

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet February 2013 No.9

Protestors given pavement pledge!

Villagers claim victory over local walkways!



So says the Stirling Observer, but that is not quite the full story.

The Petitions Panel (left with SCC representatives) **that met in the village club agreed:**

1. to note that the Head of Environment had made a commitment that Environment Services would, as a matter of some urgency:-

- arrange the removal of vegetation and detritus from the footway on the south side of the A81 north to the Blanefield Care Home;
- arrange the removal of vegetation and detritus from the section of footway linking Milndavie Road to the bus stop on the A81 to the south of Strathblane; and
- examine what could be done to improve the section of footway on the A81 at Edenkiln Place

2. to note that contact would be made with the owner of the property on the A81 north of where the footway narrows with a view to moving back the wall bordering the property to provide a standard width footway;
3. to note that when a developer sought planning permission to build homes on the adjacent development site, Environment Services would request a Section 75 agreement for the construction of a footway on the A981 to Dunglass View; and
3. to instruct the Head of Environment to begin consultation with the Community Council on a strategy for the wider paths network within Strathblane and Blanefield including the provision of a safe walking and cycling route linking properties to the south of Strathblane with the village centre and submit the recommendations from that dialogue to the Environment & Housing Committee within a period of 4 months from the date of this meeting.

Although this is progress it doesn't link the Country House Hotel with the villages as we set out to do. The Head of Environment (Les Goodfellow) was clear that a pavement doesn't exist while we insisted that there is a pavement you just cannot see it! We are still hopeful that we will be successful when we agree a wider strategy for paths over the next 4 months.

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by

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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
Julie Hutchison	770791
Alan Hutton	770537
Marian Lever	770536
Mike McNulty	770076
Susan Morgan	771747
Willie Oswald	770497
Elsbeth Posnett	770113
Sue Rand	770630

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

The Community Council in February

Our February meeting was very busy with lively discussion! Do come along and participate in the debates. This report only highlights topics discussed, the full minute can be found on the website and noticeboards.

Emergency Response. We were pleased that the meeting with the emergency planning officer had borne fruit and we have been listened to with the pavement on both sides of the A81 being gritted. We will of course be discussing the events of the snow on February 13th at our March meeting.

New Police Office Delay Again our letter to the Chief Constable proved useful. There is progress with telecommunications but David McNally will be available for residents to drop in most afternoons between 3.30 and 4.30. More details see below.

The Pavements Fit for Purpose petition The presentation for the panel on the 7th February was discussed and agreed. See page 1 for the outcome.

Roads Issues We have been advised of resurfacing work due to start in Kirkburn Road from Monday 25th February to the 1st March. The programme for next financial year is budget dependant but is likely to include pavement and road resurfacing on the A81 in the village from the new roundabout to the Blane Valley Inn. We are asking that the opportunity is taken to improve parking for the shops and that a parking bay is provided. We are willing to look at other options but we must find a way to help our shops survive whilst avoiding all the problems of parking on the pavement. The issue of measures to

alleviate speeding at the same time as resurfacing takes place also came up so we have invited Brian Roberts who helped us with the crossing to come to our March meeting. Council budgets to do this type of work are virtually non-existent so some of our previous wish lists will need to be revisited to find cheaper solutions. These could include speed bumps and chicanes. Let us know your views. Further resurfacing of the A81 from Duntreath is also likely. This will result in road closures probably from May 20th to 24th. - once again when pupils are taking Highers. The A81 will also be closed for the first week of March from Blane smithy to Ballat

Planning We discussed an application which lies in Killearn's area but causes us some concern. The application is for a large area of solar panels above the distillery. Our concern is that the application says there are no major paths nearby, yet this is part of the established route up Dumgoyne and the pipetrack walk to and from Killearn is part of the council's core paths network.

