

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

April 2014 No. 21

Strathblanefield Community Development Trust Needs More Members and Participants

Chair Robert Davy writes:

Have you ever wondered.....

.....why **Killearn** has a beautiful new village hall with facilities second to none?

.....and why the smaller **Fintry** has a range of facilities including an indoor bowling green?

These benefits have come through Community Development Trusts (in the case of Killearn their Futures Company) wholeheartedly supported by significant numbers of community members (with Gift Aided subscriptions) which, as registered not-for-profit charities, can raise grant funding from a range of public and charitable sources—a power not open to statutory Community Councils

In our villages the Strathblanefield Community Development Trust (SCDT). incorporated in 2008, has already been successful in raising over £220,000 in grant assistance—as well as promoting other fund-raising ideas—in support of a wide variety of projects all bringing significant benefits to the community. Over 50 local volunteers are helping with current projects including the First World War Commemoration, the Playpark upgrade and improvements in the paths network.

With moves to increase Community Empowerment in Scotland coinciding with the big squeeze on local government budgets both the need and the opportunity for local initiatives is growing. CDTs are membership organisations and for SCDT to help us grasp opportunities we need to raise our membership (and our range of active participants). This will enable us both to deploy the energy and talents that we have as a community and to be as reflective as possible of the needs and wishes of the whole community. More information is provided on the flyer enclosed in this issue of the BVB.

If you are not already a member of SCDT please take the time to fill in a membership form and Gift Aid declaration in the flyer and place the forms together with the modest £5 membership fee in the box in the village library. Together the community can take advantage of some exciting opportunities to improve the quality of our village life.

The SCDT holds its 2014 **AGM on Wednesday May 28th at 7pm** in the Village Club and old and new members are urged to come along here about current and proposed projects and give us your ideas.

For more information contact cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk

This edition is jointly sponsored by
the Strathblane Senior Citizens and
Strathblanefield Community Development Trust

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Blane Valley Inn Re-opens

The Blane Valley Inn officially re-opens (as we go to press) on Thursday April 17th. Opening hours will be 10am to 12 midnight. Food will be served from 12 noon until 9pm with a promise of an exciting new menu.

Defibrillator Training IMPORTANT

A further session has been arranged for April 30th in the School starting at 7.30pm. Unfortunately the email address given in the March BVB was wrong so anyone contacting Marian Lever by email will not be registered. Numbers are low (only 2 at present) and the course may be cancelled so anyone still wishing to register and anyone who used the wrong email should contact Marian as soon as possible at 01360 770536 or marian.lever@btinternet.com so that either the course will be confirmed or everyone can be told of a postponement.

Beware Housebreakers!

A message from PC McNally

There was a housebreaking in Allan Road, Killearn overnight between 08/04 into 09/04. This follows on from two housebreakings in Croftamie and Milton of Buchanan overnight 06/04 - 07/04. The houses being targeted are those which are clearly empty (occupants away overnight or on holiday).

It's really important that if you have a neighbour who is away for a break, you take a walk around their house and check it. Typically the houses which have been broken into are having rear windows broken or doors jemmied open.

Anything you are not happy about, please get in touch with us & if you see anything remotely suspicious ring 999.

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@strathblanefield.org.uk for more details.

The Community Council in April

Here we focus on the major issues discussed at the April 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.

Scottish Water Update—Stewart Smolarek of Scottish Water reported that whilst project mechanical works are drawing to a close details of the power cable installation by Scottish Power have not been finalised. Once it starts the process will take from 5 to 6 weeks with staged closure of sections of footpath along the route. When all works are finished we expect some community benefit in the shape of resurfaced paths (the railway path and the Gowk Stane path) and a new section of footpath up the hill (see Page 3)

Campsie Road Housing Development—Planning Application— After presentations by representatives from Cala Homes and Jim McGregor of SC Roads Dept. there was a detailed discussion of the conditions we wish to see attached to planning approval for the development. In the main these relate to adequate traffic calming, footways and road crossings along Campsie Road to ensure that it is clearly incorporated within the village from a village entrance point at Dunglass View and that all residents along the road have good safe pedestrian access to all village facilities. The CC agreed to support the application subject to satisfactory agreement on road design.

Parking in the Village— There was a discussion of the general issue of parking on pavements around the village and of the specific problem of parking around the Coop. A further meeting had been arranged between CC members and Michael McGuinness of the Coop and PC McNally happily grasped the opportunity of providing a piece for the Bulletin (See page 3).

Elected Member Report—Councillor Muirhead reported on SC's planned roadwork for the coming year which included sections of the A81 near Duntreath Castle, at the Beach Tree Inn and at the Blane Bridge. There will be consultation at the SW Rural Forum on local priorities. Cllr Muirhead also noted that the High Hedges Act came into force on April 1st and that SC Chief Executive Bob Jack is retiring.

