

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

March 2013 No.10

Broadband Strategy Update

John Gray writes: The piece on in the January Bulletin on Stirling Council's internet strategy generated a lot of interest and, at a meeting last weekend, we heard from the consultants who have delivered their report with recommendations how Stirling Council can best work with providers (i.e. BT), Scottish Government and communities to improve broadband access, and speed of access, across the area. The council will decide how far it can provide "gap funding" to reach as many businesses and homes as possible. As part of the next stage,

Stirling is hoping to set up a small '**Broadband Advisory Group**' made up of interested individuals across the area. The group members would not necessarily be community councillors, they would be first and foremost people with specialist knowledge and interest relating particularly to the various solutions that are available for "community broadband".

We are optimistic that an upgrade of the Blanefield exchange will be foreshadowed in the report—fingers crossed! Even so, within in our area there are outlying residents and business who may not see the same improvements as we see in the core of the villages. This is a problem shared with many communities across Stirling's rural area, and the advisory group may be a useful way to get the best provision.

Please email cc@strathblanefield.org.uk if you might be willing to contribute expertise and energy to the support the council's programme of internet access improvement. We can pass on your details. Also remember, if you are not getting the broadband speed you expected, there may be some simple things you can do to improve it, without waiting for the exchange to be upgraded.

ACTION ON DOG FOULING

Following continual pressure for action on dog fouling. The council enforcement officer has visited the villages twice last week and once this week. Walking around our main dog walking areas he chats to owners and also checks that they have poo bags with them. So far one person has had no bags with them. Remember that it is illegal to allow your dog to foul in any public place without picking up. Our **Action on Litter Week** starts on 22nd April. It is bad enough picking up litter but negotiating poo makes it even worse especially when children are helping.

This issue of the Bulletin is sponsored by
Strathblane Bowling Club — Playing & Non-playing members welcome. Anyone interested should contact:
Alan McLean (770411) or George McDonald (770063)

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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 March

This report only highlights the main topics discussed at another lively meeting on February 4th, some of the issues are followed up elsewhere in this Bulletin and the full minute can be found on the website and noticeboards.

Councillor Muirhead's **Elected Member's Report** which focussed on Stirling Council's Budget for the coming year(s) painted a bleak picture of cuts which, although this came late in the agenda, set the background for most other issues discussed. In particular Cllr Muirhead highlighted another year's freeze in Council Tax whilst £9bn is to be cut from the council's Budget, including £675,000 from the Roads budget.

A81 Parking & Speed Reduction

We were pleased to welcome Brian Roberts from Stirling Council who whilst emphasised the uncertainties of the Budget for the coming year focussed on progress in implementing the 10-Year-old Atkins Report on traffic calming for the villages - about 50% done. What can be done in the short-run is heavily constrained—a mini-roundabout at Ballewan Crescent and traffic lights at Station Road could only be longer-term solutions. Strong arguments were put for a parking bay outside the Mirza Store and the Deli as part of any re-surfacing work.

It is clear that if we are serious about reducing speed through the village we have to consider cheaper options like speed bumps or chicanes. **We need your views on this significant change in approach.** As

a first step the council will measure speed in key locations.

In his **Police Report** PC McNally indicated a more active month with criminal activity including a number of metal thefts, car crime and a case of ferreting. He warns us to look out for telephone and doorstep fraud and hare coursing which has apparently made a comeback in the Stirlingshire area. The possibility of 'No Cold Calling' signage will be investigated by the SCC. By now PC McNally should have a fully functional Police Office in the Primary School.

The Pavements Fit for Purpose

petition It was reported that the follow-up from the petition hearing represents a success - but not a complete success. The Council has done very satisfactory job of clearing the paths along the A81 north to the care home and south to the two bus stops - but we still struggle to get that continued as far as the Country House Hotel entrance. We are now working with the Council on what they call Strathblane and Blanefield Community Path Network. There is a familiarisation meeting with council staff in the village next week. This will complement the work of SCDDT's Path Development Group.

Planning There have been no significant planning issues recently but next month's meeting we consider an application for change of use of Muirfield Quarry to an air rifle target shooting ground. **What do you think of this?**

April Community Council Meeting

Our next meeting is on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm in the Kirk Rooms. Important Agenda items will include a Scottish Ambulance Service presentation on **Defibrillators** and, under Planning, the application for a 'change of use' of land west of Muirhouse Farm for an **air rifle target shooting ground**.

Please come along and give us your views.

Litter Picking Week- 22-27 April

Too often it is our Primary School children who tidy up the village. Adults need to lead by example: when you are out and about that week please take a bag with you and pick up the litter that you see.

Police 'Surgery' Hours

PC David McNally will be available (crime permitting) at the Police Office in the school at the following times:

March 26th 3.00-4.00pm

April 4th 6.30-7.30pm

April 8th 6.30-7.30pm

April 16th 3.00-4.00pm

April 22nd 3.00-4.00pm

April 29th 3.00-4.00pm

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 get a front page acknowledgement in a news sheet which goes to every household in the community. To find out more email cc@strathblane.org.uk

Ways to give us your views or alert us to issues: email the Community Council at cc@strathblane.org.uk; contact one of your Community Councillors directly (phone numbers on Page 1); come along to Community Council meetings (or to any of the periodic consultation events we organise); or **stand for the Community Council** yourself—the next round of elections is in October and it is important that we continue to fill all the places — it would be great to have a real election!

