

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet September 2012 No. 5

Scottish Water Proposal to Generate Electricity in the Strathblane Water Pipes

At the September Community Council meeting we welcomed speakers from Scottish Water who outlined their proposals for electricity generation in an existing water pipe in Strathblane (see the piece that they kindly provided for the Bulletin below). No-one raised an objection in principle to their scheme although one significant concern as well as one potential benefit were highlighted in the discussion.

The concern relates to the impact of construction traffic accessing the site from the streets leading up to Park Place over a period of about eight months. The potential benefit lies in the possibility that by the end of the work Scottish Water in cooperation with the SCDT Path Development Group might leave parts of the network of paths surrounding their sites in a significantly better condition than they are in now.

The Community Council will keep a close eye on these aspects and, given Scottish Water's expressed concern for the community which hosts their development, we are hopeful of positive outcomes for residents.

Scottish Water's Green Ambition

Scottish Water is currently working towards supporting the aims of the Climate Change Ministerial Objectives of the Scottish Government and the aspiration of building a "Hydro Nation". One of the key goals is utilising existing assets for the generation of renewable hydro-power which will help reduce the carbon footprint of providing water and waste water services to our customers in Scotland.

An extensive feasibility study has identified a number of potential sites for the introduction of hydro turbines into existing pipes, one of which is located on the existing Scottish Water owned site at Strathblane. Over the coming months Scottish Water will be consulting with the local community regarding a planning application for the installation of two hydro turbines. The proposed work will involve modifications to the existing arrangement of buildings, structures and pipes on the site.

Scottish Water recognises the sensitivities of this area and will be looking to minimise the impact of the construction work on the Strathblane community. [Ref: Hydro 402453]

For further details please contact Scottish Water on 0845 601 8855

ADMINISTRATOR - the Community Development Trust is keen to recruit a member/local resident to join the team in respect of important research, governance and supervision matters relating to community activity. Anyone interested or wishing to know more should contact Lorna Ash at cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk or telephone 771044

On Other Pages:

SCC Reports	- 2
Path Action Day	- 2
Strathblane Now & Then	- 3
Calendar & Notices	- 4

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
Susan Morgan	771747
Willie Oswald	77049
Elspeith Posnett	77011
Sue Rand	770630

INFORMATION SOURCES

Strathblanefield website -

www.strathblanefield.org.uk

Library; Noticeboards; Shops;;
Local weekly press; and the

Facebook Strathblanefield Group

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

STIRLING COUNCIL

Report faults at

info@stirling.gov.uk

or ring 0845 2777000

Join *My Stirling* at

www.stirling.gov.uk for updates

September Community Council

In this brief report we highlight major items dealt with at the September Community Council meeting. Some of these are followed up elsewhere in the Bulletin.

The New Coop

Alan Dawson from the Scottish Coop gave a presentation and answered questions on the plans for the new food store in Strathblane.

Over the next month work should begin on the major redevelopment to be completed by January or February. There will be some disruption whilst the work goes on but the current service (with some restrictions at times) including the Post Office will continue. The new store will have a 2000 sq ft sales floor - including the PO - and the sorting office will be retained. There should be six parking spaces (one disabled). The desirability of more parking spaces across the street and the impact of large delivery vehicles were raised. Alan agreed to take these back to Coop colleagues. The proposed cash machine would take longer to install. Although the manager will be recruited internally the shop will employ 12 local people and interviews are already underway.

Scottish Water

Our second outside presentation came from Scottish Water who described plans to install two electricity generators in the water pipeline which passes through the village to Balmore. The limited additions to buildings would not be intrusive but there would be about eight months' disruption during the construction period, which would begin in the next year once planning permission was obtained. Our front page story gives some more detail on the issues discussed.

Police Report - Fraud

David McNally's report again highlighted the need to be on our guard, featuring as it did a variety of thefts, mostly on unsecured items. Perhaps most concerning is a case of telephone fraud on the owner of the Mirza store in Blane-

field in which staff were asked to put coded data into a paypoint machine which resulted in a loss of £1500. We are all warned never to divulge personal data in response to telephone or online requests.

Amongst other items the Chair reported on a developing **Anti-Dog-Fouling Campaign** which should include extra bins in more appropriate locations, an education programme involving the school; and enforcement measures.

