

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

May 2015 No 32

Shaping our Community's Future—New Challenges & Opportunities

WE NEED YOUR INPUT !

Four circumstances currently come together that require us, as a community, to make decisions that will help shape the future of our community. But, as the cliché has it, '**challenges are also opportunities**'. Right now:

- our four year old **Community Action Plan** must be reviewed and updated (**see insert**)
- our **50 year old Primary School**, created for an earlier pattern of education and currently needing over £700,000 worth of fabric repairs, is reaching the end of its useful life;
- at the same time our **local library** - housed in a temporary building - **must be replaced** (or closed) within five years;
- in the face of extreme fiscal 'austerity' Stirling Council is offering **more community autonomy in setting priorities and managing assets and services**.

The February *Community Summit* highlighted the importance to everyone of the **built infrastructure** of our community— amongst other things including the **environment** and **social care**.

The once in a generation opportunity of a replacement school—the most significant piece of community infrastructure we have—cannot be allowed to pass without considering all the ways we might use it to enhance facilities and opportunities for community members, from youngsters outside school hours to all kinds of sporting and lifelong learning activities for everyone, and services for senior citizens — and a new community library. Stirling Council, who cannot promise us a new school at the moment - and if they did would probably provide an off-the-peg building with fewer rooms than currently— is, nevertheless keen to go into partnership with our community to develop much more flexible facilities that can serve our evolving community needs.

To begin with we need to establish as much information as we can on our current built environment, the present and likely future demands on it, and the possible forms that development could take. We need to establish what the realistic possibilities might be—the SCDT is currently seeking funding for an audit of community facilities and a feasibility study of alternative options. At the same time we need to assess carefully what kind of community we have been, are, might become or would hope to become.

Clearly we are still in the first stage of what will be a lengthy consultation process. At this point we need to get a sense of how community members see (or would like to see) the community now and in the future.

How to register your views at this stage:

1. Come to the SCC & SCDT stands at the Summer Fayre at the Primary School on June 6th and contribute to a 'Wordle' exercise (see the example on the right).
2. Stick your contributions on the board which we will set up in the library, and, at events by some village organisations.
3. Email us your thoughts at any time on cc@strathblanefield.org.uk



Reviewing and Up-dating the Community Action Plan — The insert in this month's BVB outlines the priorities we established in following the extensive consultation exercise ending in 2011. Brief indication is also given of the progress we have made. Four years later we need to revisit them and ask are they still the right priorities and should some be removed and others emphasised. **Again we need your feedback.**

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by Strathblane Community Council

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@strathblanefield.org.uk for more details.

Community Council May Update — from SCC Chair Margaret Vass

We had another busy agenda this month. Our main discussions centred on the **community consultation** which features in this edition. We prepared for this by having a productive joint meeting with SCDT Board Members.

The **Scottish Water turbine project** is at last nearing completion and restoration work to the railway track has commenced. Neighbours are still complaining about large trucks damaging pavements and kerb stones though the latest damage was not Scottish Water trucks..

We are still trying to arrange another **heart start class** but limited resources at Scottish ambulance may mean we have to share with others. The good news is that we now have 4 first responders in the village who will provide prompt emergency response.

Police Scotland was yet again unable to attend our meeting. A written report was provided. There have been a small number of thefts and road traffic offences. A gang that had been targeting Coop stores across the country including ours has been apprehended. Concerns were raised again about vandalism and underage drinking in the area. We have also been asked to raise the issue of illegal parking around the school. Police Scotland has been alerted to this so you have been warned.

Three **planning applications** were discussed. Two involved Ardunan Lodge which is in the greenbelt. Previous applications which were opposed by the CC resulted in approval for a replacement house and the demolition of the lodge. Now the applicant wishes to change the design of the house (an improvement) and retain the lodge. The CC agreed

to support the renovation of the lodge and oppose a new house in the greenbelt. The third application was retrospective and for the new wall at Valhalla. If the correct planning process had been followed provisions for appropriate drainage could have prevented the flooding at this location on Old Mugdock Road.

Everyone will have seen the **pavement work on the main road** beginning. This will include parking provision at the shops that will ensure that prams and wheelchairs can still use the pavement. We expect the road to be resurfaced in August. Details on the road closure will be included in the June BVB. The last time we had roadworks our local businesses lost a lot of money. **Please make an effort to walk to the businesses affected - as ever if we don't use our local businesses we risk losing them!**

For those of you wondering about our **brown grass verge** it will be planted with wild flowers to bring a bit of colour to the village along with our tubs. The aim is to reduce grass cutting costs.

