

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet May 2012 No. 2

STIRLING COUNCIL WANTS OUR VIEWS

Does your event really need a Public Entertainment Licence? Have your say.

Stirling Council wants to hear from local organisations, community and voluntary groups or anyone who may be affected by a recent change in legislation covering the licensing of public entertainment. The Council is concerned that local groups could be adversely affected because certain types of events that previously didn't require a licence now will. However, they don't seem to be able to do much about it.

Groups organise dozens of fun and fundraising events each year within our community. We understand that Stirling are proposing to charge only £1 for a licence, but why on earth create all the extra bureaucracy? The Council is proposing that certain events should be exempt from requiring a licence, but only events that meet all of the following criteria:

- a. organised by a charity or voluntary / community group,
- b. admitting no more than 300 persons, and
- c. not charging for entry.

In other words, many (most?) social and fundraising events that currently take place in our village will require a licence, because they charge for entrance. Events run for financial gain by an individual or company will require a licence, no matter how small. We're concerned this could put groups off arranging events, and could reduce the usage of community halls and other facilities, which already exist on a knife-edge in rural communities. We're also concerned that information on current entertainment licensing requirements is very unclear, and wonder if Stirling's systems could cope with a great increase in applications.

Comments on the above proposal should be sent, in writing, no later than Friday 1 June 2012 to: Licensing, Economy, Planning and Regulation, Room 229, Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET or by email to licensing@stirling.gov.uk. The Community Council will be drafting a template letter which you can use or adapt as you wish. See the community website for details and let us know what you think at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

MAKING CONTACT

Email the SCC at

cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Get in touch with your Community Councillors

Margaret Vass	770131
Richard Arnold	770006
Philip Graves	0141 9561954
John Gray	771031
Alan Hutton	770537
Marian Lever	770536
Mike McNulty	770076
Fiona Murray	771497
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

May Community Council

In this brief report we highlight five items dealt with at the May (April 30th) Community Council meeting. Three of these are followed up on the next page.

Police Report

PC David McNally was able to report a quiet month in April. There was, however, an overnight theft of a significant amount of camping equipment from a parked car left unlocked in Ballewan Crescent, the lessons from which are clear. Three other thefts or attempted thefts were thwarted, or the property - a motor-cycle - recovered, and two individuals charged over an incident at the Primary School.

Community Assets

Referring to a map showing land ownership in the village (available on the website) Lesley Malkin from Stirling Council explained the Council's Surplus Property Procedure within which communities have an opportunity to buy or lease for community use land or property that SC does not wish to retain. A current example is the bothy and a new possibility is the triangle of land by the toilets (see next page). Questions for Lesley on Council property - past and present - concerned: the land surrounding the church; Park Place; the Telephone Exchange and Craigend Castle. She pointed us to SC contacts for more information.

Jubilee Celebrations

It was reported that, led by a co-ordinating group, arrangements were proceeding well. (See the insert in this issue for details).

West Highland Way

Callum Christie, Local Access Officer for the West Highland Way, raised the issue of communities 'taking ownership' of long-distance footpaths in their areas. In particular there was a need for toilet facilities on the West Highland Way in our patch and he wished us to consider establishing a composting

toilet which would need to be maintained by volunteers. This led to discussion of the safety of the section of the WHW on the road at Mugdock and routing of the new John Muir Trail in our area. All of these points will be pursued in conjunction with the SCDT Paths Development Group.

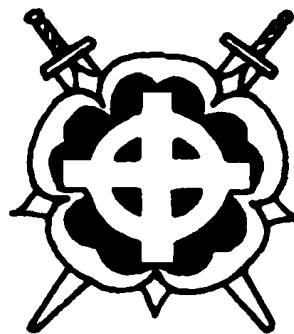
Entertainment Licences

Consultation

This item is covered on our front page where full details are given.

A81 Closure

It was reported that following pressure from ourselves and other local interests the Roads Department's proposed closure of the A81 from Glengoyne to Duntreath in May for resurfacing had been cut



from two weeks to one. There was to be a minibus service from Carbeth to Milngavie although we still had not received a timetable.

Blane Valley Bulletin

A report was made on the first issue of the Blane Valley Bulletin: 1250 copies printed and distributed to (we hope) every household, with spares in the library and shops. Feedback so far had been positive. Appreciation was expressed to the large number of volunteers who have helped - from providing copy, event details for the Calendar, proof-reading and delivery. It is good to have a bank of deliverers in reserve. It only requires a commitment of less than an hour, which need not be every month. Interested? Contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk.

Community Comments

Here a number of issues were raised from the floor, including problems of renewing Blue Badges for disabled parking (Cllr Lambie will take this up); the 'scary path' between Kirkhouse Road and the Tennis Club (a strong feeling that it should be preserved as a vital local route); cold calling in the village (to be raised with Pam Campbell at Stirling Council); and oil reported on the railway track path (doubts expressed on the seriousness and the causes).

Concerns were expressed over the testing for possible contamination in the Blane Crescent/Blane Avenue area.

The Community Council recognised that this was not merely an issue for individual householders but one for the community as a whole. The Community Council agreed to support local residents, initially through setting up a public meeting at the point when test results became known to help people represent their concerns and to pursue solutions.

