

# BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

*The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Mar/Apr 2021 No 83*



With the wonderful total of over £75,000 now donated by our amazing village, work is accelerating on bringing Scotland's first community-owned public library to life:

- The design and engineering team is working to complete detailed drawings and specification of the building and its systems. This involves architects Thomas Robinson of Croftamie, cost specialist Eric Gordon of Blanefield-based 3CQS, Glasgow engineers Irons Foulner and other specialist firms.
- Our planning application with Stirling Council is progressing. In support of this work investigations have been carried out of site conditions, where the current library is located, to identify any potential problems with foundations. We've even had a survey done of whether bats roost in the adjacent trees and could be affected by building work!
- Drawings for building warrant are in progress and tender documents are being prepared to put out to building, electrical, mechanical and energy contractors hopefully next month. Wherever possible local firms will be chosen: SCDT has already received a superb proposal from Alastair Campbell of Killearn-based energy management specialists CC North to design and instal a dedicated building management system at no cost – saving us up to £10,000!
- We now know that the library's energy system will be effectively carbon-neutral. SCDT secured a grant from the Scottish Government's Local Energy Programme CARES for the cost of commissioning a specialist renewable energy firm, LocoGen of Edinburgh, to design an installation using roof-mounted solar panels to generate the building's electricity, and an air-source heat pump to produce hot water for its underfloor heating system.

But, a word of caution. Despite more than a year of negotiations, SCDT has still to conclude a satisfactory agreement with Stirling Council for its occupation of this community-owned building for delivery of its library service. There remains a small financial gap between what we need to cover the building's running costs, including maintenance, and what the cash-strapped council are currently prepared to pay. SCDT can't go ahead with construction until it is confident that the library's long-term financial future is secured.

We've had assurances that the council are committed to making the Thomas Graham Library happen. As we have a by-election taking place next month to elect a Stirling Councillor to replace the late Graham Lambie, please make sure that the candidates campaigning for your votes know the importance of this project and will support it happening. This also applies to MSP candidates for the Scottish Parliament.

## **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:

The Blane Valley Bulletin is published by Strathblane Community Council and distributed to all households in our community council area by a group of volunteers accountable to the Community Council.

Contact us at [contact@strathblanecc.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanecc.org.uk)

# Strathblane Community Council March Update

*From Chair Julie Hutchison*

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

## **Volunteering**

Resident Jo Waterfield highlighted various recycling schemes and guided residents to the Terracycle website for information. She also asked about the possibility of approaching Stirling council to reinstate a footpath which used to run from Killearn to Milngavie. It has become overgrown in places.

Jo asked the committee for permission to use the CC shed opposite the library to store litter pickers and other equipment. This was agreed. She updated us on the progress of the wildlife sanctuary.

## **Village Officer**

A resident asked if the CC would consider supporting the reinstatement of a village officer, a post that was removed a long time ago. In order for this enquiry to proceed, support from the CC is required. It was agreed to approach SC to see if there would be any support for this request.

## **Elected Members Report**

Rob Davies and Alastair Berrill paid tribute to Graham Lambie and informed us that there would be a by-election at the same time as the Scottish elections on May 6th. Rob Davies has raised a corporate action regarding the state of the road at the junction of Cuilt Road and the A809.

He has also met with local land owners around Dumgoyne to try and find a solution to parking.

## **A.O.C.B**

Julie asked the CC to consider moving the AGM from June to September as we only had our last one in December. There were not enough articles to fill this a BVB this month so we will combine it with the April one.

It was reported that traffic was still using Mugdock Road although it was officially closed. Alastair Berrill said he would raise this with SC but that it should also be reported to EDC.

# Strathblane Community Council April Update

*From Chair Julie Hutchison*

## **Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust**

Fergus McFarlane gave a very interesting presentation to the CC about the work the group is doing on eradicating invasive species in our area. They are concentrating on Japanese Knotweed, American Skunk Cabbage and Giant Hogweed. We also have a great deal of Himalayan Balsam along the banks of the Blane and Fergus asked for volunteers to help with this as it needs to be pulled out by hand and is a massive task. All of these species can be spread via garden refuse being tipped on local land and the CC is concerned that the new charge by SC for removing garden waste will result in greater levels of fly tipping, exacerbating the problem.

## **Co-Option of new member**

Craig Melville has been co-opted as a member of the CC and Julie welcomed him. We are still looking for two volunteers to join the CC.

## **AGM**

It was decided that the AGM will be held in September this year.

## **Elected member's Report**

On March 11<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting of Stirling Council

to set budgets for next year. It was decided that Council tax will be frozen for this year.

The by-election for Graham Lambie's seat will be held along with the Parliamentary Election on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Alastair Berrill said that he would inform Council officers of the issue of fly tipping causing the spread of invasive species and of our concern that fly tipping will increase when the new waste charges are introduced.

