

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Feb/Mar 2021 No 82

Graham Lambie

The members of the Community Council were very sad to hear of the sudden death of Graham Lambie, who has been a councillor for Forth and Endrick Ward for many years.

Graham was always interested in local affairs and very supportive of any local issues. He was very active in supporting issues that particularly affected the Rural South West and happy to give a great deal of his time to these. He attended almost all of our meetings and was an amazing source of information. We will greatly miss his support and his friendship.



COUNCILLOR GRAHAM LAMBIE

"ONE OF A KIND"



Strathblanefield Help Line – We're still here!

A reminder to the village that the Strathblanefield Volunteers are still available to help you; whether you are shielding for Covid or kept in by the snow and ice. We can help you with your grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions etc, or just a friendly voice on the phone

We can help you get set up with Skype/Zoom etc so you can stay in touch with your family

Blanefield: Kate – 07801 372 588 Netherblane: Janice – 07952 823 509 or Isabel – 07759 204842

Kirkhouse: Elsie – 07843 491 324, Ann – 01360 770 816 or Jacque – 01360 770 764, Southview Kim- 07771 653520

Please don't struggle – give us a call today:

Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary - Jo Waterfield

As the riding ring at the bottom of the Horses' Field will be moving uphill and nearer the Gowk Stane path, sometime in the spring, a group of volunteers has come together to try and take this proposed project forward.

We are all local to the village, some more recently than others!

Edward Pickard is the landowner, who is offering the lower part of the Horses Field to be used by the community.

Doug Bertram and Hannah Freireich are both engineers who specialise in water, flooding and drainage. Jamie Cowan is an architect who has drawn up provisional plans for the site. Amy Ricketts is an artist and teacher and has been involved with developing outdoor spaces. Alan Hutton and Sheena McDonald both have (successful!) experience in applying for community grants. Ruth & Mike Downham have extensive knowledge of creating wildlife areas, hedging, fencing and much more. Phil Graves has worked with SEPA and the Mugdock volunteers, as well as having involvement with the John Muir Trust.

There are others who have offered their help and muscle. More of them at a later date, but everyone is offering their services and help free of charge, which is amazing.

The new bench on the bike path to Lennoxton, has finally been installed. The Community Council would like to thank Councillor Rob Davies for his work in getting this done.



The BVB is produced by the Community Council & Sponsored this month by the Covid19 Community Response Fund

Have you considered Sponsoring an issue of the Bulletin? **Businesses & Community Groups** can include an advertising flyer which goes to every household (free of charge when you sponsor an issue). More details from CC

Strathblane Community Council February Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

This meeting was again held via Zoom due to current Covid restrictions.

New member

Eleanor Balfour had offered to join the Community Council and had completed the necessary paperwork. Julie Hutchison asked the members to vote on Eleanor joining us and this was passed unanimously. This brings our number to 8 and we have another two residents who have expressed interest in joining us.

Volunteering during Covid

Kate Ramsden outlined what the volunteer group plan to do during the pandemic lockdown. More information about this can be found in the article elsewhere in the bulletin.

Elected Members' Report

Rob Davies reported that the bench on the path to Lennoxton has finally been installed. Julie thanked him for his work in getting this done.

The three local councillors are working to get something done about the water on the Cuilt Brae, caused by poor upkeep of the drains. In cold weather this creates dangerous ice, which is a road safety hazard.

Some local residents have been clearing the drains, but the council needs to do more. Alistair Berrill highlighted the Engage Stirling portal on the Stirling Council website, where consultation documents can be found.

Rob Davies reported that Killearn Community Council has been told that Strathendrick Care Home is closing despite local efforts to keep it open.

AOCB

Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust has made a project application for funding to carry out restoration work along the Blane Water. They hope to offer training courses for local residents who are interested in helping with the project. We will provide more information about this if their application is successful.

Margaret Vass reported that a total of £133,175 has been raised for the library from local activities and donations. She thanked residents for this amazing effort.

A resident asked about access to the hills to the north of the village. Julie suggested that the resident should get in touch with the Paths group through the SCDT.

Work on the Blane Water

Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust, who carried out work on invasive species in the area last summer, is planning to submit a project application to NatureScot (previously Scottish Natural Heritage) to carry out improvement and restoration work to the riverbanks and the watercourse of the Blane Water. The Blane Water, its riparian environment and the wider Blane catchment has degraded significantly over the last century through inappropriate infrastructure construction, industrial pollution, arable diffuse pollution, livestock overgrazing, stream straightening, removal of riparian woodland corridors and proliferation of invasive non-native plant species. They plan to use nature-based solutions wherever possible to address some of these issues and bring about benefits to the river and its associated wildlife. A key component of the work will look to address impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss as well as bring benefits to the local community through a green skills legacy.

