

BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet Sept 2025 No 103

Education admissions policy consultation opens for families

A consultation that proposes simplifying how children and young people are admitted to schools and nurseries within Stirling has opened to the public. At present, there are five separate policies that relate to admissions to educational settings within Stirling. These are:

- Nursery Admissions Policy
- Early Entry to School Policy
- School Admissions Policy
- Education Admissions Panel guidance for the admission of children and young people to Specialist Additional Support Needs Provisions
- Placing Request Policy

The new Education Admissions Policy aims to combine these existing documents into one policy to make the enrolment process simpler and clearer for families who wish for children in their care to attend schools and nurseries within Stirling. The consultation remains open until 3 October and can be accessed via the Engage Stirling online where full information and proposal documents are available to view. <https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/education-admissions-consultation>



Call for sites and ideas for Stirling's new Local Development Plan

Residents, community groups and other key stakeholders will have further opportunities to shape Stirling's future as the consultation on the area's new Local Development Plan enters a crucial new phase.

This stage of the consultation on the new plan is split into two parts: call for ideas and call for sites.

The call for ideas allows individuals, organisations and community groups – particularly those that have not prepared or not currently preparing a Local Place Plan – to suggest new uses, improvements or protections for sites or buildings. The call for sites is a chance for developers, landowners, agents and community groups to propose sites that could be developed for uses such as housing, employment, retail, leisure, tourism and other infrastructure.

The surveys (<https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/shaping-stirlings-next-local-development-plan>) will be open until Friday 31 October, with paper copies available in libraries shortly. All submissions will be considered by the planning authority for inclusion in the next Local Development Plan. Sites that are proposed for development will be part of a public consultation and engagement (expected in February 2026) before the plan is finalised and published for public consultation in early 2027.

All Scottish local authorities must have a local development plan. The new plan is expected to be adopted in 2027/28 and will support and guide change and development within the Stirling Council area (with the exception of the area covered by Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Planning Authority).

Local Place Plan

The LPP has been approved by the Community Council and the SCDT and has been sent in draft form to Stirling Council for comment. These are the recommendations based on the survey and drop-in sessions that residents were invited to participate in:

Traffic: The villages straddle the A81, which is the main route to the Trossachs and the commute to Glasgow for communities in SW Stirling. Pedestrian safety and speeding traffic are serious concerns for our community. Our plan highlights our proposals to put pedestrians first.

The right kind of homes, in the right places: our community supports sustainable development of housing that meets the needs of our communities even if it means releasing green belt to achieve modest development. We need affordable homes to rent and buy and homes for downsizing to release larger homes for families.

Delivering for and strengthening our community sustainability and address climate change: key activities have been identified by our community and are shown in our new Community Action Plan.

Supporting our local infrastructure: infrastructure improvements are needed to ensure that developments and community projects are sustainable, such as future proofing the sewage works, building the cemetery extension, delivering parking and EV charging, paths and improving broadband.

The full Plan is available to access on our website – strathblanec.org.uk

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@strathblanec.org.uk This issue is published with the anonymous but much-appreciated support of a local resident.

Strathblane Community Council September 25 Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

Matters arising

JH was tasked with contacting James Aikman from SC regarding the playpark. We agreed to use the money available to improve drainage rather than buy new equipment. James has now contacted a contractor, and JH hopes to get feedback from James soon. She reported a broken picnic table which has been repaired and will be replaced when they have time.

We asked Rosemary Fraser about the extension to the cemetery. It was on the agenda for the SC meeting on August 24th. The next stage is to liaise with landowners regarding purchase of the necessary land beyond Braidgate.

Approval of annual accounts

The accounts were verified by the accountant and were approved by the CC members present.

Traffic management in the village.

As a result of resident concerns about speeding traffic Gary Neil from SC and PC McCammon attended the meeting. Gary Neil from SC Roads Department said that they are currently carrying out a speed survey at three locations in the village until 11th September. He said that he is happy to come back to the meeting next month to report on the results of this.

It was obvious at the meeting how passionate residents are about this issue and hopefully in working closely with the council and the police we will find a more long-term solution.

PC McCammon suggested that the Community Speed Watch Initiative might be of interest, and the CC will look into this. GE will email Gary Neil about the locations in the village where there are issues.

Local Place Plan Approval

JH thanked JG, AT, MV and GE for their work on this. The LPP still needs some work, but a draft has gone to SC for comment. We also need to send it to all the CCs that border our area.

The Community Action Plan forms part of the LPP and will guide the community for the next 10 years. The LPP is significant in the context of Stirling Council's LDP and the National Planning Framework 4.

The CC members present approved the LPP.

