

Cakes will soon be available to order from Pestle & Mortar, Blane field.

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

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.

The Community Council in March

Here we focus on the major issues discussed at the March 3rd meeting of the SCC. Some are dealt with in more detail elsewhere in this issue, and the full minute of a meeting was dominated by planning and housing issues will be available as usual on the website and the village noticeboards.

Campsie Road Housing Development—Andrew Dimmer, Cala's Project Architect gave a presentation on the design background to the site and highlighted an important layout change, a proposal for a one-way loop road which would mitigate the blind spot risk at the top of Campsie Road. The road would be fully adopted by the Council and would allow refuse disposal vehicles full access. There was discussion of the lack of pavements with the professionals making the case that the shared road between pedestrians and vehicles was a safer option. Most of the ensuing debate concerned traffic calming issues, design of a 'village entrance' close to Dunglass View and the desirability of footways along both sides of the main road. (See update on right)

Planning Application: 9 Milndavie Road—This proposal for a third house on sub-divided garden ground was represented by the agent for the proposer and the CC heard the objections of three neighbouring residents. The CC agreed that an approach be made to our Councillor to have the application considered by a Planning Panel. The CC opposes the development on the grounds that it involves overdevelopment of an area served by a narrow private road with poor sight-lines and no passing places.

Contaminated Land Issue—The Chair was able to report the happy outcome of the lobbying campaign detailed on Page 1.

Police Report—PC David McNally's month included:

- (1) On 6th February about 300 metres of copper cabling was stolen from overhead power lines in the Khyber area of Mugdock. It seems the thieves earthed the cable before removing it suggesting expertise at working with electrical cabling.
- (2) On early evening of 10th February outside the Kirkhouse Inn a male in his late 40's/early 50's caused a disturbance and repeatedly kicked a car belonging to a local delivery driver. The man responsible has not yet been identified and any assistance the public can offer to identify this individual would be greatly appreciated.
- (3) In the early hours of 12th February, three males were arrested after being found acting suspiciously in gardens in the Glasgow Rd area of Blanefield. It was believed they intended to break into properties.
- (4) Overnight between 21st & 22nd February the side of a van was badly scratched in Milndavie Crescent. Anyone with any information relating to this incident is asked to contact Balfron Police Office.
- (5) On the morning of 3rd March, a male was apprehended in Glasgow Road, Blanefield following a road accident. The individual concerned was charged with various road traffic offences.

Copy date for the April BVB is Monday 14th.

Please send Calendar items for late April and May and any other news to cc@strathblane.org.uk

Campsie Road Development Concern

Community pressure has resulted in improvements to the Cala scheme. There will now be an adopted road connecting all the properties which will loop through the development. The main issues still to be resolved is the extent of the streetscape and associated traffic calming on Campsie Road. This will be discussed at the next Community Council meeting. You may remember that the community reluctantly agreed to the Campsie Road site being earmarked for housing in the recent Local Development Plan consultation on the basis of 50% being for affordable housing as we are a "highly pressured area". The current proposal delivers this. However Stirling's Local Development Plan has just completed the final inquiry stage and the Reporter at the Scottish Government has listened to landowners and developers and reduced the 50% to 33% to help the viability of schemes. This is despite our development being shown to work. We do not know whether the Campsie Road site will change. If it does it could go from 14 affordable homes to 9 a loss of 5 much needed homes to rent.

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.

Working Together for Our Villages

The Community Council has received funding to help groups in the community share experience on the best uses of funds and volunteers. A club or society or social enterprise can avoid reinventing the wheel by learning from others' attempts to, for example, apply for grants or gain VAT exemption, making the efforts of volunteers more effective.

This is part of the 'community conversation' on what we wish our community to be. It is clear that we are falling behind other communities in generating the income needed to retain what we already have in the community. Our local Development Trust is crucial to this and its AGM in May will feature a debate on raising our aspirations.

Find out more in our April edition.

April Community Council Meeting

The SCC meets on Monday April 7th at 7.30pm in the Kirk Rooms. The Agenda will include the continuing issue of the Campsie Road housing development, and an update on the Scottish Water project. Come along and give us your views.