We will provide more information about their plans when they advise us that their grant application has been successful.

Recycling

A reminder that we have 2 different recycling locations in Strathblane, one for: **Marigold** gloves/packets and the other for: Electric toothbrush heads, empty floss containers & interdental brushes, dishwasher tablet, cleaning, and fragrance, flexible packaging. Please log on to TerraCycle UK to find out more at www.TerraCycle.com. There are other locations nearby, where many other items (that councils can't recycle) can be dropped off; for example, a dental practice in Bearsden takes empty toothpaste tubes and old brushes. Our local pharmacy, Davidson's, is about to start recycling medicine blister packs - those plastic/foil containers. You can start saving them now!

STIRLING COUNCIL
Councillor's Surgeries are not taking place at present but the local councillors can still be contacted by email. Report Faults at info@stirling.gov.uk or 01786 4040

Updates at www.stirling.gov.uk

GET IN TOUCH

SCC Email at contact@strathblanecc.org.uk or via our website at www.strathblanecc.org.uk

Your Community Councillors

Julie Hutchison 770791 Andrew Thompson 770838 Eleanor Balfour 07742 278214

Philip Graves 07826 424442 Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031
Kate Ramsden 07801 372588 Evelyn Macdougall 770757

Additional Sources — Community website: www.strathblane.online
Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; & the Facebook Strathblanefield Page.

Your village needs you,



Why not do your bit?

Many of the facilities and amenities that make Strathblane and Blanefield such a great place to live are created and maintained by volunteers from within the community. From paths to Facebook pages: New libraries to the village halls are made possible by locals making available even a little bit of their time. Three organisations are asking for some help this month.

Strathblane Community Volunteers

Spurred on last year by Renato Butic's camcorder footage of the litter between Clachan of Campsie and Ballagan, this group now has around 20 members who, when time allows, pick litter, clean road signs and try to keep verges and drains clear of leaves and litter. We cover the area from Duntreath Castle to Craigmaddie, Ballagan to Mugdock, and Blanefield to Carbeth. As well as everywhere in and around the villages' residential streets.

We always appreciate the thumbs up and encouragement from others, the philanthropy from some locals which helps us to obtain litter pickers and tabards, and the friendship which has developed between us all, when socialising is otherwise very difficult! St Mocha drive thru at Carbeth, will lend you litter pickers and bags if you're walking near there - and reward you with a hot drink and snack when you bring the litter back!

If you'd like to help out, on your own, or with someone else, please either request to join Strathblane Community Volunteers on their Facebook page, or send a message to: 07753 368182

Or let us know if you'd like to 'adopt a drain' near where you live. This would just be to keep it clear of leaves etc on the surface, and to report online to Stirling Council if there are blockages. They won't know unless we tell them!

Let's keep our villages beautiful :)



A few years ago the Edmonstone Hall faced closure and was saved by a few community minded people who got together to save this bastion of village life.

As noted in the last issue a number of retirements have taken place and another member having moved away means we urgently require new members to join the management committee. It is not a major commitment in time, but it would be good to spread the load a bit.

If you are interested in helping to maintain this vital resource for the village, please contact Kim Jones or Chris Edmonds or via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club is looking for volunteers to start up again in Lesser Edmondston Hall on Wednesdays 12noon to 1.30. This is not likely to happen until October but this is an advance call for anybody who would like to volunteer to join us. Contact Sheila Turner on 771 433 or Joan MacDougall on 770 072

SCDT Update on the new Library

SCDT has now submitted what we hope will be the final designs for the Thomas Graham Library to Stirling Council's planning department. You can see full details of the designs, including site positioning and internal layout, on the council's online planning portal – visit <https://stirling.gov.uk/planning-building-the-environment/planning/view-comment-on-planning>

As of February 19, the amazing total of £64,834 has been donated by 243 donors, with Gift Aid swelling this sum further. This is truly an outstanding commitment from this community to the library project, and one of which we can all be proud. Thank you all so much. We should emphasise however that the crowdfunding appeal remains open for further donations.

Stirling Council is now going to bring in a specialist company to produce a detailed design for the layout of the actual library, including a separate Children's Zone. And we have secured a Scottish Government grant towards the cost of designing and specifying the building's renewable energy system, which is likely to incorporate roof-mounted solar panels and an air-source heat pump.