The new link between the Kirkhouse Inn and the Strathblane Country House Hotel has once again raised the condition of the **footpath along the A81**. Cllr Lambie agreed to follow up the issue with Stirling Council.

October Community Council Meeting

Our next meeting is on Monday 1st October at 7.30pm in the school.

As well as the usual reports important items on our October agenda will include the **Katrine Aqueduct refurbishment**; establishing a **No Cold Calling Zone**; initial consideration of the **Local Development Plan proposals**; and the **Stirling Council Outcome Agreement Process**. Please come along and give us your views.

Would you be willing to sponsor an issue of the BVB?

Our initial grant funding for the Bulletin runs out in November and with very limited core funding to ensure our future the SCC needs to find local sponsors for 7 or 8 issues per year at a cost of £125 an issue.

Business sponsors would get a banner acknowledgement across the bottom of the front page — of a newsheet which goes to every household in the community.

To find out more email cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Strathblanefield

Community Meals

The Council has started the roll out of their new scheme to provide its frozen meals service in the villages. It is therefore important that we know what scope there is in the villages for us to offer alternatives to residents and if there is demand for an additional lunch club. So, if you would like to join the lunch club in the village on another day to the current provision please contact Sheena Turner (771433). If you would like to join the team of volunteers who deliver meals on wheels or help at the lunch club please contact Jean Strachan (770143).

Community Action Day on

Disused Railway

Sunday 7th October 2012

From 10.00am till 3.00pm

Arranged by SCC and sponsored by Stirling Council Access and Ranger Services.

Volunteers needed to clear mud and vegetation and to improve drainage on the disused railway line between Station Road and the steep steps, making the path a bit more accessible to villagers and visitors alike.

Come for as long or short a time as you can spare. Please wear boots and old clothes. The Ranger will supply tools & gloves, though you may bring your own, clearly marked, if you prefer.

Refreshments will be available, but bring lunch if staying all day.

Its two for the price of one for **Strathblanefield Community Development Trust** members on Wed October 10th at 7.30pm in the Village Club.

The **AGM** will be preceded by a short **EGM** to approve updated Articles of Association. If you're not already a member why not join the Trust and help support its efforts on behalf of the community. Life membership is only £5. A form and more information on the Trust can be downloaded from the village website.

STRATHBLANE & BLANEFIELD NOW & THEN (see below)

Anne and Martin are appealing for volunteers to help with the sales, marketing and distribution of the book. If you can assist them, please contact Anne on 01360 770750 or email.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING SERVICE

Stirling Council's new weekly Cardboard Recycling Service for domestic properties will begin on Thursday October 4th. We are told to expect a letter explaining arrangements one week before we receive a 'stickered brown box' - with leaflet and cover. From Oct 4th this should be used for all cardboard which must no longer be put in the brown bin.

STRATHBLANE & BLANEFIELD NOW & THEN By Martin Shields and Anne Johnstone

We're almost there! By the time the Bulletin goes out, our book will be with the printers. We'll be launching it on **Friday October 26th at the Village Club from 7.30 to 9**. Please make a note of the date. We'll even offer to sign it for you.

It seems a long time since, having admired the slide show of old village photographs and postcards assembled by Strathblane Heritage Society, Martin and I simultaneously came up with the same idea while standing in the morning coffee queue at the Herald in Glasgow where we both work. Why not choose the most interesting scenes, take contemporary photographs of the same places and try to tell some of the stories behind them?

Of course, this was easier said than done. We both work shifts and initially never seemed to be off at the same time. Martin had to cope with changes in camera equipment that made it difficult to replicate the old views precisely, not to mention all the trees that have grown up in the past 100 years. I found that talking to those who appeared in our new pictures and the descendants of some of those who featured in the old ones turned up a treasure trove of stories, some poignant, some humorous but all fascinating. There was also plentiful material bequeathed by village historian Alison Dryden and from the Victorian chronicler of the parish, the incomparable John Guthrie Smith. As a result, what began as simple captions grew like topsy. While some scenes have barely changed, others are only recognisable from the profile of the Campsies in the background. From the word go, everyone we have contacted seemed to share our enthusiasm for the project and that is reflected in the final text and pictures.

