

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet August 2013 No.14

Justice for the Blanefield 13 at former Blanefield Printworks site!

SCC Chair, Margaret Vass writes: The total cost of remediating the gardens of the 13 affected homes is £600,000 . It represents up to 50% of the value of some of the homes! Half the cost is tax either VAT or Landfill Tax. This is just crazy!

The contaminants are lead and arsenic. The current advice is for residents to stop young children playing in the soil and to wash their hands if they have been in the garden. Don't we all do that! Is it reasonable or proportionate to spend £600,000 to eliminate this so called problem? Three generations have been brought up in the area without any apparent health issues.

We are working closely with Bruce Crawford and Anne McGuire and have asked the UK minister responsible for landfill tax (Sajid Javid) to waive the tax in these circumstances. Paul Wheelhouse is the minister responsible at Holyrood. Both have said it is Stirling Council's responsibility! The council has allocated £125,000 from their budget. Its block grant now includes money to deal with contamination, previously the Scottish Government held the budget. Landfill tax revenue will be devolved to the Scottish government in 2015.

This appalling injustice needs to move up the political agenda while the affected residents still work with the Council to have their problems fixed. We have worked well with the Council so far; now our issue is with both Governments to give the Council some further assistance.

What do we want?

- the garden ground remediated at no cost to NO FAULT OWNERS. This means the Scottish Government giving more money to Stirling Council while amending the legislation is considered;
- legislation changed to deal with the case of no fault owners in the spirit of natural justice to prevent this happening to others;
- the plight of our residents to be featured regularly in the media to get the issue at the top of the political agenda;
- justice for no fault residential owners offered nothing — while the public perception is that industrial sites whose former owners have gone out of business are cleaned up at governments' expense.

We have some very able people within our community. We need those of you with political connections and good contacts and networks to talk about what is happening in our village at every possible opportunity. And, if other approaches fail, we need people who are prepared to campaign to get this issue onto Alex Salmond's and David Cameron's desks.

We are preparing a briefing pack which will be available on the village website to help people understand the predicament that our friends and neighbours find themselves in through no fault of their own. They are facing a life changing situation and need our help.

Please contact us at cc@strathblanefield.org.uk if you are prepared to assist.

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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
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 August

Here we focus on the major issues discussed at the August meeting the full minute is available as usual on the website and the village noticeboards.

Apart from the 'regular' items on **road improvements** (the A81 will be closed at Duntreath for the week beginning September 2nd) and **dog fouling** (a campaign to be announced in September) the August meeting focus on two major issues for the community.

Community Campaign on Injustice of Contaminated Land Legislation

The Community Council agreed to give the strongest backing and to help mobilise the whole community in support of a campaign to get justice for the 13 households facing huge remediation costs and to get a change in the legislation that puts them in this position. It was agreed that, first, a conciliatory approach should be tried testing our faith in the political system to sort issues out when there seems to be an impasse.

Alf Young, an independent concerned local resident, has offered to chair a meeting with Anne McGuire MP, Bruce Crawford MSP, senior Stirling councillors, local councillors and community representatives. The object of that meeting will be to find a way to bring about natural justice for the 13 residents and bury party politics.

There was palpable anger and bewilderment among CC members and the public present. How stupid can legislation be which should provide benefit to blighted communities instead punishes them! "This is an extraordinary injustice and is absolutely ludicrous".

Fiona Murray on behalf of the affected residents stated that they were all very grateful for the CC input and involvement in a stressful situation with no end yet in sight. In the end of course, the 13 residents will have to make the decision on how they want the matter dealt with and how to proceed. (For fuller coverage see page 1)

Community Involvement with Campsie Road Housing Site & Old Peoples' Bungalows

Tony Teasdale, Director Rural Stirling Housing Association and Steve Mason, Stirling Council Housing Dept. to update us on this development and other housing issues.

The Local Development Plan will be finalised by the end of the year and, as it stands, would require 50% of the units on this site - which may be developed by Cala Homes — to be affordable housing. The 50% is, however, not yet 'set in stone'. If Strathblane was given priority in the allocation of the limited Stirling Council funds available Rural Stirling Housing Association could engage in the construction of those houses. With a seller of land and a developer keen to move there was optimism that Strathblane might gain such priority and, in response to Tony Teasdale's proposal, a group made up of community councillors and at least one local resident was formed to ensure a continuing local input into the development. In discussion a range of points were raised - from footpath and roads implications to the nature of the tenure of the affordable houses.

