

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet November 2015 No 37

Stirling Council's 2016/17 Budget

November Community Conversation

Four community councillors attended the latest 'community conversation' in the Council's Priority Based Budgeting exercise in Balfron on November 18th. We all recognise of the scale of the budget cuts the Council faces and of the amount of work that is going into finding ways to transform provision to maintain as much as possible of current services. Nevertheless we shared with many in the hall a disappointment that, although apparently precise figures for cash savings were quoted, we were not given detailed information on how many of the proposed options would impact on different groups of service users. There remains a tendency towards general statements with a positive spin. It is clear that another round of these meetings is needed to consider proposals when more detail is made available.

Some Issues for Our Community

Some options did emerge which appear to have important implications for our community — not all negative.

Primary schooling: Here two significant options would only come into full effect in five years time. They are, first, to reduce the time pupils are in school from 25 hrs to 22.5hrs by finishing early on one day; and, second to phase out visiting specialists in music and PE by 'integrating these subjects into the classroom curriculum'.

Social Care: Much concern was raised again by the proposal that the creation of a 'Care Village' in Stirling—a good idea in itself—would be funded by closing the 12-bed facility in Balfron where people in the rural SW can be given respite and short term residential care within their own community.

Library: Although there is no proposal to close our local library, a cost saving option is to move libraries into other SC owned buildings. In our case - with a library building with limited life - the primary school would be the only alternative — hardly suitable as it stands.

Waste Collection: Here constructive savings are proposed by recycling more, collecting less general waste for costly landfill—smaller bins would be emptied just as often—and reducing the fleet of vehicles from 42 to 28 by working seven days a week.

Give Stirling & the Community Council Your Views

It is important that your views—positive or negative—are registered with the Council. Full details of the proposals are available on the SC website at www.stirling.gov.uk/shapingstirling where you can make comments and suggestions. Give us your views and concerns before the December 7th Community Council meeting—or come along to the meeting.

Remembrance Parade in Strathblane



Photo: Martin Shields

WARNING

Path Damage on the Railway Track

Two slips in the ground - one over 3ft deep - have appeared close to the edge of the path along the disused railway embankment beside the allotments. Walkers, cyclists should take great care, **horse-riding is not advised** as the weight of a horse in this area may well cause further slippage.

Dr Harrison's 100th Birthday

This month the community joins the celebrations for the 100th birthday of Dr Perry Harrison with two events.

Art Exhibition

& Charity Sketch Sale

Thursday & Friday 26th & 27th November

10am -1pm & 6pm -9pm

in the Kirk Rooms

There will be a selection of paintings in various media will be on show and a number of sketches for sale—proceeds to charity

Afternoon Tea in the Kirk Rooms

Sat 28th Nov, 2pm

In celebration of

Dr Harrison's 100th Birthday.

All welcome

Copy Date for the January BVB is Monday 18th.

Please send Calendar items up to late January 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 November Update — from SCC Chair Margaret Vass

At our November meeting we again we had a very busy agenda which covered a wide range of subjects:

Police Report We were pleased to have a police presence for the second meeting in a row. Now that we are into dark nights we are all urged to ensure that our homes look occupied as this is prime time for increased house breaking and the police will be increasing patrols in the late afternoon/early evening. Parking around the school along with a draft letter to parents was discussed. As many of us know implementation to enforce parking restrictions caused a major problem for the school taxi which has been sorted out with some common sense being used.

Bus Services The possible changes to the Stirling Council support for evening bus services were discussed with strong feelings being expressed about the importance of the service. Cost and unreliability were cited as reasons for fewer people using the service. A compromise to reduce the costs is to run smaller buses to Milngavie with connection to the train and faster bus service. If you have views on the evening bus service, please complete the survey online. www.surveymonkey.com/r/supportedpublictransport

Mugstock Festival We were treated to a short film of last year's successful festival. The dates for next year are 29th-31st July. Alan Govan who is the volunteer organiser is really hoping that our community will be much more involved. This means local groups

performing and especially ensuring that our local businesses are able to benefit from the event in as many ways as possible. Contact alan@mugstock.org

Scottish Water — The Scottish Water Hydro project is nearing completion and work has begun to reinforce the banks of the river. We do not have a date for remedial work on the bridge. It will be closed for a week when work starts and this will be advertised as a widely as possible.

