

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet

May 2013 No.12

Consultation on Path Developments

In the lengthy consultations leading up to the establishment of our Community Action Plan in 2011 no priority gained more support than the 'Development of safe walking and cycling routes around the village and to connect' with neighbouring villages the West Highland Way and the Loch Ardinning Reserve. Over the last two years the Community Council and the Strathblanefield Community Development Trust - through its Path Development Group (PDG) - have worked jointly in the pursuit of that goal. We are now at a point in the development of a first set of proposals where it is once again vital to get input from as many interested residents as possible. Over the month of June, therefore we will be consulting in a number of ways on two main fronts.

First, the PDG, decided to prioritise the establishment of a safe and accessible off-road route between the Blanefield and Strathblane ends of our community using the old railway track. For much of the year, however, the section of that path between the allotments entrance and Station Road is not accessible for casual walkers, cyclists, wheelchairs, and buggies. At the end of 2012 we secured a grant for a **feasibility study** with the aim of producing a design for a path which will overcome the present difficulties. We engaged a consultant who is due to produce draft proposals by the beginning of June on which we want to consult the community as widely as possible.

Second, one outcome the Petition that the Community Council put to Stirling Council (SC) on the state of footpaths along the A81 was a commitment by SC to undertake **an audit of our path network**. SC access officers together with the PDG are now engaged in that process and again we need your help in identifying the gaps, problems and priorities in the development of our network of paths.

At the same time we have some smaller scale projects on the stocks where as well as suggestions we are looking for more volunteers to get involved in our newly formed **Path Maintenance Group** (Contact: Calum Craig at calum_craig@hotmail.com)

We hope to engage the help of the Scottish Water contractors both in leaving the old railway path in a much better condition than they found it and in helping us improve the the path linking the railway line path to the Gowk Stane track. This route we expect to be part of the cross-country John Muir Trail being established by Scottish Natural Heritage in 2014. Indeed, with the SCDT's Strathblane Walks leaflet being published this month it is an exciting time for walking and cycling in the Blane Valley area.

Come along and give us your views and suggestions at the **SCC or SCDT stands at the Summer Fair on June 1st** or to a **Drop-in Session** at the Village Club on Wednesday **June 5th**. At these sessions - staffed by PDG members - along with an Access Officer from SC - there will be draft plans, and information sheets and response forms for you to take away. These will also be available in the library and on the village website.

We are keen to get as much community involvement as possible - from ideas and opinions to the wielding of shovels and pushing of barrows.

For more information contact PDG Chair Alan Hutton at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

We are pleased to acknowledge support for the whole Path Consultation process from the Forth Valley LEADER Building Paths for Community Capacity programme.

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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
Susan Morgan	771747
Willie Oswald	770497
Elspeith 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 May

Alongside the regular structure of our Community Council meetings we are keen to discuss issues that are currently significant to residents. The agenda always includes an item for 'Community Comments' where anyone can bring things to our attention - before as well as during meetings.

This month people living close to the **new Co-op shop** development raised a number of worries that we need to get the co-op to address and a representative has been asked to our next meeting. The impact of delivery vehicles is an issue and customers using the shop must consider those who live nearby: park with consideration and don't leave car engines running. We have asked PC McNally to keep a close watch on the situation too when the shop opens and all the facilities are operational.

There were mixed views about the possible introduction of **parking charges at Mugdock Country Park** but we all agreed that something must be done to help the residents who live in that area.

Speeding and the A81 resurfacing were again discussed. Stirling Council have now clarified that pavement and road resurfacing from Ballewan Crescent to Kirkhouse Road is a 2 year project with the first part being done in August from Kirkhouse Road to the just before the shops with the next section being done next year. We are angry that traffic calming will not be carried out at the same time which we consider to be money wasted — ill thought out budget cuts and no flexibility in the way budgets are decided! 'Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches' and we are trying to convince Stirling Council that the limited money available could be better spent if community priorities are taken into account. Perhaps the best way now to slow traffic on the A81 will be to park cars and we may organise a **speed reduction campaign** doing just that!

Two **planning applications** were considered and commented upon which will result in four more houses being built in the village.

We also supported a proposal from Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA) for a **rural housing enabler**. This person will work with communities including ours to investigate the possibilities of achieving affordable housing for those in our community who need it. RSHA currently have 70 live applications from our area compared to 11 in 2011/12.

Dog fouling remains an agenda item as this continues to concern residents. We were "pleased" to announce that a resident has been issued with a **fixed penalty notice with a £60 fine**. This should be a warning to others! Dog excrement is a danger to children and other animals. The implications and responsibilities of dog ownership must be taken seriously.

Community Council AGM & June Meeting

Our next meeting and the AGM are on June 10th at 7.30 in the Primary School. This is the last AGM before the October Elections. If you support local democracy please come along to the AGM and see what has been achieved. At the June meeting we hope to have a Coop representative and also to discuss parking issues around Park Place. It will also mark the start of consultation on the Local Transport Strategy.

