

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet February 2018 No 59

Road Safety Triumph! — and there will be more PUPIL POWER soon!

From: SCC Chair, Margaret Vass

The Primary 5 Road Safety Video prepared for our Community Council meeting has moved Stirling Council to take action. The pupils through a mixture of talking to camera and clever animation brought home the effect speeding traffic and inconsiderate parking have on their lives and how they worry about the consequences.

Such was the impact of the video that overnight Council thoughts changed from “we have no money and any money that might be available has to be for safer routes to School” and “Strathblane Primary is still to update its travel plan” to “ I think it will be possible to consider the reported speeding problems on A891 Campsie Road and the section of A81 at the Village Club for minor road safety interventions in the next year (budgets permitting). The first action will be to carry out traffic surveys, which we will organise before the end of March.”

A massive thank you goes to Primary 5 pupils for getting this response. We will be keeping in touch to see what other more local initiatives can help to make us drive and park responsibly.

No Non-Essential Motor Vehicles Please ! *from SCC Member Dick Arnold*

Many of you will have noted the new security post located at the start of the disused railway track at Park Place. The purpose of this is to restrict vehicle usage on the track to those who have a need to gain access. These legitimate users have access to a key for the post. They include

- Stirling Council teams (for ground maintenance),
- Scottish Water and their authorised contractors (for access to their infrastructure)
- Riding stables personel (for delivery of feeds and transport of horses to and fro— but **not** for
- general horse riders access when walking in would be expected),
- Allotment users access for occasional deliveries...
- and occasional football match use.

Many of you will have noted the new security post located at the start of the disused railway track at Park Place. The purpose of this is to restrict vehicle usage on the track to those who have a need to gain access. This track is now part of the core path network for walking, cycling and is a bridleway. It is also an official safe walking route to school and regular and unauthorised motor vehicle access is unwelcome and unsafe. Having the post locked in position also deters access to the kind of ‘joyriders’ and other nefarious users who have been witnessed often in the past.

The post should be replaced and padlocked each time on entry and exit and local residents who use the path have been advised to feel free to lock the post in place any time they see it otherwise.

If you have driven along the track without authority you could be there for the night – or longer!

Please help us to keep the park and tracks safe, vehicle free and a relaxing place for walkers – remember this is now part of the John Muir Trail. You would be rightly incensed if you met a vehicle on the West Highland Way!

Why not join the growing number of local businesses and individuals who

SPONSOR issues of the Bulletin?

You can include **an advertising flyer** which will go to every household — free when you sponsor an issue.

Contact contact@strathblanecc.org.uk for more details.

February Community Council Update from Chair Margaret Vass

Road Safety—As highlighted on the front page the main discussion was on road safety. **Speeding, illegal parking** (especially on footways and **leaving engines running** when parked are continuing and growing issues in our village.

We are very clear that we are not looking for elaborate schemes to slow traffic that cost a lot. We want cheap methods to inconvenience drivers and force them to slow down. In the meantime CC members aim to use speed guns to measure speed as part of our campaign.

We hope to use the children as advocates as the parking problems around the school are caused by parents or other carers. Even worse some parents don't switch off their engines while waiting for their children adding to pollution and making asthma worse.

Key to achieving improvements and additional 20mph speed limits is the updated school travel plan which should happen later this year. The Community Council looks forward to working with the School and Parent Council to deliver this.

Police Report—PC Scott Craigie was present to discuss Police issues. The main discussion was about young people and anti social behaviour in and around the school and playground. The view is that those involved are local. We must try to stop the litter, cans and broken bottles being left for young children to fall and injure themselves as has happened in the past. Please speak to your teenagers to highlight the dangers.

Flooding—The CC is currently pursuing flooding issues at Jenny's Burn, Station Rd and at Stockiemuir Road where the giant potholes were.

Locking Pole—There is a separate article on the

locking pole at Park Place but the CC is getting fed up with those not replacing the pole when this community made it very clear that free access to cars is not acceptable.

SC Cuts—The CC have given our views on the current round of proposed budget cuts. We had particular concerns about the reduction of grass cutting, the removal of the deep clean service and flower beds along with the cuts to the Smith Art Gallery and Big Noise.