Finally if after being **in hospital in Glasgow** you or a member of your family need help to enable to live at home when you are discharged **DO NOT** allow yourself to be moved to Larbert in order to access services. Stand your ground and insist that arrangements are made locally while you remain in the Glasgow hospital. If anyone has experienced difficulties like this we would like to know. Please contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk.

New Primary School Website—Strathblane Primary School are delighted to announce that we now have a school website. We hope to use our website as our primary method of communication. Find information on each class and general school news at www.strathblaneps.com

Come and hear your favourite local wind band last appearing at the Christmas Tree Lights Switch on.
Dunbartonshire Wind Ensemble Summer Concert
Sunday 7th June at 7.30pm
Boclair Academy Inveroran Drive, Bearsden
£8 for adults, children free. Tickets - from Keith Vass

Mugdock Country Park

Lots happening & lots to do. Check the website at <http://www.mugdock-country-park.org.uk/>

Copy Date for the June BVB is Monday 15th. Please send Calendar items up to the end of August (there is no July Bulletin) and other news to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

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

Blanefield Ward

Margaret Vass 770131
Avril Keen 07799261297
Willie Oswald 770497
Julie Hutchison 770791

Strathblane Ward

Alan Hutton 770537
Marian Lever 770536
Elspeth Neill 771653
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

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

Strathblanefield Community Development Trust

The SCDT Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Tuesday June 2nd at 8pm in the Village Club. (note the change of time).

All members are invited to bring along interested friends who will be made very welcome — and can join on the night. there will be a short presentation on Blanefield Thistle.

Refreshments will be provide at the end of the meeting when members can watch a not to be missed slideshow on some of the successful projects that the Trust has been involved in over the last year.

As many will have noticed the **walk information boards** are now in place at the Church car-park, the Library and the War Memorial. The information, matches the the **Walks around Strathblane** leaflet - still available in local shops (Price £2). Both projects were led by Jude Gregor with funding from Stirling Council.

Path Development Group reports some progress since the April issue:

— A grant of £77,500 has been received from Sustrans (via Stirling Council) for the upgrading of the **old railway track path to Station Road**. This only represents half of the required amount and we are trying hard to find matching sources. **Any ideas and offers would be greatly appreciated (contact: alanhutton@gmail.com)**

— We are still awaiting - as we were a month ago (!) the formal go-ahead from the Scottish Water Legal Department for the new **Link Path** from the railway track to the Gowk Stane Road .

— The **Scary Path Video** is now complete and can be viewed on the Paths for All website and on Youtube!

— preliminary work continues on an application for **Walkers are Welcome** accreditation for our community council area. Please sign the support forms which are in the Library and are soon to be available elsewhere.

From Gallipoli to Waterloo and Back Again

One of the most fascinating stories to come out of the Strathblane First World War Project was that of Lt William Ker of the Royal Naval Division, who fought at Gallipoli in 1915 before being killed at Beaucourt sur L'Ancre the following year. William and his family were great letter writers. After the publication of A Village Remembers, lead author Anne Johnstone volunteered to help sort out the Ker Family papers, in the hope of finding the letters William wrote home to his family at Easterton of Mugdock from the Dardanelles and the Western Front. Not only did she finally discover 90 of the young officer's letters, in the last of a dozen boxes and suitcases of papers kept by his niece. She also came across a 150 page-long handwritten unpublished account of the Battle of Waterloo, written in 1815 by William's great-great uncle, a merchant based in Brussels.

Anne is giving a talk about her genealogical adventure at Strathblane Library at 7.30pm on June 16, — two days before the bi-centenary of Waterloo. All welcome.

The Senior Citizens Outing to North Berwick is on **June 13th leaving at 10am.**

More information - Lorna Young (771705)

The **2015 SUMMER FAYRE** will take place on
Saturday 6th June from 12 to 3pm
in the School Grounds

It will feature: large inflatables, Dog Show & Photo Competition, A performance by The Campsie Crooners, Toy Tombolas & Game stalls, Toddler Play Area, Burgers & Hot Dogs, 'Blane Valley' Beer Tent, Homebaking & 'Bake Off' Competition, Duck Race Finale & much, much more!

EVERYONE WELCOME - A FUN DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!

