BLANE VALLEY BULLETIN

The Strathblane Community Council News Sheet November 2026 No 109

Christmas Tree Switch On



The annual switch on of the Christmas tree will take place on Friday 27th November at 6.30 in the Village Club. We hope you will join us for mulled wine and mince pies, and to get into the Christmas spirit with Christmas music from the Dumbarton Wind Ensemble. Entry is by donation, so have some coins ready, although there will be a card machine available.

The Community Council would like to thank Duff Trees for again supplying our tree at a generous discount, our new One Stop shop for donating the mince pies and Vishnu at Shopsmart for donating biscuits and juice for the children. Their support is much appreciated.

Defibrillator Attention!!



The defibrillator at the Edmonstone Hall has reached the end of its life and has had to be removed from the box. The nearest 24-hour defibrillators are situated at the rear of the Village Club and on the wall outside the One Stop shop. None need a key or code to open but sometimes a good tug. During opening times there are also machines at the Edenkiln Surgery and the Thomas Graham Library

The Edmonstone Hall committee is looking at grants to replace the one at the hall but has so far been unsuccessful in obtaining one.

Let Stirling Council Know How You Feel – The Big Conversation

Residents are being urged to have their say on proposals to help address Stirling Council's estimated £9.5 million budget shortfall next year (2027-28).

A new survey has been launched that sets out potential ways for the council to raise more income, make savings and deliver services efficiently.



The consultation continues the council's 'Big Conversation' about how it negotiates the ongoing and unprecedented financial challenge impacting local government in Scotland.

The financial challenges facing Stirling Council are being experienced across Scotland. The Accounts Commission reported that Scottish councils faced a combined budget shortfall of £529 million when setting their budgets for 2026/27.

Councils have a legal responsibility to set a balanced budget each year, meaning they must identify ways to address any shortfall between their income and expenditure.

The financial challenge for Stirling Council for 2027/28 is in the region of £9.5m rising to £28.9m over the next three years.

Residents can help inform this process by taking part in the survey on the Engage Stirling website, with paper copies available in libraries. The closing date is Sunday 20 December 2026.

SCAN ME

FOLLOW www.engage.stirling.gov.uk OR THIS QR CODE TO START THE SURVEY

Strathblane Community Council November 2026 Update

From Chair Julie Hutchison

JH welcomed our new councillor, Katie Harrison.

Update on the Local Place Plan

JH, GE and MV had a meeting with two Stirling planners, Mark Laird and Charlotte Brown. It was a very positive meeting, and it was obvious that they had read our LPP carefully. They discussed the sites that developers had put forward and identified some that would not be suitable.

Roads

SC congratulated the number of residents who commented on the proposals. We had a lively discussion about these and the fact that they did not include Station Road junction or Campsie Road. The traffic calming outside the VC generated discussion and a suggestion for an alternative, which Katie Harrison will send to Roads.

A resident proposed that the 20mph limit is extended to Graham Lambie Brae.

Buses

Katie Harrison has asked for a public meeting with McGill's to discuss the current situation with the buses.

AOCB

The Chair of the Parent council at BHS raised the issue of the poor quality of school meals this year, since SC has taken over the management of the school.

The CC has secured an all-weather table tennis table to be situated in the playpark to provide an activity for older children.

We have been asked to find out about first aid courses. We will ask TSAR about the possibility of running one.

Date of next meeting 7th December 2026

Strathblane Open Mic Night. Wed 18/11, 16/12 & TBD/1/2027 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@strathblanecc.org.uk or via our website www.strathblanecc.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 wwwstrathblane.online

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

Strathblane Community Development Trust
Email: scdt@strathblane.online
Website: https://strathblanecdt.org
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
Lynda Eastcroft via info@edmonstonehall.co.uk
The Village Club
Check schedule @www.villageclub1911 or
Email: stathblanevc@gmail.com
Library Community Rooms
Email: info@thomasgrahamlibrary.com



Public Transport Feedback`

Stirling Council are looking for feedback about the public transport services in our area. If you have experienced issues with the bus service, please complete the survey which will provide the Council with hard data to take back to McGill's. To access the feedback page on the Council website https://www.stirling.gov.uk/roads-transport-and-parking/public-transport/public-transport-feedback/ or this QR code can be used.

All change at Green's

Residents will have noticed changes taking place in Green's. This is due to the shop rebranding to One Stop, which is part of the Tesco group. A total refurbishment of the store and restocking with Tesco products is gradually taking place.