Dog fouling again! Residents are still complaining about irresponsible dog owners not picking up after their dogs. You can be fined for this. If you are observed we will have no hesitation in passing your name to the council's enforcement officer. Some of you who are picking up are still hanging bags on trees; this is a double fine for litter and dog fouling. We are still trying to persuade the council to install a poo bin at the south western end of the King George V playing fields. Finally it is just NOT acceptable not to pick up in the cemetery.

March Community Council Meeting

Our next meeting is on Monday 4th March at 7.30pm in the school. On the agenda will be: Roads - speed reduction (with Brian Roberts from Stirling Council in attendance); and action planning for a litter pick.

Please come along and give us your views views.

New Police Office

From early in February our Community Police Officer, David McNally has begun to use the new Police Office in Strathblane Primary School. David is now on (well earned) annual leave until February 28th and will then **be available at the office from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on February 28th, and March 1st 2nd, 3rd and 4th.**

(Further dates and times will be available after he returns from leave.)

We will try to publish David's office hours monthly in future issues of the Bulletin.

Librarian Lynne James thanks all those who volunteered for the **Local Heritage cataloguing.** She will be contacting you in due course with volunteer forms and is looking forward very much to starting work on the project!

Sponsor an issue of the Blane Valley Bulletin?

We are very grateful to those local individuals and businesses who have already offered to sponsor an issue of the Bulletin. We need a few more to see us through 2013.

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

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

Please send us all late-March & April events for the **Calendar** and other items for the next Bulletin to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk Copy date is Monday 18 March.

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Activity Update for February

INTERPRETIVE WALKS LEAFLET The "Walks around Strathblane" leaflet is now in its final stages of preparation. The SCDT has approached funding bodies on behalf of the Group for grant support and hopefully copies will be available at the end of May. The route for the new John Muir Coast To Coast Trail stretching from Dunbar to Helensburgh (due to open in 2014) is planned to pass through the village and the leaflet should encourage the expected upsurge in walkers to spend some time walking through our delightful valley and holidaying in the area.

RAILWAY PATH IMPROVEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY The feasibility study for the upgrade of 600 metres of the railway track path from Station Road is now at the tendering stage. We hope a consultant can be commissioned within the next few weeks with work beginning later in the Spring. A successful feasibility report will be followed up with further funding applications which might see the work starting later in the year.'

The highly respected journalist - and local resident - Alf Young addressed a recent meeting of the SCDT Board on the successful projects which have been carried out by inspirational communities throughout Scotland and which formed the basis of the book "The New Road" which Alf and his son Ewan launched recently. Alf has kindly agreed to continue to offer his advice and the benefit of his experience to the

SCDT MEMBERSHIP Trust membership continues to grow but we need the higher the percentage of community members who participate the stronger our hand in competing for shinking sources of funding. A lifetime subscription is only £5.00 per household and application forms are available in the Library.

Towards a more food-self-sufficient community?

The last two years have moved us closer to being able to source our food needs without leaving the villages — **low 'food miles' and local employment**. In addition to the **Mirza** store; the Deli and catering services of **Pestle and Mortar**; The **Blane Valley Inn**, **Kirkhouse Inn** and the **Country House Hotel**; **Chillies** Takeaway; and the **Edenmill Farm Shop** we now have **Rare Breed Pork** from **Ardunan Farm**, and the **Blane Valley Allotments**. With the new expanded **Coop** due in a couple of months, this year has already seen another new food development with the establishment in Blanefield of a micro bakery - **Hels' Bakehouse** - see www.helsbakehouse.com for details.

Allotment Opportunity

The Allotments Association has a small number of plots available. Enquiries about renting a plot or becoming an Associate Member to:
Val McNulty, Secretary, BVAA
13 Ballewan Crescent, Blanefield
G63 9HW
Email: val.mcnulty@waitrose.com

Are there enough volunteers in the villages to support a community-based defibrillator?