Finally (another small success) Stirling Council have taken action to fence off both the dangerous area on the banks of the Blane near the play park to which we drew their attention.

Minutes Secretary

The Community Council still urgently needs a Minutes Secretary to cover its eleven Monday night meetings at a rate of £30 per meeting.

Anyone interested, or wishing to know more, should contact Margaret Vass at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Could be an ideal opportunity for a young person wishing to gain experience and enhance her/his CV.

Community Council AGM & June Meeting

On Monday 11 June at 7.30pm in the school we combine the regular monthly Community Council meeting with our AGM.

At the AGM we review and report on our year's work and elect office-bearers and share out responsibilities for the coming session.

The monthly meeting will have a standard agenda, following up all our current issues and, of course allowing you all to raise issues that concern you. Please come along.

Strathblanefield Community Development Trust Projects

In line with the priorities set out in the Community Action Plan developed jointly with the Community Council the SCDT is overseeing a number of project groups.

These include:

Photo History Book

Local journalist Anne Balfour and photographer Martin Shields are compiling an old and present day photo library in the form of a book on interesting locations/venues in the village. **Anyone who has old photographs of buildings or landscapes please contact** cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk

Greenheart

Exploring with Stirling Council a 36m x 18m grass recreational games area for teenagers for five aside football, mini rugby, hockey, netball etc. It could be positioned opposite the toddlers' play-park where fund-raising is nearly complete for the final phase of a Bird's Nest Tower. Following feasibility studies, consultation with teenagers and the wider community will take place over the summer

Details of the work of the Strathblanefield Community Development Trust

can be found on the village website:
www.strathblanefield.org.uk

Your Community Council Needs You

By the time of our June meeting there will still be two vacant places on the Community Council and it would be great if we were able to co-opt two willing volunteers at the AGM.

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.**

Strathblane Co-op - License Extension

John Gray, SCC Planning Correspondent, writes: As you may know, the Co-op are proposing to take over & develop Browns shop & Post Office (this is a great credit to the work of Hardeep, Bobby & colleagues making it a buzzing place).

The Co-op have applied to increase the off-sales hours to 10am-10pm, seven days a week. (Apparently the existing licence permits off-sales Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, and Sundays 10am-4pm.)

If anyone is concerned, they should contact Stirling Council's Licensing Department (licensing@stirling.gov.uk) and contact the Community Council (cc@strathblanefield.org.uk). Notices will be posted at the premises. The deadline to submit observations is 4 June, which is before our next CC meeting.

Developing New Community Assets

Discussions are ongoing with Stirling Council over leasing and upgrading the grave-diggers' **bothy** at Strathblane Parish Church. An interpretive/heritage centre has been mooted but **the Trust is keen to get views and other ideas.**

Contact: Dai Hutchinson, Keith Hyam or Murray O'Donnell — or email cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk.



Following our discussions with Lesley Malkin of Stirling Council another opportunity seems to present itself. The **triangle** of land surrounding the toilets - both surplus to SC's requirements - could be offered to the community. It comes with permission for 'garden use'. One attractive possibility might be the establishment of a **community orchard** but again we are keen to get other views on the possibility of taking over this land and the uses to which it might be put. Contact Margaret Vass at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

SAT 19th	7.30pm	Red or Black? - Music from Semblance (Jane Button,Vocals) - Edmonstone Hall - Fun Hut fundraiser - Tickets: Suzi Ure, Nicky Corrigan or other committee members
WED 30th	2.30 -3.15	Bookbug - Rhymes and Stories. — toddlers and preschoolers are welcome to come and bring an adult with them.

JUNE

FRI 1st	6pm	BBQ and Ceilidh - Edmonstone Hall -Tickets £5 from Library, Brown's, Blane Valley Inn
SAT 2nd	12-4pm	Strathblane Summer Fair - Primary School
SAT 2nd	11.30am	Allotments Opening Ceremony - Old railway track. All welcome
SUN 3rd	12.30pm	The Big Lunch & Teddy Bears' Picnic - Kirk Rooms - Free for all
SUN 3rd	7pm	Praise for All - Strathblane Parish Church - 'Come along and sing your heart out'
MON 4th	2pm	Afternoon Tea for Senior Citizens - Primary School - By invitation
MON 4th	9.30pm	Jubilee Beacon Party - Beside George V Playing Fields
TUES 5th	2.30pm	Village Expo - Fun & Games and Open Afternoon - Village Club
SAT 9th	12 - 2pm	Fun Hut Family Bar-B-Que at Mugdock Park (Pond Site) All welcome
MON 11th	7.30pm	Community Council AGM and June Meeting - Primary School. All welcome
FRI 15th - SUN 17th		Duntreath Garden Show - www.Duntreathgardenshow.co.uk for more details.
SUN 17th	1 - 4pm	Music Jam Session - Village Club £3 All welcome

JULY

SUN 22nd		Loch Ard Sailing Club - Open Day for friends & family - non-members welcome
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Full details of all the listed celebratory events in the period surrounding the Jubilee in early June can be found in the separate insert that comes with this issue of the Bulletin.

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

Tues 5 June - Surgery closed for Queens Jubilee.
Mon 4 June - Open as normal.
Tues 19 June 12.30pm - Surgery closed, staff training.
 The surgery now closes from 1pm to 2pm - for urgent help use normal phone no. 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 18 June - 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