Annual Scrape and Clear



Sunday December 6 is the Christmas event of the year – the annual scrape and clear of the Gary Wright Way. It's organised by the Strathblane Community Development Trust (SCDT) Paths Group, which has created lots of the local paths and now has to maintain them.

Santa hats are not compulsory for the event but they're a good idea. Ability to do the most basic tool wielding is the only requirement, and for insurance purposes you have to be over 18. For newcomers to the group there'll be a short safety briefing at the start, and we're meeting on the link path just over the bridge on Station Road, for 10am.

If you want to let us know you're coming in advance, email baynesania@gmail.com. It's always useful to know who to expect.

And - we're looking to increase our pool of regular volunteers, so let us know if that's something you could do. We have endless fun clearing drains, dredging ditches, clearing trees, strimming verges - like a non-stop party. We also sometimes get to lay gravel, and you might get a go with the whacker...

It's important work if you're a walker or path user and want the way to stay clear for you. And a reminder – the GWW and other paths were created by SCDT, and you can give that your support by joining the SCDT, which needs as many members as it can get to do all its good work (like creating the library...)

Regular Library Events December 2026

Thomas Graham Library, Strathblane. 01360 770737, strathblanelibrary@stirling.gov.uk		
Games Club For Grown Ups 	Chess, Scrabble, Jigsaws etc Tea/coffee and chat. Just drop in.	Tuesday Fortnightly 10.30am-12.30pm 7th Nov, 1st & 15th Dec
Needles and Natter 	Knitting, embroidery, sewing, stitching, Tea/coffee & chat. Just drop in.	Tuesday Fortnightly 10.30am-12.30pm 24th Nov, 8th & 22nd Dec
Film Discussion Club 	Come and watch, or chat about films Contact the Library for details	First Tuesday of the month 7.15pm – 9pm
Book Group 	Come and talk about a book! Contact the library for details	Third Tuesday of the month 7.30 p.m.-9.30p.m.
IT/Computer help by Library Volunteers 	Help with computer/ iPad issues and help with e-books etc.	Occasional Monday mornings. Contact the Library for an appointment
BookBug 	Babies and toddlers. Rhymes and stories with wee ones and their carers. Just come along	Last Friday of the month 2.30 p.m. – 3pm Nov 27th, Dec 18th
citizens advice bureau	Fortnightly Thursdays 1-3pm (dependent on staff availability) Appointments only – contact CAB directly to book: 07498925159 https://app.10to8.com/book/stirlingcab/	Fortnightly Thursdays 1-3pm **by appointment only through CAB**.
	**Library Light Box:** We have a light box to help with these darker days. Please come and try, sit with a coffee and a book and get some 'daylight' rays.	Drop in, available during normal library opening hours. Instructions on use are with the lamp.

Strathblane Library Christmas Closing Dates – the library will close early on Christmas Eve and re-open on Tuesday 5th January at 10am. Have a lovely festive time!

Church Notices

Thank You from the Strathblane Parish Church Family

The Strathblane Church Family would like to thank all those in the community who pulled together to make this year's Blythswood Christmas Box Appeal such a success, despite the absence through injury, of our indefatigable organiser, Margaret Mcintyre. Thanks to you all, 150 boxes will be going to Blythswood for distribution this year. 150 chances to share love and hope with those who often have so much to cope with in their daily lives.

As we near Advent and Christmas we invite you to join us at church for our Advent and Christmas Services in the month of December

Sunday 6th December Communion Service at 11.30 a.m.

Sunday 20th Service of Lessons and Carols 11.30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

A Christingle Celebration for families of all ages at 4.00p.m. and Watchnight Service at 11.15 p.m.



Christmas Day

Christmas Day Family Service
Bring a toy!
11.00 a.m.



May we wish you all the blessings of Christmas and all hope for the year to come



SCDT Himalayan Balsam removal group update



As part of our removal plans we have been collecting location details to create a map. A huge thanks to everyone who has provided information. It was great to get so much feedback and we were able to discover patches that were previously unknown!

We'll share the map when it's completed. For now we are planning the winter activities that will enable us to start removing the plant in Spring 2027. This includes looking at grant funding, reviewing removal advice, creating checklists, connecting with expert agencies for help with funding/removal/advice, identifying volunteers to help with removal, and looking at grants/equipment.

If you're interested in helping with any of these activities, or want to hear more, please get in touch: mapbalsam@strathblanecdt.org

Thank you!

The Blane Valley Bulletin is published by Strathblane Council. Contact us at contact@strathblanecc.org.uk This issue is published with the anonymous but much-appreciated support of a local resident and distributed to all households in our community council area by a group of volunteers accountable to the Community Council.