AOCB

Stephen Bly sent notification of two surveys from SC that residents might want to take part in. One is about Education and the plan to consolidate the current 5 policies into one. The other is the call for possible sites for protection, building etc. Both can be accessed via the Engage Stirling website Links are

<https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/shaping-stirlings-next-local-development-plan>

and

<https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/education-admissions-consultation>

A resident contacted us about dog fouling in the Playpark. JH had told her about a campaign some years ago involving the school children making posters about picking up poo and said that we could consider doing this again. JH intends to ask SB if there is a dog warden we can contact for some ideas about dealing with this problem.

A resident noted that Strathendrick Pipe Band did well in the World Pipe Band Championships and we congratulate them.

Date of next meeting – October 6th 2025

Strathblane Open Mic Night.
Wednesday 1/10/25 7.30pm

Strathblane Bowling Club

Fancy singing a song or playing your instrument? Come along. To Strathblane Open Mic night £3 entry for non members ALL WELCOME Contact.

George, gethom@me.com

Or Martin, martin.Shields200mm@gmail.com



GET IN TOUCH

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

Your Community Councillors

Julie Hutchison 770791 Andrew Thompson 770838 Rob Davies 771921 Pam Lee 07801 417655 Eleanor Balfour Grace Edmonds 770800 John Gray 771031 Kate Ramsden 07801372588 and Ian Boardley

Additional Sources Community Website www.strathblane.online

Library; Notice boards; Shops; Local weekly press & the Facebook Strathblanefield page

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 are not already a member.

Enquiries and Booking Contacts

Edmonstone Hall

Kim Jones via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk

The Village Club

Check schedule @ www.villageclub1911.org

Email: stathblanevc@gmail.com

Library Community Rooms

Email: info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com

Strathblane Community Development Trust

Join Us for This Year's AGM – A Special Evening Awaits!

We're delighted to invite all new and returning members to our Annual General Meeting, taking place on Tuesday, 25th November at 7:30 PM at our Thomas Graham Community Library.

The evening will begin with the formal AGM proceedings, including the presentation of resolutions and member voting.

After the official business, stay with us for a captivating presentation: "Heritage in Colour: Strathblane's Grassland Fungi" by local ecologist Mirte Greve. Discover the hidden beauty and ecological importance of our local fungi in what promises to be an eye-opening and visually stunning talk. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Moths in your house? Richard Sutcliffe

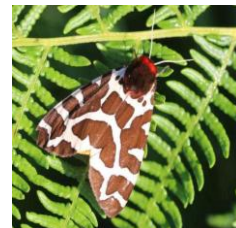
Small brown moths found in houses are often assumed to be one of the two species of clothes moths, whose larvae (caterpillars) will feed on wool, fur and feathers. They do not eat cotton or man-made fibres. Two other species, the white-shouldered house-moth and the brown house-moth, may feed on dead animal and plant material. The larvae are likely to be found in dark, dusty and undisturbed places such as under sofas, wardrobes and beds. Regular 'spring cleaning' of such places should reduce the risk of infestation. Rather than use insecticide to keep them away, try cedar balls or lavender.

These four, of over 2,500 different species of moths found in Britain, are the only ones likely to eat your clothes or carpets. There are many 'carpet moths' (Geometrids), but these are so-named because of their shape and patterns, rather than what they eat. The larvae of the flame carpet, for example, are known to feed on mugwort, but probably eat other plants as well. Despite moths having been studied since Victorian times, we still don't know what many of them feed on!

Moths are attracted to lighted windows and may sometimes enter your house and fly around inside if the windows are open. Please be patient, let them out if you can. They don't want to be in your house any more than you want them there!

Outside the house, moths are very important. Many are pollinators of garden plants and crops. Larvae and adults of many species are also an important food source for a wide variety of wildlife, from spiders to birds. There are many extremely attractive species. This garden tiger moth was trapped (and released) at Strathblane Wildlife Sanctuary in June.

Let us know what moths you see: strathblanewildlifesanctuary@gmail.com



Heritage Trail

Strathblane Heritage has been awarded £8,000 by the Paul Trust, a locally-based charity, towards the cost of the planned Strathblane Heritage Trail. The outcome to two other grant applications is expected soon. Six illustrated information boards are envisaged, starting at the Parish Church and taking in The Village Club, the War Memorial, the site of Blanefield Printworks, the site of the former Dumbrook bleachfields and Edenkiln. The existing Railway Path sign will be incorporated into the project.

Dates for your diary. All the talks are on a Monday at The Village Club at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm).

20 October 2025 Carbeth's Fellowship Camping Association: the largely untold story of how working class families from Glasgow escaped the city for fun and fresh air under canvas at Carbeth over several generations. With vintage photographs and music.

17 November 2025 Photographs that Tell our Story: Local photographers, Jamie Ballantine, Chris Bell, Stevi Jackson and Martin Shields share their best shots and show how photographs can illuminate our local history.

19 January 2026 Doon the Watter! Alastair Balfour recaptures the golden age of the Clyde steamers in film and photographs.

16 February 2026 Campsie Capers: Dr Bob Sharp presents an illustrated history of the Campsies as one of Central Scotland's most popular locations for walking, climbing and even skiing.