Ways to give us your views or alert us to issues: email the Community Council at cc@strathblanefield.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!

SCC Assists Affected Residents at Old Printworks Site

Readers of recent Community Council minutes will have seen that we have been dealing with an unspecified environmental issue which we kept confidential at the request of affected residents. Now that the issue has been aired in the local and Scottish press we can provide more detail.

Stirling Council, complying with its duties under the Part II A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, tested the land once occupied by Blanefield Printworks (closed 100 years ago) on which houses were built 60 years ago and for the past 18 months all residents have been worrying if their gardens will be classed as contaminated.

After a desperately difficult and stressful time for them all, the small number of residents who are affected through no fault of their own may be faced with paying for their gardens to be cleaned up. This seems so unfair—it could never have been anticipated when residents bought their homes. In some households there have been three generations of occupation and there have been no recorded ill effects to date.

The directly affected residents and all our community are pressing Stirling Council to fully fund the remediation needed and not to register the properties on the contaminated land register. Volunteer effort may be needed to keep the costs down so that the council can fund the work requiring heavy plant and we hope that the whole community will assist if required.

The Community Council was instrumental in the establishment of Blane Residents Association which helped householders to act together. There has been an excellent working relationship with Stirling Council staff and our elected representatives who have been extremely supportive. Through a Core Group they meet monthly along with the residents' independent consultant who is funded by the council.

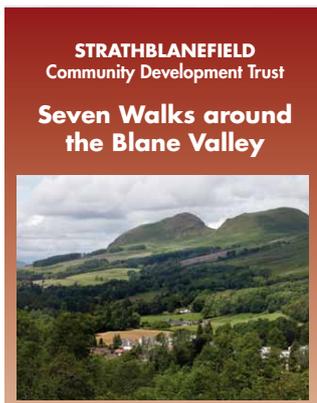
Crunch time comes with the 6th June Council Committee meeting when we hope that decisions will be taken will lead to the work being fully funded and the site becoming the same as any brownfield site with new build homes where people can buy and sell with confidence.

Please send us all late-June, July and August events for the Calendar and other items for the next Bulletin which goes to press on June 17th to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

Why not Sponsor (or part-sponsor) an issue of the BVB?
Contact: cc@strathblanefield.org.uk

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

INTERPRETIVE WALKING MAP. The big news from the SCDT this month is that our Walking Leaflet, *Walks around Strathblane* will be available from the end of May - in time for the Big Community Weekend and the coming of Summer (?).



Copies will be on sale (Price £2) in Strathblane Library and other local outlets - including the SCDT stand at the Summer Fair. We aim to give a copy to all primary and nursery school children in the villages. Proceeds will go towards the cost of a

future reprint and to other community projects.

GREENHEART. The new soccer and rugby goalposts are now installed and in use in the play park.

THE BIG COMMUNITY WEEKEND

May 31 - June 2

Big Vern & the Shootahs at the Kirkhouse Inn on Friday May 31st; (*Tickets in advance only. Hurry!*)
Less than 50 left!

Strathblane Primary & Nursery Summer Fair at the school on Saturday June 1st 12 - 6pm; and

The Big Community Lunch in the Kirk Rooms on Sunday 2nd at 12.15 and the

Blane Valley Allotments Association will hold an **OPEN DAY** from **11 to 1pm** at the **ALLOTMENTS** before the Summer Fair on **Saturday June 1st.**

The Older People's Reference Group needs YOU.

Working to improve the quality of life of older people in the Stirling area, this Stirling Council group needs new members who are over 50 and interested in having a say on the issues affecting older people in communities. The group are consulted on issues which is especially important given the current changes to social care and health.

Anyone over 50 living in the Stirling Council area can join and the group are especially interested in members from the rural area. Meetings are four times a year and areas of interest include Older People's Care, Housing, Transport and Community Safety. The group is supported by Stirling Council.

For more information contact clerk to the group [Claire McDonald](#), Committee Support Officer, Governance & Resources 01786 443377.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING SESSION - Apology

The Community Council is sorry that the Training Session scheduled for May 21st in the School was called off at very short notice by the Scottish Ambulance Service because of a family emergency. We will rearrange this 2 hour session on defibrillation, heart massage, the prone position etc. as soon as possible. Just a reminder that it is open to anyone with no requirement to become a first responder, however... as the defibrillator battery and pads must be checked monthly Volunteer Defibrillator Champions are needed Find out more at the training day.

Fashion & Fizz Night Raises £1,056 for Primary School

A big thank you to from the organisers all the ladies who came along to the Fashion & Fizz night in the Village Club on Saturday 27 April, and thanks also to everyone who donated clothes for the event. The evening was a huge success.