Whilst the event is mainly a Strathblane Nursery & Primary School Fundraiser **the Community Council and the Community Development Trust will be there to ask more people their views on future priorities for the community as we update the Community Action Plan.**

COME & TRY DAY

With **BARBEQUE**

Strathblane Bowling Club

Sunday, 31st May, 2.00 pm

Why not get fit and have fun with a friendly game of Bowls? An enjoyable social activity packed with fresh air & exercise —and a sport for all the family, in the company of others!

COME ALONG AND TRY IT UNDER FRIENDLY SUPERVISION (Flat soled shoes will be required)

Cancer Research UK Target Smashed

The committee would like to thank the volunteer collectors and generous residents as the £10,000 target for this year's collection was comfortably exceeded:

Balfron	£3021	Buchanan	£175
Buchlyvie	1104	Croftamie	273
Drymen	1128	Fintry	1241
Gartmore	281	Killearn	2672
Strathblane/Blanefield			1733

Grand Total £11630

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

SUN 24th	3pm	Messy Church in the Kirk Rooms. Suggested donation £8 per family includes a meal.
WED 27th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club. New members welcome
SUN 31st	2pm	Come and Try - with Barbecue at Strathblane Bowling Club Try under friendly supervision - flat shoes required. Substantial discount for first year of membership!

JUNE

MON 1st	10.30am	Bookbug visits Fun Hut for rhymes songs and stories for babies and toddlers
MON 1st	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in Strathblane Primary School. All welcome.
WED 3rd	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club. New members always welcome
SAT 6th	12 -3pm	Summer Fayre in the School grounds (see P3 for details)
SAT 6th	7.30 -11.45	Power Ballads & Karaoke Night in the Village Club. Tickets £10 (see below)
SUN 7th	1 - 5pm	Village Club Music Jam Session - Everyone welcome: a friendly gathering of people to play/sing/listen (and drink tea). Come along and join in. Contact George at. gethom@tiscali.co.uk
SUN 7th	7.30pm	Dunbartonshire Wind Ensemble Summer Concert Boclair Academy (see page 3)
FRI 12th	1.15pm	Summertime Craft & Storytime for preschoolers. Please book ahead at the Library.
FRI 12th	7.30 - 11.30pm	Blues Night with Al Fleming & his Bloodoo Band Bring a dish for a buffet supper before dancing the night away. Tickets: Alastair Balfour 770750 or Sally Gray 771031
SAT 13th	10am	Senior Citizens' Outing to North Berwick leaves 10am. For more information contact Lorna Young (tel: 771705)
SUN 14th	1 - 5pm	Strathblanefield Samba Sunday in the Village Club. Come and try samba drumming! Fun and lively sessions for all ages. All equipment provided – all you need is the ability to hit things! Cost Under 3s - donation; Children £3; Adults £5. Information: Helen Carmichael (07817 419723) Big Groove Promotions: www.biggroovepromotions.co.uk
TUES 16th	7.30pm	'From Galipoli to Waterloo & Back Again' : talk by Anne Johnstone to an open meeting of the Book Group in Strathblane Library. All welcome.

Loch Ard Sailing Club

The new season opened at the club on Sunday 12th April and will run through to mid October with racing and other club events mainly on Sundays , but with one Saturday per month as an alternative day.

We sail in beautiful surroundings from our long-established site at Kinlochard with ample boat and car parking space. Access to the club for members is unrestricted, although safety-boat cover is only provided on the main club days and during training sessions. We also provides a great base for canoeing, cycling, walking, swimming, photography and all manner of outdoor activities - as well as quiet picnics and relaxation by the loch shore. The loch is a quiet water sports loch, so no buzz of jet skis and high speed power boats!

Visit us any Sunday afternoon, We will be pleased to meet you. Or go on-line at www.lochardsc.org.uk.

POWER BALLADS & KARAOKE NIGHT

A night of ultimate mass Karaoke, this incredible social event is a night dedicated to the Power Ballad.

Don't Want to Miss a Thing?

Blanefield Village Club,

Saturday 6 June, 7:30pm - 11:45pm

In the Air Tonight? — **Fish and Chip Supper**
Poison? — **BYO drinks, glasses and bottle opener**

Can't Fight This Feeling?

Bring your air guitars and sing your hearts out!

Tickets £10 'available from

Barbara Fleming... crooners@strathblanefield.org.uk or Strathblane Library.

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