Please send us all late-April & May events for the **Calendar** and other items for the next Bulletin to cc@strathblane.org.uk **Copy date is Monday 22nd April.**

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Activity Update for March

Greenheart

With help from Stirling Council the group have managed to purchase mini combination football and rugby goal posts for the lower part of the play park. The Council has placed the order and will install the posts and burn in pitch lines. They are now consulting on the best position for the goals, considering the proximity to the burn and to the path, and the state of the ground. Following consultation with the Fun Hut we hope shortly to submit funding bids for a mini climbing frame and a wooden train to go on the space next to the swings. They will also be carrying out consultation on other ideas.

Interpretive Walking Map

The CDT has received funding in the form of a grant for £1500 from the Community Pride fund. This will go towards the costs of printing the leaflet which will be full colour A2 folded to one third A4 size. We would also like to thank the local businesses who are contributing to the cost.

Railway Path Improvement Feasibility Study

This project is moving ahead. By the beginning of April we will have engaged a design consultant who should complete the study over the following two months providing a basis for full community consultation in the early summer over the detailed shape of what we see as an important path development for our villages.

Allotment Demand Buoyant

After the February BVB item reporting a small number of available plots more than enough potential ploholders have emerged to take up those plots and there is once again a waiting list.

Anyone wishing to add their names to that waiting list should contact BVAA Secretary Val McNulty
Email: val.mcnylty@waitrose.com

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

COMMUNITY-BASED DEFIBRILLATOR - Update

Funding for the Cabinet from Community Council was agreed at the February SCC meeting.

Murray McEwan of the Scottish Ambulance Service will attend the April Community Council meeting to talk about public access defibrillators. The Scottish Ambulance Service will also be providing a 2 hour **training session** on defibrillation, heart massage, the prone position etc in the School on **Tuesday 21 May 7.30pm to 9.30pm**. This is open to anyone with no requirement to become a first responder, however.....

More Volunteers are Needed - Although the item in last month's Bulletin produced an encouraging response we still need more volunteers to become First Responders.

Its the volunteers who will make a public access defibrillator for our community possible.

TENNIS CLUB CENTENARY EXHIBITION

– Historical Materials Wanted

Strathblane Tennis Club is celebrating its Centenary this year, and would be grateful for any photos, articles, or previous club members' memories and memorabilia. We hope to create an exhibition for display in the Village Club during our celebratory weekend of 22nd and 23rd June 2013.

If you can help, please contact Graeme Ross on 771571 or at graeme.r.ross@gmail.com, Louise Bennet at georgebennet@btinternet.com or Alastair Balfour at alastair@alastairbalfour.com.

TASTE I.T. If you are a real beginner with computers and want to know more about emailing, surfing the web.. or simply how to "switch the thing on", then the four week beginners course held in Strathblane Library might be just what you are looking for. Classes are two hours long with a cup of tea to help calm the nerves. A maximum of four people are in a class and there are two tutors who will take you along at a pace that suits you. Contact the library for further details.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

SAT 23rd	7.pm	Strathendrick Pipe Band Fundraising Ceilidh Dance in Edmonstone Hall. 7 — 12 Tickets from John Muir 771025.
MON 25th	2.30-4.30	Easter Garden Trail - each day until SAT March 30th
TUES 26th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens Club - Bill Stewart - Accordion & Guitar
THURS 28th	2-4pm	Cuppa Time in the Kirk Rooms

APRIL

THURS 4th	2-4pm	Cuppa Time in the Kirk Rooms
MON 8th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Kirk Rooms. All welcome
THURS 11th	2-4pm	Cuppa Time in the Kirk Rooms
THURS 18th	2-4pm	Cuppa Time in the Kirk Rooms
SAT 20th	2pm	Strathblane Bowling Club - Gents Opening
SAT 20th	2pm	Tennis Club Open Day - New members, young or old, beginners or more experienced welcome.. Refreshments. Contact Graeme Ross 01360 771571 or Sally Gray 01360 771031
SUN 21st	2pm	Strathblane Bowling Club - Ladies Opening
TUES 23rd	7.30pm	World Book Night - Special Book Club evening in Strathblane Library
WED 24th	2.30pm	Bookbug - Stories & rhymes for babies and toddlers in Strathblane Library
SAT 27th	8pm - 12	Fashion and Fizz Night in the Village Club (See box below for more details)
THURS 28th	2-4pm	Cuppa Time in the Kirk Rooms

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.
The Church is open every Tuesday night as a quiet space - anyone is welcome to drop in.

** For a listing of the wide range of events and activities for adults—and for children especially over the Easter holiday—at Mugdock Country Park go to
<http://www.mugdock-country-park.org.uk>

Fashion and Fizz Night April 27th Donations of high quality nearly new clothes, shoes, bags and jewellery. can be dropped off at the school, library or Edenkilm surgery before 19th April. Bar open 8-12. Tickets (£5 including a glass of fizz) available from the Library, Chemists or the Primary School. All proceeds to **Strathblane Primary Playground Development Fund.**

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

The surgery will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Monday & Monday May 6th— 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

Stuart Boyd, proprietor of the **Pestle & Mortar** deli would like to thank everyone who made 'Time for a Cuppa' over two weeks in early March during which over £200 was raised for the **Dementia UK.**

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