And yet another element of the Big Community Weekend

The Dumbartonshire Wind Ensemble, a group with strong Blane Valley connections—you may have heard them at our annual Christmas Carols in the Village Club—are playing at the **Mugdock Bandstand** on **Sunday June 2nd (2 - 4pm)**. They also have their annual **Summer Concert** on **Friday June 7th at 7.30pm** in **Bearsden Academy**. Hear the whole band play a wide range of fun music.

Towards Exercise Self-sufficiency ?

In the March issue we pointed to the increasing degree of 'food self-sufficiency' in our local community. We can also see a similar trend in sport and exercise. Whilst the Tennis Club is celebrating its centenary, we have an equally venerable Bowling Club and a well established football team. Several exercise classes - Zumba, Pilates, and, most recently, the increasingly popular Metafit - have become established and are to be joined on June 14th by a new Yoga Class (see Calendar - P.4). Add to this the improving games playing facilities for younger people, the various equestrian pursuits, and a growing number of path improvements for walkers and cyclists and it seems that it has never been easier to get fit without leaving the Blane Valley.

Police Surgery Hours

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

June 9th 5—6 pm	June 13th 7—8 pm
June 20th 3—4 pm	June 27th 10—11 pm

Strathblane Rainbows ask that **Asda Bearsden** shoppers collect the green tokens and put them in the community project box for them - *Every little helps!* - Thanks.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

SUN 25th	1.30pm	Loch Ard Sailing Club - Racing every Sunday New members welcome - race, potter or learn how to sail. Contact: richard@eslpaisley.freeserve.co.uk .
WED 29th	2pm —	Afternoon Tea with Flower Arranging at Strathblane Country House Hotel. (770491) Demonstration by florist Enid Reid. Arrangements raffled 4.30 - 5pm. Tickets £12.50 from Hotel
FRI 31st	7.30pm	Big Vern & the Shootahs at Kirkhouse Inn. sponsored by SCDT. Tickets £12 from The Kirkhouse, the Deli, the Library or email to cc@strathblanefield.org.uk with numbers required & a phone number. Tickets on first come first served basis,

JUNE

SAT 1st	12 - 6pm	Strathblane Primary & Nursery SUMMER FAIR at the Primary School - BBQ, Cafe, Bar, Bouncy Castle, Pony Rides, Ice Creams, Dog Show, Sporting Events etc.
SAT 1st	11 - 1pm	Blane Valley Allotments Association Open Day - at the allotments
SUN 2nd	12.15pm	The Big Community Lunch & Launch of Kirk Rooms 40th Anniversary in the Kirk Rooms All welcome.
WED 5th	7 - 9pm	Path Developments Consultation - Drop-in Session in the Village Club
FRI 7th	1.30pm	Storytime for Pre-school children in Strathblane Library
SAT 8th	10.am	Senior Citizens' Outing to Arbroath Leaving 10.30 back about 8pm Cost £20 includes High Tea. Contact Lorna Young (771705)
MON 10th	8.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome
MON 10th	7.30pm	Book Group in Strathblane Library.
WED 12th	2.30pm	Bookbug for babies and toddlers in Strathblane Library.
THUR 13th	1.15pm	Storytime and Craft Session for 3 - 5 year olds in Strathblane Library.
FRI 14th	10-11am	Yoga - a new class in the Village Club. Contact Sandra Pereira kahdewell.enterprise@gmail.com
FRI 14th	SAT 15th	Garry Deddo Conference at Strathblane Parish Church Contact Richard Begg.
SAT 16th	1.30pm	Loch Ard Sailing Club - Marathon Race & DIY BBQ Visitors welcome. Contact: above.
SAT 22nd	7pm until late	Blanefield Thistle & SOSC Race Night in Edmonstone Hall. Tickets from Gillian Waugh. Claire Lanigan, James Hutchinson and John Pllu.
SAT 22nd	-SUN 23rd	Strathblane Tennis Club Centenary Events (see Box below) - Contacts: Graeme Ross 771571 graeme.r.ross@gmail.com ; Louise Bennet 771249; Alastair Balfour 770750.
SUN 30th	1 - 5pm	Village Jam in the Village Club. All musicians welcome

TENNIS CLUB CENTENARY - A Two-Day Programme of Fun & Frolics to mark the opening on June 21st 1913 (Contacts in Calendar above)

Saturday June 22nd— From Midday 'Party & Play' ending with Vintage Disco & Fashion Show at 7.30 in the Village Club - incl. Vintage Fish Suppers - Tickets £10

Sunday June 23rd— Club Climb of Dumgoyne - in vintage gear - bring picnic

Please note that the **Senior Citizens' Outing to Arbroath on June 8th leaves at 10pm** (not 10.30)

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

The surgery will be closed on June 20th from 12.30 for staff training 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** is available for club activities and private parties. Contact Elspeth Posnett (Tel: 770113) or Keith Vass (Tel: 770131) .

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