

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet August 2014 No. 24

How You Can Play a Part in Our Village Emergency Plan

Willie Oswald writes:

Do you remember way back in April when you were told there was a village emergency plan? Were you surprised? Would you like to contribute to the resilience of our community if and when we need to activate the Emergency Plan?

First, the background. 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. In 2013 Stirling Council supplied SCC with 40 Hi-Viz vests and snow shovels for use in an emergency.

Fast-forward to March 2014 and the workshop for community representatives hosted by Stirling Council's Emergency Planning Department to explore "Keeping the Plan Up to Date". As a starter Stirling Council arranged for communities to be supplied with an Emergency Resilience Kit. This contains a multi-purpose outdoor radio, a 12km range walkie-talkie, 10 LED Dyno Torches, 10 Foil Blankets, 10 pairs of snow/ice shoe grips and a small first aid kit. This we now have. SCC is in the process of updating the contact details for the Plan.

SP Energy, who participated in the workshop in March, have a series of information leaflets a small supply of which are in the library. (The information is also on the web). SP Energy can also supply a limited number of 'Winter Emergency packs'. These comprise a fleecy blanket, a plug in telephone handset, a wind-up torch and a hand warmer to those who have registered for "Priority Customer Services".

So what has this to do with me you ask? None of us has a crystal ball, and what Stirling and your community council wants is to be prepared for any "extreme known or unknown emergency". SCC would like to add to our Community Emergency Plan a register of human and equipment resources that could be made available for the benefit of our community should the need arise.

We would like to know of people with the following skill sets:

- ❖ Medical professionals and care workers who normally work out with our community.
- ❖ Fire and rescue workers and police officers.
- ❖ Registered first aiders and mountain rescue personnel.

The equipment that could be deployed would include

- ❖ 4 x 4 vehicles,
- ❖ Generators
- ❖ Emergency cooking equipment.

This is not an exhaustive list and SCC will be happy for any further ideas.

Please contact cc@strathblanefield.org.uk with all offers of help .

This Month's Main Items

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Priority Based Budgeting is Back

The next phase of the rolling annual PBB process instigated last year as a way of approaching the difficult choices Stirling Council must make to balance its budget over the next five years is almost upon us. SCC will co-ordinate community responses but it is also up to individuals and community organisations to take up the opportunities that will be offered to register your views. Constructive suggestions are needed. Make no mistake many unpalatable options — bin emptying cycles etc — that were sidelined last year will be back on the agenda.

Road Repairs and Road Closures: Positives & Negatives

We are all pleased when long-awaited road resurfacing takes place and we understand that what can be done is currently limited by available budgets which must be shared around between communities in the Stirling Council area. It is important however that works are done in a way that, as far as possible, limits the disruption to essential daily travel. That requires consultation with communities and good communication on the part of the Roads Department. In the immediate past this has not been a major problem but in the case of this month's work on the A81 in Blanefield both has been completely absent. The Community Council is already pressing Stirling Council to ensure that things work differently in future.

This Issue of the Blane Valley Bulletin is sponsored by

J & K Muir

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Local registered Plumber — Bathrooms , kitchens , Heating , Leadwork and all other plumbing work carried out .

Tel: 01360 770261

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 August

In what follows we focus on the major issues discussed at the August 4th meeting of the SCC. Some are dealt with in more detail elsewhere in this issue, and the full minute of a meeting will be available as usual on the website and the village noticeboards.

Roads Issues dominated and are covered elsewhere in this issue.

Police Report — Once again we did not have the promised Police presence although on this occasion PC Paul Roose from Balfron Police Station had been called to an incident. He sent a written report which will be available on the noticeboards and website

Planning Elected Member — Cllr Lambie reported that the LDP for Stirling had still not been agreed (That has now happened) and that the non-indigenous trees at the bend in the A81 by Valhalla (about which concerns have often been raised) were not covered by the recent legislation. He will speak to the owner about the possibility of reducing their height.

Community Comments - Here concern was expressed about the planned closure of the RBS branch. It was pointed out that, although the Post Office would assume many of the banking functions, confidentiality was an issue, and there remains a difficulty for organisations where the need for multiple signatories precludes online banking.

We need your views...

In June we agreed the priorities for the year ahead and this month we agreed who is to lead each one:

Provision for the elderly—funding exists for 6 bungalows which can be built on Council land and **Avril Keen** is looking for sites.

Footpaths and Cycleways— **Alan Hutton**

Care for the Elderly—**Marian Lever**

Parking at Shops—**Julie Hutchison**

Campaign for a new Primary School—**Margaret Vass & Sue Rand**

Please contact any of the above if you have an interest in these areas, we need your views. (Contact details below)

We will be organising a **community discussion** involving all groups in the villages after the October holiday to take forward these priorities and to begin to develop new ideas. We aim to demonstrate how the CC might help groups (and how groups might help each other) especially in exploiting fund-raising and grant opportunities.