The Community Council would encourage people who might be interested in renting a home in the Campsie Road site to apply to RSHA (01786 841101) and Stirling Council. This will help assess needs and sizes required.

With funding at present for local authority social and affordable housing is running at £1.5 million per annum. and a stated desire to build **bungalows suitable for older people** Stirling Council also want to hear about any suitable plots of land in the villages and will respond positively - particularly where there is local enthusiasm.

Are you homeless or threatened with **homelessness**? Or do you know someone who is? You can contact Stirling Council 01786 432400 (during office hours or 0845 277 7000 (24 hours a day) For more details see article in the Community Council section of the the village website — Strathblanefield.org.uk .

SCC September Meeting

The Community Council meets on September 2nd at 7.30 in the School. Issues will include rural transport plan response, our financial plan and, the anti-dog foul-

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!

The ELECTION TIMETABLE is:

Publication of Notice of Election— Wed October 2 & Friday October 4

Nominations to be submitted by— Friday October 25 (4pm)

Nomination to be withdrawn by— Friday October 25 (5pm)

Publication of Notice of Poll— Wed October 30 & Friday November 1

Issue of Ballot Papers— from Monday November 4

Ballot Papers to be returned by— Friday November 22

For **Bus Timetable Changes** see the Strathblanefield website at <http://strathblanefield.org.uk>

Please send us all late-September and October events for the Calendar and other items for the next Bulletin which goes to press on September 16th 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

Greenheart — Play Park Update

A recent grant application to the Big Lottery Communities and Families Fund has been successful in securing £10,000 to purchase play equipment for the younger age range (0-8 years) and to hold a community event. Orders have now been placed to purchase a mini climbing frame with slide; two springer mobiles; a wooden train set engine and carriages; a set of five balance beams; and a storyteller's chair. Stirling Council will install the equipment, and all being well, these should be in place by the end of September/early October. Weather permitting there will then be an opening event.

A grant application has also been made to Stirling Council's Community Pride Fund for additional public seating and a third picnic bench set.

Path Development Group

Our two current funded projects are moving towards completion this month. Thanks to the leadership of Calum Craig and the enthusiastic efforts of over twenty volunteers the basic work Paths for All project to upgrade the path from the bridge at Park Place to the playpark and Library is now complete. It has been an important learning exercise for the Path Maintenance Group and we are keen to get more feedback from members of the community on the end result. (email: cc@strathblanefield.org.uk)

The Group now has the consultant's draft report on the Railway Path Feasibility Study and in a few weeks will be in a position to move to the important next stage of raising funds to construct the path.

STRATHBLANEFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23RD October 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the SCDT will be held in the Village Club on Monday 23rd October 2013 at 7pm. All current members are eligible to attend. Copies of the relevant documents and the Agenda will be sent out to members by e-mail prior to the meeting and a copy will be available in the library and on the village website www.strathblanefield.org.uk/.

Robert Davy, Chair SCDT

Paths Audit Training Day

Stirling Council and the Path Development Group consulted people in June on how they got around the village on foot and where you'd like to be able to walk. We'd now like to invite you to a Community Path Audit training day run by Living Streets (www.livingstreets.org.uk). Learn how to audit local paths and present your ideas for improvements. In the process we aim to audit paths in the Station Road area so this might be a special interest to any one using those routes.

Contact: Penny Stoddard, Access Officer, Stirling Council stoddardp@stirling.gov.uk or (01786 233458) or Alan Hutton (770537) alanhutton@gmail.com for more information or to register interest.

Scout and Guide Enrolment Night

Scouts (Scouts, Cubs and Beavers) and Guides (Guides, Brownies and Rainbows) start up again for the new year the first week of September.

The various Scout sections are open to boys and girls from age 6 to 14, Guide sections for girls age 5 to 14.

We'd really appreciate everyone coming to our enrolment night so that we can get the paperwork out the way and concentrate on making the Scouts and Guides a great experience for all.

Come along to the Scout/Guide Hall (Dumbrock Rd, behind the surgery) between 6.30 and 8pm on Tuesday August 27th Please remember your cheque book!

A big THANK YOU from Strathblane **Rainbows** to everyone who put their tokens in the tubs at Asda. They received £50.

Police Surgery Hours

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

Sun Aug 25th 7-8 pm **Fri Aug 30th** 3-4 pm

September times will be posted on the Strathblanefield Website when they are available.