MAKING CONTACT with the SCC Email us at cc@strathblane.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: Strathblane website at www.strathblane.org.uk

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

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

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—The Group has secured further support from Forth Valley LEADER to extend the Feasibility Study of the upgrading of the Railway Line track to Station Road (now complete) to find a route and produce a design for a **link path** from the railway path direct to Station Road at the bridge over the Blane. The aim is to finish the exercise by the end of March. The proposals will then be displayed for comment in the Library. We are keen to get any thoughts or suggestions people may have (contact Alan Hutton at alanhutton@gmail.com). In April we begin work on fundraising for the construction of both the paths.

First World War Group—The First World War group of the SCDT would like to thank all those who have responded to our request in last month's BVB for writers to tell the stories of the local men who fell in the War. A wealth of talent has come forward and they have now set about writing the stories.

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 more information on membership & Gift Aid contact cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk

Strathblane Out of School Care Celebrates 10 Years

Gillian Waugh and Claire Lanigan write: The out of school care got off the ground in Oct 2004 after much effort from a group of parents, who cut through all the red tape involved in setting up an organisation like this and succeeded in opening the doors to what has proved to be a much needed child care facility in our village. It took a number of years to gain parents confidence that we were here for the foreseeable future and would be a reliable service for their childcare needs. We have had the great fortune to have wonderful staff, totally committed to SOSOC, and through their amazing dedication and loyalty and together with the parents who have supported us, we are now 10years on and delivering a childcare service for the village to be proud of!

SOSOC is now under the management of its own staff, set up as a co-operative after the parent committee stood down 5yrs ago. We have on average 90 children a week coming through our doors at both breakfast time and after-school and during the holiday periods. We are there to help working parents by providing a fun place for their children to come and play allowing them peace of mind that their children are happy and well cared for whilst they are at work. The difficulty parents have getting their children to leave at the end of the night is testimony to the job our staff do throughout the day.

The **Wild West Hoedown** will be a party to celebrate our last 10 yrs and to look forward to the future. We will be inviting our founding parents to join us for the evening as our guests, some of whom include, Sally Gray, Sue Graves, Shona Currie and Sheila Macfarlane. **See poster & Calendar for details.**



Defibrillator Training

A further session has been arranged for April 30th in the School (Small Hall) starting at 7.30pm. Places are limited so could anyone interested contact Marian Lever at 01360 770536 or marianlever@btinternet.com.

Easter at Strathblane Church

Holy Week Services will be held in Strathblane Church on:

Mon April 14th at 7am Tues April 15th at 10am

Wed April 16th at 2pm Thurs April 17th at 7am

There is a **Maundy Thursday** service at 7.30 on **April 17th..**

Friday April 18th:

Easter Messy Church 12- 2pm, in Kirk Rooms

Good Friday Service, Killearn Kirk 7.30pm

Saturday April 19th: 10am Holy Week Service - Church

Sunday April 20th:

7.30am Meet at Church Car Park, walk to Dunglass for

8am Service

9.30am Bacon Rolls & Egg Hunt in Kirk Rooms

11am Morning Worship: Easter Sunday—Prayer

7pm Evening Worship, Kirk Rooms

Mon April 21st—Sat April 26th

Flower Festival in Strathblane Church.

Songline for John Muir

From **21st - 26th April** there will be a festival taking place along the entire route of the John Muir Way to promote the opening of the newly extended walking route from Dunbar to Helensburgh. Songline for John Muir is part of this festival and aims to bring singers of all abilities out into their local environment to take part in community singing events along the John Muir Way. It will reach the Waterfall at Clachan of Campsie on Thursday 24th April at 7pm and anyone wishing to sing is encouraged to join in. This is a free event.