On a specific road safety/footpath proposal: What do you think about making the bridge on Station Road prioritised one way to slow traffic and enhance pedestrian safety? Could this be coupled with other traffic calming or footpath improvements in Station Rd?

Copy date for the September BVB is Monday 15th.

Please send Calendar items for late September and October.

September Community Council Meeting

The SCC meets on Monday September 1st at 7.30pm in the Primary School. Come along and give us your views.

A Diminished Community Police Service?

In response to our attempts to get information on **Police Surgery Hours** for the next month Sergeant Adrian Robertson (Community Policing, Forth & Endrick) gave us the following:

'The Police Surgery previously provided by David McNally was used sporadically and we can no longer guarantee that a member of staff will be available to be at the Primary School for an hour at a given time. If any members of the community wish to discuss anything with the local Police, they can phone 101 and ask to speak to a local officer, arrange to call at Balfron Police Office or email ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk where their query will be allocated to a local officer to contact them back at a mutually convenient time.'

The SCC hope to be able to discuss these arrangements and the absence of a Police Officer at our recent meetings with Sergeant Robertson at our September meeting.

Name that Street — Stirling Council has asked us to suggest a name for the new street that will road through the Campsie Road housing site. Suggestions please, with a local or historical significance. So far we have *Guthrie Smith Crescent* — what do you think?

Decontamination on the Printworks Site - Update

Since our last issue work has begun on the remediation of the contamination in gardens on the old Printworks site.

Campsie Road Housing Reminder

Work on the first part of the new housing development is due to start before the end of the year with the affordable houses to follow. Anyone potentially interested should register their interest with RSHA and Stirling Council..

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police — 999 Fire — 999

Ambulance — 999 NHS 24 — 202

[Police - 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

Elsbeth Neill 771653

Sue Rand 770630

Mugdock Ward

Richard Arnold 770006

Philip Graves 0141 9561954

and

TWO VACANCIES

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

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.

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Path Development Group — The *Paths for All Path Action Day* will be on Saturday October 25th to clear and upgrade the 'Creepy'/'Scary' Path between the end of Kirkhouse Road and the Village Club and Tennis and Bowling Clubs. **We need at least a dozen more volunteers.** There will also be some preparatory work to do before the 25th and some finishing off afterwards. If you are able to help please contact: alanhutton@gmail.com.

World War 1 Project - The book *A Village Remembers* will be launched on **Saturday September 20th at 6pm** in the Village Hall - see enclosed flyer for details.

Pump track (demountable cycle track) — Delivery is expected in mid-September. We require secure storage for the equipment — a steel container or secure building is needed with a capacity of 16 cubic metres. If anyone can assist in sourcing such a unit please contact us on cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk

Craigend Castle The group is preparing an application for funding from the Big Lottery Fund (Investing in Ideas) to undertake a feasibility study for the development of the derelict building on behalf of the Community.

LIBRARY NEWS *from Lynne James*

— **Three Special Events in September**

An Evening of True Crime

with **Malcolm Archibald**

(author of *No Mean City*)

Friday 19th, 7.30 - 9pm in the Village Club

part of the Stirling *Off the Page Book Festival*

The **Blane Valley Players** will bring some of the crime scenes to life and you can test your knowledge of real life and fictional villains.

Bring your own refreshments and settle in for an evening of crime and punishment. **Tickets £5 / £4.**

September's Bookbug on Wednesday 17th at 2.30 in the Library will be a special Teddy Bears' Picnic event for the Off the Page Book Festival. We may move to the Story Chair outside so Mums may wish to bring a rug.

The Big Book Exchange on Thursday 18th

Bring along a book you no longer want and swap it for one left by someone else.. Please only bring as many books as you are prepared to swap and as nearly new as possible! As well as book swapping we are hoping you will stop and enjoy a coffee or tea on us as you decide which book(s) you are going home with!

Dropped Kerbs — In the June BVB we asked if anyone knew of places where dropped kerbs were needed around the village. This was a request that came in just before we went to press and we failed to make clear that the funding that may be available is to provide good pavement access for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, buggies etc. What has emerged in this village — as well as footpath access issues which have been passed on — is a number of people who wish dropped kerbs for driveways. That is a matter for individual householders and they should contact Stirling Council directly using the website contact details. We must apologise for the lack of clarity in the initial request.