Next, artist Roy Petrie generously volunteered to design and lay out the book and has done a magnificent job, devoting many hours to the task. The result is a real work of art that brings to life Strathblane and Blanefield, old and new, in a way we had not believed possible. In particular, he has risen to the challenge of conveying the essence of the book in the designs for the front and back covers. To do justice to everyone's efforts the result will be a 72-page full colour book in an A4 landscape hard-back format that would grace any coffee table—and the back cover includes a ringing endorsement from journalist and broadcaster, Sally Magnusson. Inside are Ordnance Survey maps of the area from around the years 1900 and 2000 and a copy obtained from the National Archives of one of the original designs for calico fabric printing registered by the Blanefield Printworks in the 1880s, as well as thirty double-page spreads on the now and then theme.

We're pleased to say that, unlike so many books published these days, it will be produced here in Scotland by two Glasgow companies, J McVicar Printers and Cameron Bookbinders.

The book will be **on sale** at **Strathblane Library** and **Pestle & Mortar** delicatessen, as well as a number of other outlets. It will also be available to **buy online via the Strathblanefield website**. Watch out for next month's Bulletin. Though the sale price is £12.99, we have decided to offer it at a special promotional price of £10 up to December 10th, in the hope that some customers will purchase several copies to give as Christmas presents. All profits will go to **Strathblanefield Community Development Trust** to be spent on future local history projects, in conjunction with **Strathblane Heritage Society**. AJ.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

WED 26th	7.30pm	Heritage Society Dr George Farrow on 'What makes a city', Village Club. All welcome.
From Sept 23	to Oct 28	Sandy Murphy with Ayrshire Contemporaries at Smithy Gallery, Blanefield

OCTOBER

MON 1st	7.30pm	The Guild The Gargunnoch Singers - Music and Verse in the Kirk Rooms All welcome Annual membership £10 (For more information contact Cathy Adams 770534)
MON 1st	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council monthly meeting in the Primary School. All welcome
WED 3rd	2.30pm	Bookbug Session in Library Rhymes, songs & stories for babies and toddlers (with adults)
FRI 5th	5pm	Autumn Fun - Film and crafts in the Kirk Rooms
SAT 6th	11am - 1pm	The Guides Autumn Fayre in Scout and Guide Hall — Donations please: jumble (in good condition), bric-a-brac, electrical items (not white goods), no clothes (except guide uniforms and related items) to the hall on the Thursday or Friday 7-9 or Saturday morning 9-10. For uplifts phone 770668 / 771636 / 770467
SAT 6th	9-12pm	Family Photo Day organised by the Fun Hut. Information: Rachel Osbourne: 07879430747
SAT 6th		Loch Ard Sailing Club - Solo Dinghy Class Regatta All solo class sailors welcome
SUN 7th	10-3pm	Community Action Day on Old Railway Path (see p2 report above). Information: Willie Oswald 770497
SUN 7th	1pm	Acoustic Jam Session , in the Village Club, All welcome
SUN 7th	11am	Harvest Sunday - Strathblane Kirk
WED 10th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Development Trust EGM & AGM Village Club
WED 17th	7.30pm	Heritage Society Dr David Lawson on 'James Hutton', in the Village Club. All welcome
WED 17th	10am-5pm	Duntreath Castle Autumn Fair £5 donation at door in aid of Camphill Blair Drummond Home. Home made refreshments
TUES 23rd	7.30pm	Strathblane Library Book Group in Library
FRI 26th	From 7.30 to 9pm	Book Launch - Strathblane: & Blanefield Now & Then in the Village Club. Meet the authors and buy your copies.
TUES 30th	7.30pm	Bob Sharp - Search & Rescue Dogs: talk with slides , in Strathblane Library This is a ticketed event,. Please book in advance at the Library

Timber for Burning: David & Margaret Urquhart have felled about 200 spruce. Anyone wishing to collect timber for a wood burning stove should contact them at 771974.

The Village Club is available for club activities and private parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett for availability (Tel: 70013)

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

The surgery will be closed for staff training from 12.30 on Wed 3 Oct.

For urgent help use phone. 01360 770340.

Prescriptions online at www.edenkilsurgery.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 Saturday 13 October - 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