Prior to this a singing workshop will be held at Edmonstone Hall on Friday 4th April at 7.30-9.30 pm. People interested in joining the Songline can learn the songs to be sung at the waterfall. They are very easy to learn and are sung in three part rounds. There will be a nominal charge of £3 to attend the workshop. For further information regarding both events please contact Ali Mills 07802928874 or Jill McCubbin 07791873778

Special World Book Night Event

Tuesday 22nd April 7.30 p.m in the Library

Mongolian born author Ugaana Ramsay will be speaking about and reading from her memoir "Mongol" which charts her experiences, firstly as an outsider arriving in Scotland and later, as the mother of Billy, her much loved Downs syndrome son whose short life transformed her own in so many

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| SAT 8th— | SUN 30th | The Smithy Gallery Collection — Details www.smithygallery.com 01360 770551 |
| FRI 28th | 7.pm | Film Night in the Kirk Rooms |
| FRI 28th | 7.30pm | Catriona MacKay & Olav Hogansson (Scottish & Swedish Harps) in Menzies Hall Fintry |
| SUN 30th | 7.30pm | North Atlantic Trio Concert/Album Launch (harp, dobro & esoteric percussion—Scots, Irish,Appalachian, Bluegrass crossover) in the Village Club. £10 at the door. |
| MON 31st | for a week | Cancer Research UK House to House Collection — ends April 6th |
| MON 31st | | Guild Spring Outing to Cameron House |

APRIL

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| FRI 4th | 7.30pm | Blane Valley Burns Club AGM in Village Club anyone wishing to join welcome followed by..... (see below) |
| FRI 4th | 8pm | Quiz Night in Village Club. All welcome. Max 6 per team, 1st, 2nd & Booby prizes; Tickets £4 per person from George Eastcroft 770390. |
| FRI 4th | 7.30-9.30 | Songline for John Muir Singing Workshop in the Edmonstone Hall (See Page 3 for details) |
| SUN 6th | 1 - 5pm | Jam Session in the Village Club. All welcome |
| MON 7th | 7.30pm | Strathblane Community Council in the Kirk Rooms All welcome. |
| THUR 10th | 1.30-3pm | Easter Fun for PS children in the Library (suitable for age 5-8). Please book in advance. |
| SUN 13th | 2pm | Start of 2014 Dinghy sailing Season at Loch Ard Sailing Club Race at 2pm. Prospective members and members alike are most welcome. Info: Dick Arnold 01360 770006 |
| MON 14th | 7.00am | Holy Week Service Strathblane Kirk (For full details of Easter events see Page 3) |
| FRI 18th | 12 -2pm | Messy Church in the Kirk Rooms. Family fun: crafts, games, worship & a family meal : £6 / family |
| MON 21st— | -SAT 26th | Flower Festival in Strathblane Church |
| TUES 22nd | 7.30pm | World Book Night Event - Mongolian born author Ugaana Ramsey in Library (see Page 3) |
| WED 23rd | 2.30pm | Bookbug - For babies and toddlers in the Library |
| FRI 25th | 7pm | Film Night in the Kirk Rooms |
| SAT 26th | 8— Late | Wild West Hoedown — SOSC 10th Birthday Bash Live music, Rodeo Bull, Moonshine, Burgers BYOB & Bar. Ticks £10 from SOSC Staff, Call: 07766337537 or 07720765998 |
| WED 30th | 7.30pm | Defibrillator Training - Places limited, contact Marian Lever 01360 770536 Or marian.lever@btinternet.com to book a place. |

EDENKILN SURGERY

The surgery will be closed on Good Friday & Easter Monday (April 18th & 21st)
We can be contacted at 01360 770340 For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website www.edenkilnsurgery.com

Police Surgery Times for April at the Office in Strathblane Primary School (crime permitting) are not currently available. They will be posted on the village website and on noticeboards in due course.

The Village Club is available for club activities & private parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett (07714756810), Keith Vass (770131) .

The Seagulls are back!! — *warns Marian Lever*
It is perfectly OK to use bird feeders but please do not encourage gulls by leaving out food remains. And keep an eye on any flat roof area that might prove a good nesting site for them. Gulls were a real problem in part of the village last year. Lets try and make sure they do not settle again.

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