BROADBAND ADVISORY GROUP—The Scottish Government recently announced a contract with BT for Next Generation Broadband. The aim is to connect 85% of Scottish premises by 2015, and 95% by 2017 to the high speed fibre network. Stirling Council have agreed to supplement the central funding and have set up a Broadband Advisory Group (BAG) to provide a local perspective. By the autumn BT should have completed a detailed survey of local exchanges and connections. Meanwhile, the BAG is interested in hearing about the level of broadband connectivity you get, and any issues you have. Doug Ashworth is a Killearn based Public Representative on the BAG. Please contact him on 01360-550074 for any further information and feedback.

FOOD WASTE & SEA GULLS —Please do not put out food waste for birds. It has attracted seagulls who have nested in the village for the first time in local memory. These birds have caused distress to local residents and attacked a local postie. The proper place for food waste is the recycle bin.

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT - Friday the 13th

Strathblane Library is hosting a Murder Mystery Night on Friday 13th September at the Village Club with help from Blane Valley Players. Come along for the evening and play detective as the suspects read out their statements. Who is not telling the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Bring along your own refreshments and settle down to a murder evening written and conceived by "Shetland" and "Vera Stanhope" crime writer, Anne Cleeves. (Part of Stirling Book Festival "Off The Page")

Tickets £5/£4 Available from the library.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

TUES 20th	7.30pm	Bookgroup in the library. Come along & tell us what you have been reading over the summer.
WED 21st	9.15-11.15	Fun Hut starts back in the Kirk Rooms
WED 21st	2.30pm	Bookbug - Summertime rhymes and stories in the library.
SAT 24th	12 Noon —	Senior Citizens' Mystery Tour leaving at 12 noon from the Surgery. Price £15 includes High Tea. Places still available, contact: Lorna Young - 771705.
SUN 25th	1 - 5pm	Village Jam in the Village Club. All musicians welcome.
TUE 27th	6.30-8pm	Scout & Guide Enrolment Night — See page 3 above for more information.
WED 28th	2.30pm	Bookbug - Rhymes wiggles, tickles and songs for babies and toddlers in Strathblane Library.

SEPTEMBER

SUN 1st	7pm	Service of Thanksgiving for 40th Anniversary of the Kirk Rooms - in Kirk Rooms
MON 2nd	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Primary School. All welcome
FRI 6th	4.30-6.30	Messy Church - family fun with evening meal for £6 per family in the Kirk Rooms
FRI 6th	8pm	An Evening with Tim Edey — an intimate evening of songs and tunes from Radio 2 Folk Award Winner 2012. "Extraordinary musician, composer & singer." Acoustic, candle lit event - bring your own favourite bottle, tea & coffees available. £15 (£12 OAP) To reserve tickets or for more info please contact Fiona - 01360 771497 Sheila - 01360 771266 music@sheilahall.co.uk
MON 9th to	SAT 14th	40th Anniversary Exhibition in the Kirk Rooms. Look out for further details
FRI 13th	7.30pm	Murder Mystery Night by Strathblane Library & Blane Valley Players — See page 3 above
SAT 14th	7.30pm	Osiligi Warriors Maasai Tribal Song & Dance in the Edmonstone Hall. Adults £8 Children £4 from Strathblane Library: Pestle & Mortar: Elspeth Posnett (770113) & the Manse.
THUR 16th	11-12 noon	Thursday Rural Walks (every Thursday) — this week in Blanefield. Meet at the War Memorial. Contact Mary at Stirling Walking Network on 07849919847 for details.
FRI 20th	7pm	Film Night in the Kirk Rooms. All welcome.
TUES 24th	7.30pm	Senior Citizens Club in the Edmonstone Hall. Meets every two weeks with a varied programme. Anyone interested is made most welcome. Contact Lorna Young (771705)
WED 25th	7.30pm	Heritage Society - Alan McBride on The Blane Valley in the Village Club

STRATHBLANE BRIDGE CLUB meets regularly on Thursday evenings, between September and April, at the Strathblane Country House Hotel, starting at 7.30 pm. This session we start on Thursday 5th September, 2013. We offer a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with a good standard of play though always willing to help other players. So if you are considering joining a club, why not give us a try; you'll get a warm welcome. Visiting pairs are also welcome. If you don't have a partner currently, then we will try and find someone for you.

EDENKILN SURGERY NEWS

Flu Vaccinations will be available at the surgery in October **free** for Over 65s; those who suffer from Diabetes, Stroke, Asthma, CHD; for carers; for all 2 and 3 year olds; and all pupils at primary schools in the Forth Valley area. In addition a **vaccine** to protect **against shingles** should be available in October ONLY for those aged 70 and those aged 79.

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