Sale of Garden Ground Following correspondence from SC about the proposed sale of a piece of land beside the old Post Office on Glasgow Rd abutting onto the gardens of several houses the CC agree to support the sale as garden ground in principle provided the adjacent owners had a fair opportunity to make an offer.

Congratulations to Bob Sharp

Blanefield man Bob Sharp has been pleasantly surprised to find he had been nominated and then selected as one of 400 citizens who will share the honour of carrying the Queen's Baton across Stirlingshire after its epic 248 day journey around all the nations and territories of the Commonwealth on its way to the Games in Glasgow.

May Community Council Meeting

The SCC meets on Monday May 12th at 7.30pm in the School. The Agenda will include a updates on the Village Emergency Plan and the Scottish Water project. Come along and give us your views.

Willie Oswald asks: Did You Know There Is a Village Emergency Plan?

There is. Following two severe winters in 2009/10 and 2010/11, Stirling Council hosted a conference on how to improve the resilience of our communities in the event of severe weather or other extreme happening. The Council formed a cross party working party, in which Strathblane Community Council participated. From this, the concept of a Community Severe Weather Emergency Plan emerged. SCC was a 'guinea pig' along with Borestone CC in Stirling.

Fortunately since then we have escaped the circumstances that would have caused this plan to be activated. But does that mean the plan drawn up in 2011 can be set in motion tomorrow? No. A number of the key contacts have changed.

Because there is a need to keep "The Plan" up to date, Stirling Council's Emergency Planning Department hosted a workshop for community representatives at the end of March. SCC was represented by two members. A report of the workshop will be discussed at the next meeting of SCC, Monday 12 May.

Any recommendations for changes will be reported in the May Bulletin.

CLOSURE OF A81 — The A81 will be closed between Station Road and Campsie Road from 9am until 5pm on **Sunday April 27th** to facilitate resurfacing work. the formal announcement is posted on the village website strathblanefield.org.uk

Copy date for the May BVB is Monday 19th.

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

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

Elsbeth Posnett 770113

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

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

The Trust AGM—is on Wednesday May 28th in the Village Club. It gives all members the chance to here more about current and planned projects, to question Board members to vote to fill vacancies on the Board and hear a guest speaker. If you are not already an SCDT member **please fill in the form in the enclosed flyer**. It is vital to us that we involve as many community members as we can. We look forward to a good turn-out at a time of great opportunity for the Trust 's efforts for the community.

First World War Group—The First World War group of the SCDT continues to progress well. Their stories are almost complete and the group has gained a Grant of over £1100 from the Stirling Council Community Pride Fund to pay for the professional design of their final volume

Path Development Group—The Group will receive the final report from the feasibility study on the route and design of a **link path** from the railway path direct to Station Road at the bridge over the Blane. The Ecological study has found evidence of otters in the Blane. In May we plan to display the complete Railway Path Upgrade proposals for comment in the Library.

Negotiations with Scottish Water on their provision of a new length of path on the route linking the railway line to the Gowk Stane track are going well.

We have also succeeded in gaining a Community Pride Fund Grant for the installation of three **information boards** to complement the Walks Around Strathblane leaflet wich the Trust published last year. The Boards will be sited at the Church Carpark, outside the Library and at the foot of Campsie Dene Road and will serve the needs both of local people and visiting walkers.

Keep Cars on the Road! *PC McNally writes*— Many of you reading this article will have had the experience of walking on a pavement, maybe pushing a pram and coming up against a car parked on the pavement, blocking your path. Although it's a minor inconvenience, you rarely think anything of it and pass the car by walking out on to the road and safely back in on the other side. It's not really that big an issue when you're an adult and have experience of the roads.

Imagine though the child in the pram when he or she reaches five years of age and is cycling down the same pavement and comes up against the same car parked on the pavement. Suddenly it's a problem. Would you trust a five year old on a bicycle to safely pass a dangerously parked car by cycling out onto the road? If the child was involved in an accident because of that dangerously parked car, would the car owner be responsible to any extent?

This is an issue which has become more prominent in Strathblane and surrounding villages recently. I frequently receive complaints about cars parked on pavements, and when you actually take notice of the problem, the amount of cars parked on pavements in this area is frankly staggering.

Excuses frequently used for pavement parking include 'if I park the car on the road I'll slow the traffic down' or ' I like to park the car as close to the house as possible'.