Since the last SCC meeting investigations of the potential for siting a defibrillator in the village have continued. The Craig Hodgkinson Trust, founded in memory of a young man raised in the village, has offered to donate one to our community. We will need to decide on a site for the defibrillator (it requires access to an electrical supply) and to raise funds for a cabinet and to cover ongoing maintenance costs (batteries and pads). Links have been made with the Scottish Ambulance Service who will help us by attending an information evening in the village and providing **CPR and defibrillator training**.

Training would be open to anyone and would not require them to become a **First Responder**. Those who wish to become First Responders would receive additional training, insurance cover and be PVG checked by the Ambulance Service. They must be aged 18 -68.

The local surgery staff know about our discussions and are very supportive of the idea of a public access defibrillator; there already is one in the surgery. They are delighted to help us with advice if needed.

Where we go next depends on us having enough volunteers so if you are interested in finding out more, undertaking CPR and Defibrillator Training or becoming a First Responder let any community council member know and watch out for posters and information about the scheme. The SCC will organise an information evening.

We might be able to save a life in our village, but we need the volunteers to make that possible!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

TUES 26th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens Club - AGM & Music Night with Felix Lennon in the Edmontone Hal
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MARCH

MON 4th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council - Monthly Meeting in the School. All welcome
MON 4th	7.30pm	Guild - Alastair Young - Missionary to Children in the Kirk Rooms
WED 6th	7.30pm	An evening with the Heritage Society in the Village Club. All welcome
SAT 9th	12 - 2pm	Spring Sale in Scout Hut. Donations of 'surplus stuff' to the Hall 7-9pm on Thurs 7th, & Fri 8th or on the morning of the sale. All proceeds to local Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.
TUES 12th	6.30pm	Senior Citizens Club - Mugdock Country Park Ranger in the Edmontone Hall
THUR 14th	2-2.45pm	Killearn & Blanefield Health Walk - Loch Ardinning. Contact Shelagh 07762 146054
FRI 15th	7.30pm	"Travels with my Great Grandfather" Illustrated Talk by Mary Bates at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberfoyle Tickets £5 from Mark Seymour 01786 870710
SUN 17th	11 - 3pm	Science Sunday Funday - Experiments, activities, films. More information at www.britishtscienceassociation.org/national-science-engineering-week **
MON 18th	7.30pm	Guild - AGM Rev Richard Begg in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 19th	7.30pm	Reading Group in Strathblane Library
TUES 19th	7pm	Men's Steak Night in the Blane Valley Inn. Please book your place direct with the Blane Valley.
WED 20th	2.30pm	Bookbug in Strathblane Library
WED 20th	7.30pm	Heritage Society - Alan McBride on 'Our Area Formation' in the Village Club
SAT 23rd	7pm	Strathendrick Pipe Band Fundraising Ceilidh Dance in Edmonstone Hall. 7 — 12 Tickets from John Muir 771025.
TUES 26th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens Club - Bill Stewart - Accordion & Guitar

For details of **Holy Week & Easter services and activities at Strathblane Parish Church** see the Parish Easter Card coming through letter boxes, Facebook, noticeboards and the Church website.

** For a listing of the wide range of events and activities for children and adults at Mugdock Country Park go to <http://www.mugdock-country-park.org.uk/cgi-bin/calendar/calendar.cgi?d=17&m=03&y=2013>

THE STRATHENDRICK PIPE BAND continued a very hectic and successful twelve months with a performance at a charity fundraising event for Maggie's Cancer Care Centres at the Winnock Hotel, Drymen last Saturday which also featured the Red Hot Chilli Pipers. The Band meets for practice on Monday evenings and for beginners on Thursday evenings, both in the Edmonstone Hall. Anyone interesting in joining should contact John Muir (01360 771025) or just come along.

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

The surgery will be closed for training Tuesday 26th February at 12.30pm, and on public holidays— for help contact NHS24 at 0845 4242424

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

The Village Club available for club activities and private parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett (Tel: 770113) or Keith Vass (Tel: 770131) for availability.

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