Planning Issues Planning applications are always on our agenda as we are a statutory consultee. When commenting on applications we always balance our comments to try and reflect views on behalf of the whole community and any benefit there might be. We do not necessarily back a group of neighbours though we listen carefully to their views. We supported an application from **Edenmill Farm** to convert one of their buildings into a bunkhouse to respond to demand from the John Muir Way. We are still considering an application to build 3 houses at the **Kirkhouse carpark**.

We are also concerned that Cala have created a **temporary visitor carpark on Campsie Road** for their show house which we view as very dangerous. We are trying to get this stopped.

Councillor's Report Cllr Muirhead alerted us to the progress with Stirling Care village which will be a hub for elderly care, providing a centre of excellence between hospital, carer support and day care. Long term care will be provided by the private sector. It has been acknowledged that different arrangements will be needed in rural areas however council run care homes may be closed to fund this central service.

The **next Community Council** meeting will be on **Monday December 7th at 7.30pm** in the Primary School.
Come along and give us your views.

The Village Club — To make a booking contact either Fiona Murray (murray-fiona@sky.com, 771497) or Keith Vass (keith-vass13@gmail.com, 07778 181 175).

The Reading Room (£8/hour) is ideal for small meetings.
Wifi now available.

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
Elspeth 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

Fun Hut Christmas Party

Sunday Dec 13th 2-4pm in the Village Club

There will be a visit from Santa who will be giving out small gifts, a kids disco, Christmas craft-making, face-painting, refreshments and more. Tickets £3 per child if bought in advance, £4 on the door. Older siblings are more than welcome. Accompanying adults are free! As well as teas/coffees and home-baking there will be mince pies and mulled wine for grown-ups who want to get into the Christmas spirit. For tickets why not come along to the Fun Hut on a Mon, Wed, or Fri, 9:15-11:15am.



Strathblane Scout Hall

Sat 05 December 2015

See Calendar
on Page 4 for
more details

Blanefield Thistle FC Quiz Night

Saturday January 16th 7.30 for 8pm

in the Village Club

Tickets £6 per person - Max.6 people per team
BYOB & Nibbles. Raffle. Putting Challenge & other spot

Health & Social Care Partnership

Draft Strategic Plan — from *Marian Lever*

The Draft Plan from our local Integration Board is out for consultation until 24 December 2015. Its main aim is to help people stay healthy and well at home and minimise their need to go to hospital.

- Important information about individuals needs to be shared among the care teams easily and so local bases will be set up.
 - The care teams will set up support plans for people with long term health problems.
 - The plan will work to set up more single points of entry to the services so it is easier to find help and make sure it is easy to understand what happens when individuals need help.
 - This help will include more 7 days a week services and the development of the Stirling Care Village. —
 - the focus will be on spending money on what works well.
- For the details go to <http://nhsforthvalley/about-us/health-and-social-careintegration/clackmannanshire-and-stirling/consultation-feedback/>

Does the Plan address the most important issues?

Has it missed anything?

Have you any other Comments?

The deadline is December 24th

Send your comments direct NHS Forth Valley
or to Marian Lever (marian.lever@btinternet.com).

It is on the agenda for the December SCC meeting.

Strathblane Primary School Christmas Fair

Friday 4th December, 6.30 to 9pm.

Entry £2 (under 1s free), — includes a visit to Santa for the children and tea/coffee and a mince pie for the adults.

We will have craft stalls, festive food and drink sellers, Christmas trees for sale, games, a raffle & a silent auction with brilliant prizes.

Please come along and support your local school.

Library Events in December & January

Story and Crafts for Christmas for preschoolers

Friday 11th December — 1.15 until 2 p.m. Please book in advance.

Book Group Christmas Evening Tuesday 15th 7.30 p.m.

Bookbug at Fun Hut Wednesday 16th December 10.30 a.m.

Christmas rhymes and songs and stories.

Mince pies and coffee for mums at Strathblane Library —

Thurs 17th December 2.30 - 3.15 p.m.. The library is open exclusively for you to browse for a book to read over Christmas & chat with friends before picking up children from school.

Bookbug at Fun Hut Mon 11th Jan New rhymes for a new year!

Book Group — January 19th Tuesday 7.30 p.m.