Pavement parking is dangerous, particularly near to schools and shops. Children cannot judge the speed of traffic until they are 12 years old. If a child (or adult) is injured in a road accident as a result of passing a car parked on the pavement, then that unattended parked car will be considered by the police to have been involved in the accident. Consider though if you did just park your car on the road. It might actually be a good thing to slow the passing traffic down and make the residential streets safer as a result. So, next time you arrive home, or stop outside the Co-op or the shops on Glasgow Road, park on the road. It keeps the pedestrians on the pavement and keeps them safe."

Strathblane Bowling Club Opens for a New Season and is Looking to Attract New Members

On the weekend of the 12/13 April the bowling club opened the green to start a new season and the members are looking forward to a good summer of enjoyable outdoor activity. The Club is hoping to attract new members to enjoy the camaraderie and competition of a sport that is more energetic than it first appears.

On Monday April 28th at 7.15pm, and every other Monday during the season, everyone is invited to come along and experience the game with members in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The sport is suitable for any age from about 10+.

All you need are shoes with a flat sole, eg. Trainers/plimsolls, nothing that would put dents into the playing surface (our greenkeeper would go ballistic!).

If you are interested please contact Alan Mclean (01360 770411) or Ellen Park (01360 770873) for more information.

Village Club AGM — Committee Vacancies

This years Village Club AGM will be held in the Village Club Reading Room on 22nd May at 7.30pm. We have lost two of our committee who have both moved away from the village and now are looking for new members.

We have mostly retired members and would really like to have one or two who are still in work to broaden our age perspective. We won't give you lots of commitments as we do know how busy you are. We are aiming to carry on providing low cost lets for all our users, while at the same time trying to provide on a programme of continual improvement.

Come along and support us at the AGM.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

MON 21st	- SAT 26th	Flower Festival with a John Muir theme — all week in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 22nd	7.30pm	World Book Night - Ugaana Ramsey talks about her book 'Mongol'. Book a place at the Library
WED 23rd	2.30pm	Bookbug celebrates Shakespeare's Birthday - or maybe just usual rhymes, songs ,stories- in Library
FRI 25th		John Muir Way opening in Church Car park & elsewhere— See local press for details
FRI 25th	7.pm	Film Night (Childrens' & Adults' films running at the same time) in the Kirk Rooms
SAT 26th	8— Late	Wild West Hoedown — SOSC 10th Birthday Bash Live music, Rodeo Bull, Moonshine, Burgers BYOB & Bar. Tickers £10 from SOSC Staff, Call: 07766337537 or 07720765998
SUN 27th	9am - 5pm	Closure of the A81 - Station Road to Campsie Road to facilitate resurfacing works (see P 2)
WED 30th	7.30pm	Defibrillator Training - Places limited, contact Marian Lever 01360 770536 Or marian.lever@btinternet.com to book a place.

MAY

FRI 2nd	4.30-6.30	Messy Church in the Kirk Rooms
SUN 4th	1 — 5pm	Village Jam Session in the Village Club. All welcome
THUR 8th		iPad & Kindle Basics Workshop in Strathblane Library — contact Library for more details
FRI 9th	1.15pm	Spring Craft & Storytime for pre-school & nursery children in Library. Book in advance.
SAT 10th —	SUN 11th	Scottish Solo Championship at Loch Ard Sailing Club. Details from Club website or Tel770006
SAT 10th	10am	Spring Fayre in the Kirk Rooms
MON 12th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the school. All welcome
TUES 20th	7.30pm	Book Group in Strathblane Library
WED 21st	2.30pm	National Bookbug Week - Lots of running, jumping & standing still in a special 'getting active' session of Bookbug - in Strathblane Library
THUR 22nd	7.30pm	Village Club AGM in the Village Club. All welcome.
WED 28th	7pm	Strathblanefield Community Development Trust AGM in the Village Club
FRI 30th	7.pm	Film Night (Childrens' & Adults' films running at the same time) in the Kirk Rooms
FRI 30th	7.30pm	Scottish Fiddle Journey-Concert by Alastair Savage & Friends; St Mary's Episcopal Church Aberfoyle Tickets £8. Bookings: Mark Seymour 01786 870710 or concerts0310@yahoo.co.uk

JUNE

SUN 1st	1 — 5pm	Village Jam Session in the Village Club. All welcome
SAT 7th	10am	Senior Citizens' Outing to Cardwell Garden Centre & Dunoon Leaving from the Surgery

EDENKILN SURGERY

The surgery will be closed for the May Bank Holiday on Monday May 5th

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 May

at the Office in Strathblane Primary School (crime permitting) are not currently available.

Friday 2nd — 3 - 4pm

Thursday 8th — 10 -11am

Saturday 17th — 12noon - 1pm

Thursday 29th — 6 - 7pm

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