



## Strathblane Community Development Trust Newsletter

Limited Company 336337 Charity SCO39328

November 2011

This is the first bi-monthly edition of the double sided A4 Newsletter and along with more regular updates on the website, village noticeboards and local press, we hope to complement the Community Council's proposed new communication strategy and transparency measures. Our main aim remains the same to "enhance the quality of life for those who live and work in the community and also for visitors to the area through working/project groups, research, consultation and the securing of relevant funding/grants".



Chairperson Gordon Ash

### COMMUNITY EVENTS DIARY – November/ December See Website/Posters

- . Local Development Plan consultation 24 Oct to 16 Dec, Public Meeting Primary School 23 November, website
- . EGM (Election of Directors, Draft Business Plan) Village Club. 30 November
- . Carbon Neutral Group's Farewell Presentation, Village Club 7 December, website/leaflet
- . Christmas lights switch-on/carols, Village Club 13 December, website/noticeboards

### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

- . New Board member sought for key aspects of "Communications" - details/applicants contact the Administrator
- . 2/3 Volunteers sought for "Paths Maintenance" - details/applicants contact The Administrator

### AGM NOTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2011

The 150<sup>th</sup> member of the SCDT, local Minister Richard Begg, was welcomed to the proceedings. 2010 Minutes were approved. Existing Directors were re-elected but comments on future Board nominations and 3 year terms of office were noted. Draft Business Plan was ratified but the website CAP attachment needed to reflect the deletion of references to "industrial units" and "village centre" references. Accounts were healthy but there were requests for clarity and a breakdown of major grant expenditure programmes. The Board and working/project groups are attending to a range of interesting issues.

### COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

Following the Community Council's further feedback survey in August the final document of potential community priorities/wishes has been drawn up for presentation to the Stirling Community Planning Partnership. Key themes will include safe walking (paths/pavements) and cycling routes around the village, public transport and vehicle speed reduction, develop an on-line local business directory and networking arrangement, improved home-care services, affordable housing, and a new communication strategy.



### REPORT ON WORKING/PROJECT GROUPS

#### Greenheart

**Play Park.** Final phase of play park. Research and fund-raising ongoing for one large item for older kids and possibly two smaller items for younger children.

**MUGA** May slip into medium to long term category due to limited current funds but close linkage is being maintained with Stirling Council in parallel with research into a potential grassed games area for youngsters/teenagers.

**Paths** 2/3 persons to be recruited to the Greenheart group to co-ordinate specific maintenance tasks and link with South West Stirling Paths Group in securing certain funds/grants.

#### Carbon Neutral Group

Renewable Energy Production – grant received from Scottish Community Renewables to carry out feasibility study into the potential generation of power from the local environment. This study has recently been completed and will be publicly available in December 2011. Two members of the CNG are trained volunteers with the Council's Zero Waste Scheme, and they offer advice on composting and food waste. Group standing down at the end of 2011 but sustainability/green issues will continue to be addressed as necessary by the Trust.

### Property

Activity restricted meantime to general advice on the proposed new supermarket/post office, two small sites for potential affordable housing and two/three allotments sites, re appropriateness and suitability. The new Scottish Land Fund for potential community purchases is being examined by the group.

### Allotments Group

Climate Change Funding has enabled the recruitment of a Development Manager Louise McAllister for project planning and education. Successful and well attended “Grow Local” event was staged at the Primary School on 17 Sept. Surgeries took place Oct/Nov to deal with general queries on Allotments programme. Several sites were assessed for the 30 plots plus community garden and a particular site north of the railway track now meets the stringent criteria of the management committee and has gone forward for full consultation with interested parties and residents.



Louise McAllister

### Strathblanefield Paths Map/Signage

Several suggested paths are now being officially walked/cycled and notes recorded. Discussions are taking place with the Heritage Society on key landmarks and with Stirling Council on certain signposting ideas. Jude Gregor ([allgregors@aol.com](mailto:allgregors@aol.com)) is happy for comments on potential areas to be considered for inclusion in the new map which is earmarked for Spring 2012.



Sample Map

### On-Line Business Directory

Slow pace at the moment but some website information enhancements are coming on stream, a dozen or so new business/cottage industries have been identified (still room for more – contact Ian Hamilton [h15dun@btinternet.com](mailto:h15dun@btinternet.com)) and special networking linkages are being examined. Completion target date is December 2012.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

### Stirlingshire Development Trusts Network

September forum themes included Transfer of Community Assets, Renewables, Knowledge and Skills Exchange Fund, and Training for Trust Directors.

### Funding

The new CSGN Community Project Fund is being assessed and SCDDT was represented at Stirling Council's Fund-raising Workshop on 15 November.

### Rural South West Forum

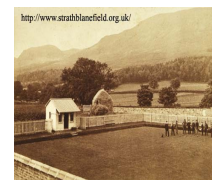
Local Development Plan published 24 October. Potential changes to Care Provision in particular Meals on Wheels but it is hoped that this service can be maintained in its original form.

### Village Club Centenary

SCDDT associated with music event in early November and Xmas lights switch on in December.

### Before/After photo history booklet of the Village

Research being carried out by local residents and Herald Staff members Anne Balfour and Martin Shields,



### Music for Young People

Research and discussions with various groups in the villages has just commenced

Strathblane Bowling Club

### Membership/Queries

We always welcome new members (details on the website) or debate on key issues (e-mail us at [cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cdt@strathblanefield.org.uk))