The planning approval process will now take several months to clear, but as soon as we know that the plans are likely to be approved, we will seek construction tenders from our short list of building companies.

SCDT's timeline remains to start construction this summer with the library opening next spring. Once we get to building tender stage, we'll find out how practical this timeline is.

We will also find out from the tendering process how much building costs have been affected by factors such as Brexit, which is already increasing the costs of imported materials such as the glulam wooden frames.....hence the need for financial caution.

Do you need an affordable home ?

Rural Stirling Housing Association aims to support local communities by providing quality homes at affordable rents for families, couples and single people in housing need.

We currently have over 600 rented houses and flats. Around 40 of these become available for rent each year. At present we have properties in the following communities:

Aberfoyle	Doune	Killin	Strathyre
Balfron	Drymen	Kinlochard	Stronachlachar
Buchlyvie	Gargunnoch	Kippen	Tyndrum
Callander	Gartmore	Locheamhead	
Deanston	Killeam	Strathblane	

Further new build developments are being planned for Killeam, Balmaha, Croftamie, Kippen and Drymen. Please let us know if you want to live in a village that is not listed above. Information on local housing need and demand helps us plan for the future. For further information about us and a downloadable application pack please visit our website www.rsha.org.uk.

Rural Stirling Housing Association
Stirling Road, Doune FK16 6AA

01786 841101
enquiries@rsha.org.uk
www.rsha.org.uk

Building affordable homes: growing rural communities

Registered as a Scottish Charity No SC037849
Property Factor No. PF000330 & Letting Agent Registration Number: LARN1907004

Help Shape Community Health & Care in Rural Southwest Stirling communities

Join the conversations to help us shape your health, your care, and your future.

This consultation is to ensure that community health and care provision meets your needs. It's vital that we understand what matters to you to inform our planning and service delivery.

This consultation will run from the 1 February to 15 March 2021.

How to join the conversation

- online at one of our events -
 - Wednesday 3 February, 7.00 - 9.00pm
 - Monday 8 February, 2.00 - 4.00pm
 - Thursday 18 February, 2.00 - 4.00pm
 Click here to register for events
- by filling out our online survey
click here to take part in our survey

For those who don't have digital access the Stirling Council Contact Centre can help you to complete the survey. Call - 01786 404040

Please submit your views by the 15 March 2021

For more information, please contact
Pam Campbell,
Community Development Officer, Stirling Council
07817 709 475
email: rswoconsultation@stirling.gov.uk



DRUMCHAPEL FOOD BANK

Ken and I moved to Strathblane over 2 years ago. The village is everything we were looking for as we get older, and everyone has been so friendly.

The pandemic has changed everything for us all. As a retired nursing sister in the Western Infirmary, I thought I would offer my services somewhere, but soon realised that my age was a barrier. I am on Facebook, but mainly to keep in touch with two grand daughters in California and 8 grandchildren in Scotland.

I noticed an email from Drumchapel Food Bank asking for urgent food donations; this was back in September/October. When I contacted them to ask what their requirements were during that first week I was so impressed with the people at the bank running the office that I thought I could help to deliver donations. They could either be

delivered to me or I could pick up from Blanefield and Strathblane.

When the manager at the Co-op put a donation box for Drumchapel into the store, I suggested I could also take their donations to the bank, as it is a busy store. So here I am at last, finding something to keep me occupied! Anyone out there who knows a nurse, will realise we like to keep going, so this is perfect for me. If you would like to contact me re donations feel free to call 07876774576.

The vaccines have started and we must believe "tomorrow will be a better day" so said the wonderful Captain Tom. Stay safe everyone and I always say, things could be worse.

Sending lots of love to all. Mona Archibald

Blane Valley Allotments and Wee Spuds

Stirling Council is giving the Wee Spuds a grant to buy a woven polytunnel for the allotments. It will help the children and those who can't have a greenhouse to grow more and extend the growing year. The Wee Spuds did Community Payback by bulb planting in the village tubs and they will do more to thank the village for this and Co-op Funding. This year's Co-op funding will help pay their contributions to the installation and deep beds in the tunnel, so please sign up for Co-op giving.

Strathblane Community Development Trust

Email: scdt@strathblane.online

Website: www.strathblane.online

We deliver projects with grant funding to enhance the village. Please consider joining if you aren't already a member.

Enquiries and Bookings Contacts

Edmonstone hall

Kim Jones via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk.

The Village Club

Check schedule at www.villageclub1911.org email strathblanecv@gmail.com