Tour to the Western Front

Next November there will be a trip to the Western Front to see first hand the places where the men of the village fell and to pay respect to where they now rest. There are leaflets in the Library and the Church and on the village Facebook page.

Deposits need to be paid by the end of November 2015 to confirm your place. The total cost is £400 and includes travel from Strathblane.

For more information please email rbegg711@aol.com

Strathblane Church

Available space limits Calendar entries on Page 4. See below for further activities:

Youth Cafe — For secondary school age students Friday nights, to Dec 11th, 7.30 - 9pm in the Kirk Rooms. We would be grateful for help from parents to run a tuck shop on a rota basis Contact the minister

Ukelele Praise Band — practice Weds at 7.30 runs until Dec 9.

Messy Church — on 1st Sunday of month 3-5pm in the Kirk Rooms (Nov 1 7 Dec 6) Crafts, games, informal bible stories and a home cooked meal (Suggested donation £6 per family)

Youth Fellowship — (S2 - S6) every Oct 25th & 2nd Sunday up to Dec 6th. In the Manse 7.45 - 9pm.

Contact: Jemma Sharp, Admin Assistant at 770418; or
strathblanekirk@gmail.com

Edenkiln Surgery

The surgery will be closed 25th & 28th December and January 1st and 4th.

We hope all our patients have a lovely holiday.

For out of hours help contact NHS24 at 111

The surgery can be contacted at 01360 770340 For a range of health-care information go to the practice website at

www.edenkilnsurgery.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

SUN 22nd	1 - 5pm	Village Jam Session. Everyone welcome. Contact George at. gethom@tiscali.co.uk
TUES 24th	7.30pm	Karen Campbell, celebrated Scottish Writer in conversation with Lynne James at Drymen Church Hall (National Book Week event) Tickets from Strathblane Library
WED 25th	2.30-3.15	Bookbug celebrates Book Week with Rhymes & stories in the Library.
THURS 26th	7.30pm	Dick McWhittington - Opening Night of Fintry Pantomime. (see Page 3 for details)
THURS 26th	2pm	Autumn Craft & Story Session - For 5-8 year-olds, must be booked in advance, places limited
FRI 27th	1.30pm	Story-time for Pre-schoolers in the Library. All 3 - 5 year olds welcome. — For Library Events in December & January — see Page 3 —
SAT 28th	2 -5pm	Afternoon Tea in the Kirk Rooms to celebrate Dr Harrison's 100th birthday
SAT 28th	6.30pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms — to find out what the film is ask a church member.
MON 30th	7.30pm	Guild - Scottish Evening with Rev Bill Ferguson in the Kirk Rooms

DECEMBER

TUES 1st	6.30pm	'Light up a Life' . Remembrance service in the church on the first day of Advent for those who have lost a loved one during the years or in previous years. Donations raised will be gifted to Strathcarron Hospice.
FRI 4th	6.30-9pm	Strathblane Primary School Christmas Fair in the school — Details on Page 3.
SAT 5th	8 til late	Scout Christmas Party — in Strathblane Scout Hall . Eat, drink, dance & be merry, BYOB. Tickets £10 available from the Library & all Hall Groups
SAT 12th	8pm	Unique Village Club Event - Traditional Music Concert: Mairead Green & Anna Massie , accordion, fiddle, guitar and much more! Tickets available from the library.
SUN 6th	2-4pm	Smithy Gallery's Winter Exhibition Opens — 'Sparkly & Chocolates' .All welcome
MON 7th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School
SUN 13th	2 - 4pm	Fun Hut Christmas Party — see page 3 for details
MON 14th	7pm	Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on in the Village Club (See Flyer for details)
WED 16th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club — last meeting before Christmas.
SAT 19th	6.30pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms — to find out what the film is ask a church member.
SUN 20th	6.30pm	Lessons & Carols in the Church, followed by tea, coffee & mince pies.
THURS 24th	4pm	Christingle Service in Strathblane Church
THURS 24th	11.30pm	Watch night Service - with community singing from 11.15pm.
FRI 25th	10.30am	Christmas Morning Service in Strathblane Church

JANUARY

WED 13th	7.45pm	Campsie Crooners in the Village Club - New Session begins. Come and join us.
SAT 16th	7.30 for 8	Blanefield Thistle FC Quiz Night in the Village Club

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