16 March AGM 2026 AGM & The Lands of Lennox: Professor Richard Oram of Stirling University presents the remarkable story of the family that dominated much of Western Scotland for centuries.

The Strathblane Heritage website
(www.strathblaneheritage.org)

CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING THOMAS GRAHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY



Learn something new this autumn!

Adult learning classes at the Thomas Graham Community Library in Strathblane, delivered by the University of Strathclyde's Centre for Lifelong Learning. This term, classes include:

- Religious Imagery in Art through the Ages
- Spanish 2
- Italian 1B

12 Kirkburn Road, G63 9ED



Lifelong learning, right on your doorstep...

Visit the QR code to view classes available and to book your place.



myccl.strath.ac.uk






The Thomas Graham Community Library has been operating now for over 2 years and in that time the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Strathclyde University has been running adult learning courses.

We would like to know from you if there are any other courses you would like to do, including ideal days and time of day. Each course typically lasts 10 weeks and availability will depend on securing appropriate tutors.

Please let us know by emailing:
info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com

Library Events

Thomas Graham Library, Strathblane. 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk

 Games Club For Grown Ups	10.30am-12.30pm Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws etc Tea/coffee and chat.	Tuesday Fortnightly Continues fortnightly 23 Sept, 7 th Oct, 21 Oct etc
 Needles and Natter	10.30am-12.30pm Knitting, embroidery, sewing, stitching, Tea/coffee & chat	Tuesday Fortnightly Continues fortnightly 30 Sept, 14 Oct, 28 Oct etc.
Film Discussion Club	7.15pm – 9pm Come and watch or chat about films Contact the Library for details	Usually first Tuesday evening in the month Oct 7 th and Nov 4 th
Book Group	7.30pm – 9pm Coffee and Book Chat Each month a title is selected for discussion. Contact the library for details	16 th September 21 st October 19 th November
Fabric Fun	 3.15 p.m. -4.30p.m.	Wednesday 3 rd Sept 8 th Oct 5 th Nov 3 rd Dec
 BookBug	2.30 p.m. – 3pm Drop in, free Babies and toddlers Rhymes and stories with wee ones.	Friday 26 Sept & Friday 31 Oct (Spookbug) Friday 28 Nov Friday 19 th Dec (Christmas Sparkly Bookbug)
	Fortnightly Thursdays 1-3pm (dependant on staff availability) Appointments only – contact CAB direct to book: 07498925159 peter.higgins@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk	Fortnightly by appointment only.

Thomas Graham Library e-resources Drop-in Session (with a cuppa & biscuit!)

Monday 29th September 10.30am-12noon.

Find out how to access free Stirling Libraries e-books, e-audiobooks, e-newspapers. Stirling Libraries provide this as a free service to library members. Pop along with your smart phone or ipad or tablet (not kindle compatible) and chat to our fabulous IT volunteers to find out. Get a cuppa and a chat too! Just drop in.

Art Exhibition and Fashion Sale in aid of Strathcarron Hospice

Save the date! 25th & 26th of October, three local artists will be showing and selling new works to raise money for our local hospice. George Thom, Amy Ricketts and Chris Mumford would like to invite you all along over the weekend.

This year we will be joined by a wonderful Fashion sale. Donations would be greatly appreciated! Needing to clear out your wardrobe? We are looking for clean "high end" clothing, accessories and shoes to raise funds for Strathcarron Hospice. Please drop off at the library before Wednesday 22nd October.



HOUSE HISTORY WORKSHOP

'Sherlock Homes?' - Explore the history of your house!

Booking essential, places limited.

THOMAS GRAHAM LIBRARY, STRATHBLANE

THURSDAY 30th OCTOBER 10-11.30am



Have you ever wondered how old your house is? What it was originally like? Who built it and who has lived there through the years? If so, this workshop is for you!

Staff from Stirling Council Archives will guide you through how to research the history of your house - or any other building - in this unique workshop.

Using facsimiles of original records, you will be shown in detail how to get on the house history trail. Booking is essential as places are limited. Ask staff for details.



Village Whist Drive

Friday 10th of October, 7 pm prompt, at the Village Club, Strathblane

All adults and young people over 10 welcome. n.b.10 - 14 year olds must be accompanied by an adult. A fun, sociable evening with tea, cake and a raffle. Donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. No booking needed. £5 entry, payable at the door. If you would love to take part but don't know how to play Whist, then come to our **coaching session on Tuesday 7th of October at 7 pm in the Bowling Club.** We are looking for local helpers to help with the Whist Drive, teas and coffees, and the raffle. If you can help please contact us. For more information contact one of the organisers: Jenny Oswald (jenny.oswald@googlemail.com) and Carol Craig (carolcraig@me.com) All proceeds will go to the Village Club maintenance fund.

Stirling Libraries
& Archives

www.stirling.gov.uk

Imagine. Discover. Connect.