New Bus Shelter—Concern was raised about the state of the Blanefield bus shelter only to be advised that a new one was now installed. See how effective reporting to the Community Council can be!!

We are also raising the lack of action to repair the river bank at the King George V playing fields. Please ask your children not to climb through the fences at either side of the river. The bank is dangerous.

The March Community Council Meeting

is on **Monday 5th** at 7.30pm

in the **Village Club**

Come along and give us your views

Copy Date for our March issue is Tuesday 13th.

Please send Calendar items and news

for the period up to the end of April to

contact@strathblanecc.org.uk

Edenkiln Surgery

The surgery will be closed on Good Friday (March 30) and Easter Monday (April 2nd)

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

www.edenkilnsurgery.com

For out of hours help contact NHS24 at 111

Emergency Phone Numbers

Ambulance — 999 Fire — 999 NHS 24 — 111 Police — 999 [for non-emergency calls - 101]

MAKING CONTACT with the SCC Email us at contact@strathblanecc.org.uk

Get in touch with your Community Councillors

Blanefield Ward

Strathblane Ward

Mugdock Ward

Margaret Vass 770131 Alan Hutton 770537 Richard Arnold 770006

Avril Keen 07799261297 Marian Lever 07580539492 John Gray 771031

Willie Oswald 770497 Sue Rand 770630 Grace Edmonds 770800

Julie Hutchison 770791 Mike McNulty 770076 Evelyn Macdougall 770757

Or via our website at www.strathblanecc.org.uk . **Other Information Sources** —

Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; & the **Facebook** Strathblanefield Page

STIRLING COUNCIL

Councillors' Surgeries

are usually at 7pm on SCC meeting nights in the Village Club

Report faults at info@stirling.gov.uk or ring 0845 2777000

Join My Stirling at www.stirling.gov.uk for updates

Strathblane Community Development Trust Update from Acting Chair, Alan Hutton

Ten Years of SCDT — In its tenth year of operation in our activities, and organisationally, the Trust continues to develop. We have a new name, a new business address and we have just taken over the Gravediggers Bothy to develop and run on behalf of the community. Amongst many other projects we have raised just over £240,000 for path projects.

New Annual Membership Fee

We remain an entirely voluntary organisation with annual administrative costs of around £1000 which, as our responsibilities grow, are only likely to increase in the coming period. To put us on a sound financial footing we need a basic income stream and, as many of you will remember, at our 2017 AGM we took the decision to change the membership fee from a one-off lifetime charge to an annual fee, set initially at £5 for individuals. You may elect to pay more if you wish and we would really appreciate it if you are able to do this. **Donations are always welcome.**

Our financial year closes at the end of January and we would now like to apply the new fee system for 2018/19. To cut the administrative costs of fee collection we would be grateful if you could set up an annual standing order to the Trust. **Our RBS Bank Account details are Sort code 83 25 15 and account number 00661231.**

Members will have been notified by email where we have your details. It would help us to minimise costs if we had email addresses for all members. Our email address is: contact@strathblanecd.org.uk

Why Not Join US?

The more members we have the more we can draw on ideas across the community and enable new activities. Membership (and Gift Aid) forms will be available in the library from next week.

We are also always keen to increase the range of skills on our Board. One area which we lack at the moment is legal knowledge. Anyone interested?

Company Secretary

Our key administrative person is, of course, our Company Secretary. Sue Graves has filled that role admirably throughout the ten years. It would be great if we had a successor to take over from our AGM in May. Volunteers, preferably with some accounting background please.

Road Problems

After our recent weather the condition of roads in our area comes back to the top of the agenda at our March meeting. For March 5th we need to have as full a compilation of the problems as possible.

Please send details of potholes, broken edges, collapsed kerbs etc (include photos if possible) to contact@strathblanec.org.uk as well as reporting them direct to Stirling Council (info@stirling.gov.uk)

Broadband Services

Detailed Information on **Poor Broadband Service** is required for presentation to Service Providers.

If you experience frequent low speed/loss of service please keep a daily record of these issues for the week 5th - 11th March. If you lose service, note the Date, Time and How long service is down.

To check download/upload speeds you can use www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk/ or www.speedtest.net.