## **A.O.C.B**

Julie Hutchison told the meeting that a resident had raised a petition with SC regarding a Village Officer. She was told that there is a procedure for raising petitions. Julie will speak to Colin McKay from land services about the process.

A member of the lunch club contacted Julie to say that it is unlikely to re-open.

Philip Graves mentioned the issue with parking at the St Mocha Drive-thru at Carbeth. As the car park is often full cars wait on the main road. This is very dangerous. Alastair Berrill will inform the council.

Our next meeting will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**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 at [contact@strathblanec.org.uk](mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk)

# Happy Birthday Margaret

Margaret Waghorn, the eldest resident at Blanefield House Care Home celebrated her 104th birthday on Friday March 5th. Margaret moved into care within the midst of the pandemic last summer and is now celebrating her 104th birthday with a safely arranged visit from family and a local bagpiper who played some of her favourite songs and 'happy birthday' by the window for all to join in. She adored her wonderful decorations, flowers and many handmade cards which were sent in from Guides, local children and well-wishers.

Blanefield House MD said: "it is an honour for us to be celebrating such a special milestone with Margaret. While the party this year was scaled back due to COVID-19, our team and a couple of her family members were still able to celebrate and reminisce with Margaret on the day while enjoying homemade cake. Thank you to everyone involved in making her day so memorable."



<p><b>STIRLING COUNCIL</b>  <b>Councillor's Surgeries are not taking place at present but the local councillors can still be contacted by email. Report Faults at <a href="mailto:info@stirling.gov.uk">info@stirling.gov.uk</a> or 01786 4040</b>  <b>Updates at <a href="http://www.stirling.gov.uk">www.stirling.gov.uk</a></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GET IN TOUCH</b>  <b>SCC Email at <a href="mailto:contact@strathblanec.org.uk">contact@strathblanec.org.uk</a> or via our website at <a href="http://www.strathblanec.org.uk">www.strathblanec.org.uk</a></b>  <b>Your Community Councillors</b>          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: <a href="http://www.strathblane.online">www.strathblane.online</a>          Library; Noticeboards; Shops; Local weekly press; &amp; the Facebook Strathblane field Page.</p>
<p><b>Strathblane Community Development Trust</b>          Email: <a href="mailto:sctd@strathblane.online">sctd@strathblane.online</a>          Website: <a href="http://www.strathblane.online">www.strathblane.online</a>          We deliver projects with grant funding to enhance the village. Please consider joining if you aren't already a member.</p>	<p><b>Enquiries and Bookings Contacts</b>          Edmonstone hall          Kim Jones via <a href="mailto:info@edmonstonehall.co.uk">info@edmonstonehall.co.uk</a>.          The Village Club          Check schedule at <a href="http://www.villageclub1911.org">www.villageclub1911.org</a> email <a href="mailto:strathblanevc@gmail.com">strathblanevc@gmail.com</a></p>

# Community Climate Asset Fund



The Scottish Government's Community Climate Asset Fund has awarded a grant of £9934 to the SCDT. This will be used by the Blane Valley Allotments and the Paths Group to provide a Kazuba Waterless Composting toilet. This will help to reduce our carbon footprint.

Sheena McDonald, Secretary for Blane Valley Allotments, said that the group is very pleased to secure this grant which will allow them to provide a waterless composting toilet for use by the allotments and older peoples' walking group. This will be an important part of their plans to help to tackle climate change in the local area. They will create more growing opportunities at the allotments, support local people with information about how to grow at home, recycle leaves and bark for composting on the allotments and provide hedging and fruit bushes to the wildlife area being planned in the village.

Climate Change Secretary, Roseanna Cunningham, said that she is pleased that the successful recipients of the Community Climate Asset Fund come from right across the country, meaning many thousands of people will benefit from a variety of projects helping to play their party in ending Scotland's contribution to climate change. The environmental charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful administers the CCAF on behalf of the Scottish Government and CEO, Barry Fisher, said that they are delighted to support communities to tackle climate change and contribute to a green recovery from COVID-19.

Congratulations to the SCDT and the Blane Valley Allotments for obtaining this grant which will provide a great benefit to our community. Allotments Newsletter site <https://bvalotmentscouk.wordpress.com>



## STRATHBLANE LIBRARY IS DELIGHTED TO BE BACK FOR SELECT AND COLLECT

Monday/Friday 10 – 4 Thursday 2 – 6.30 Saturday 10 – 12

Book a time to come for books, bags or hearing aid batteries on 01360 770737 or [strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk)

## Bowling Club Opening

The opening date for play at the bowling green will commence on Monday 26th April. A formal opening will come later once restrictions ease further, but informal singles, doubles and triples play will be permitted on the green from 26th April.

New members will be very welcome. Enquiries, phone or text 07920 121114 for further information.