Rainbow, Brownie & Guide and Beaver, Cub and Scout Registration Night is Tuesday 26th August 6.30-8pm

Messy Monsters — An exciting new pre-school messy play session launches in Strathblane on Thursday 18th September in the Kirk Rooms. Activities include sand, water, paint and playdo, with a different theme each week. Sessions will run weekly from 10-11 am and will cost £5 for the first child and £2.50 for siblings. Messy Monsters play sessions are run by qualified primary teachers with PVG disclosure. For more information see www.youngartart.info or phone Debbie on 01360 770619

Architectural Award — In the 2014 Stirling Civic Trust Biennial Architectural Competition the Award for Commissioning the Best New Building 2010-2014 went Mr & Mrs Angus Graham for Laggan Wood on Campsie Dene Road, Blanefield.

Congratulations to our Games Participants

'People' made the Glasgow Commonwealth Games such a huge success, so congratulations to the many people from this community who contributed - as Clydesiders, as drivers, as participants in the opening and closing ceremonies, and as part of the crowds of enthusiastic spectators.

The Village Club — available for public and private functions. To check availability make a booking or ask for further information before making a booking please ask Keith Vass or Elspeth Neill.

Keith Vass – keithvass13@gmail.com 770131
Elspeth Neill - elspethneill@gmail.com 771653

Callander — Summerfest @ St Kessogs

A set of exhibitions (open Wed, Sat & Sun 10 - 5) including Photography; Quilting, Ecology, Natural History & the Impact of WW1) running until late September, together with a set of art and craft events from film and music to fly-tying, Details: <http://www.creativeincallander.co.uk/st%20kessogs/>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

SUN 24th	1 — 5pm	Jam Session in the Village Club. All welcome. Cup of Tea provided £3 each.
MON 25th	7 - 9pm	Independence Referendum - An Open Non-Partisan Meeting — Speakers Professors Keating, Bell and McEwan (Political Scientists & Economist) Chair: Prof Andy Thompson — in Killlearn Village Hall,. Admission Free. Coffee Shop open for refreshments.
TUES 26th	6.30 -8pm	Beavers, Cubs, Scouts Enrolment and Rainbow, Brownies and Guides Registration , in the Scout/Guide Hall
TUES 26th	10am	Tuesday Morning Coffee Time in Kirk Rooms
SAT 30th	10am	Work Party to clean up War Memorial Site Meet at War Memorial. Contact: Richard Begg rbegg711@aol.com

SEPTEMBER

MON 1st	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome.
TUES 2nd	10am	Tuesday Morning Coffee Time in Kirk Rooms — and every Tuesday in Term Time.
THURS 4th	7.30-9pm	First Night of Guides in Scout/Guide Hall
THURS 4th	2pm	Cuppa Time in the Kirk Rooms
SAT 6th	7.30pm	Strathendrick Pipe Band Family Ceilidh in the Edmonstone Hall. Tickets £8 (includes sandwiches) BYOB. Contact Eleanor Forrest 07713638287
TUES 9th	7.30pm	Knit and Natter in the Manse
THURS 11th	2pm	Cuppa Time in the Kirk Rooms
WED 17th	2.30pm	Bookbug — A special Teddy Bears' Picnic event for the Off the Page Festival
THURS 18th	10-11am	Messy Monsters - launch of new pre-school messy play session in Kirk Rooms. See page 3 Box.
THURS 18th		Big Book Exchange in Strathblane Library. Bring only as many (nearly new) books as you are willing to swap. Opening Hours: 10 -1 and 3 -7.
FRI 19th	7.30 - 9pm	Malcolm Archibald - author of 'No Mean City' (with the Blane Valley Players) in the Village Club — part of the Off the Page Festival. Bring your own refreshments and settle in for an evening of crime and punishment. - £5/£4.
SAT 20th	6pm	Public Launch of A Village Remembers in the Village Club. See enclosed flyer for details.
TUES 23rd	7.30pm	Knit and Natter in the Manse
TUES 23rd	7.30pm	Senior Citizens' Enrolment Night at the Edmonstone Hall

OCTOBER

SAT 6th	11am - 1	Strathblane Rainbows, Brownies & Guides Autumn Sale in Strathblane Scout & Guide Hall Admission £1.50 (includes tea) —Jumble, Raffle, Jar Jamboree, Homebaking, Snacks.
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COMING SOON..... Strathblane Tennis Club's Annual Quiz in the Village Club on Sat 22nd Nov, at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Sally & John Grav on 771031

EDENKILN SURGERY

The surgery will be closed from 12.00 on 1st Sept 2014.

This is a Forth Valley NHS holiday.

We can be contacted at 01360 770340 For a range of healthcare information go to the practice website www.edenkilnsurgery.com

Thanks... John and David Carey completed the Braveheart Challenge, a climb up Ben Nevis on Saturday, 26th July. They managed to raise £1,200 for The John Hartson Foundation for cancer care.

Margaret McIntyre wishes to thank everyone who contributed in supporting her son and grandson in this event.

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