These details and your postcodes will show Broadband blackspots and let us challenge suppliers for a solution.

Please send information to contact@strathblanec.org.uk

The Heritage Society

has its final meeting of the season on Wednesday March 14th at 7.30pm in the Village Club. **Murray O'Donell** will talk on

'The History of the Parish of Strathblane'

The talk will be followed by a panel discussion with some of this year's and previous years' speakers. We also hope to hear from some older residents telling us about life in the village.

Our meetings are always open to anyone who wishes to come. Donations welcome. Annual subscriptions are £5. Come and learn more about the place where you live. Tea and coffee served.

Scouting in Strathblane

Your local Scouting group, 36th Forth Valley Scout Group, held their AGM in early February and reported a very successful year for the Beaver and Cub groups who both have full troops. The boys have taken part in fantastic activities such as fencing, indoor climbing, orienteering, a night hike, fire safety to name a few.

Thank you to the local community including the Co-Op for all the support during the year.

We also have some great news that the Scout group will re-open after Easter on a Wednesday evening for ages 10½ -14. (Please note that there will be no Scout Spring Fayre this year.)

For further information please contact Helen on 07989 218598 (Scout Group Secretary)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SAT 24th	10.15.11.45	Fun with Textiles @ Strathblane Library
SUN 25th	2 - 5pm	Popular Music Session (Electric) in the Village Club (1.30 set-up).

MARCH

FRI 2nd	1.30-2pm	Storytime at the Library for Pre-schoolers
SAT 4th	am & pm	Forrest School Sessions at Carbeth Guthrie for under 7s and 7+, Booking recommended. Go to http://www.carbethguthrie.estate/forestschoo.html
MON 5th	7.30pm	Strathblane Community Council in the Village Club. All welcome
MON 5th	7.30pm	The Guild — Talk on Malawi with Fiona Anderson in the Kirk Rooms
TUES 6th	11 - 12.30	Strathblane Library Natter & Needle. All needleworkers welcome.
TUES 6th	7.30pm	Strathblane Library Film Club meet to discuss ‘Their Finest’. New members welcome
SAT 10th	11 am	Lenten Walk along old railway. All welcome including children on bikes. Rolls afterwards in Kirk Rooms.
MON 12th		Guild Spring Outing — to Mugdock Country Park for lunch and a film.
WED 14th	7.30pm	Heritage Society — Murray O’Donell ‘The History of the Parish of Strathblane’ in the Village Club. Tea and coffee served. All welcome.
WED 14th	7.30pm	Campsie Crooners — tonight in the KIRK ROOMS
TUES 23rd	10-11am	Seasonal Flow Yoga Classes in the Village Club. Facebook: The Strathblane Yoga Club; Call: 07432650396 or email: elainelovesyoga@live.com
SUN 18th	3.30pm	Messy Church, Kirk Rooms
TUES 20th	7.30pm	Strathblane Library Book Club
THURS 22nd	10.30-11	Bookbug -Songs & rhymes for wee ones & their carers in the library.
THURS 22nd	3.15-4.30 pm	Fun with Textiles at Strathblane Library for ages 9 - 11. Places limited, contact the library to book £1 per session.
FRI 23rd	1.15-2pm	Easter Craft and Stories for pre-schoolers at the Library. Please book a place.
SAT 24th	10.15 - 11.45am	Fun with Textiles at Strathblane Library for ages 9 - 11. Places limited, contact the library to book £1 per session.
SUN 25th	2 -5pm	Popular Music Session (Electric) in the Village Club (1.30 set-up).
MON 26th	3.15-4.15	Strathblane Library’s Chatterbooks at Strathblane Primary School. P5-P7 welcome.
TUES 27th	7 -9pm	Traditional Music Session in the Library. All players welcome. Contact Sheila 770824

The Village Club —for enquiries & bookings:
 check schedule at www.villageclub1911.org
 email strathblanevc@gmail.com or Contact
 Fiona Murray at 01360 771497 Office hours only)

The Edmonstone Hall — for enquiries or bookings
 contact David McLean on 01360770919 or
mclean728@btinternet.com

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 contact@strathblanec.org.uk