

The BCC Communicator

Buchanan CC News and Community's Views

Contact the editorial team at bcccommunicator@outlook.com

New Grant Award to Further Paths Progress

There has been good news for Drymen Community Development Trust's Connecting Paths project team after a grant award from the Sustrans Community Links Programme of £140,000 towards work between Drymen and Croftamie and between Milton of Buchanan and Balmaha. The Daily Record credited the National Park with securing the funding, and Bridget Jones, the park's head of visitor management, said: "Improving opportunities for cycling, walking and riding is very much a part of meeting community aspirations and we're happy to be playing a part in making these a reality." The paths will contribute to the Park Authority's multi-million-pound, five-year, outdoor recreation plan, which supports more than 30 activities.

Tom Wallace of the Drymen Community Development Trust has advised that the first phase of work from Drymen to Milton of Buchanan is now finished, apart from some signage, and Phase 2 is underway. The two new sections are at the design stage with work expected in the Winter. The Drymen South section will be upgraded and widened to reduce the number of road crossings to one. Project management is expected to be as Phase 1 with Stirling Council as contractors again. There is option at Milton of Buchanan to paint cycle lanes onto the road to slow drivers. The section of path West of Milton stops short of Balmaha as farmland is needed. This was not consented at the time of the Phase 1 but will be part of Phase 2.

Estate Consultation

During Phase 1, a decision was taken that residents of Buchanan Castle Estate would be given the opportunity to discuss an alternative route for the core path and the 'promoted shared use path' through the Estate. Tom advises that this is something the Duke of Montrose supported strongly and which the project team was happy to facilitate. Please look out for information the consultation.

Next BCC meeting: Monday 7th September, 7:30pm, Memorial Hall. All Welcome.

Broadband Update

The rollout of fibre based broadband continues but its pace is far slower than prospective users would want. Rural communities such as ours present real challenges for the rollout teams.

A particular problem in a rural environment is the heavy reliance on exchange only (EO) lines. These go directly from the subscriber premises back to the exchange. While the provision of a "green cabinet" at the exchange facilitates the integration of fibre with EO lines, it does not address the fundamental issue of length of line from the exchange. This latter factor constrains the speed of broadband. This would seem to indicate that EO properties close to the exchange are best positioned to receive true fibre speeds. For those further away, such as Balmaha and Buchanan Castle Estate, it is difficult to see how the service can be delivered through existing lines. For those further up the Lochside to Rowardenan, the situation is regrettably unclear.

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Contact Your Community Councillors

John Bannerman - Chair	07711 906682
Walter McAllister - Vice Chair	870239
Joe Twaddle - Secretary	870324
Arthur Hannan - Treasurer	
David Fraser	07843 686830
Barbara Crooks	
Audrey Peebles	661304
Dave Morris	660632
Lorna Buchanan	660700

Paths Leaflet Printed

The Park Authority and Friends of Loch Lomond helped design and paid for the new Local Paths Leaflet showing a wide range of circular routes around the Drymen area. It will be on sale at a range of local businesses with income going directly towards path maintenance and repair as well as updating and reprinting of interpretation.

Dave Morris

Perhaps an ideal situation for compact, well defined communities would be for them to be provided with not only a fibre "green cabinet" but also an adjacent traditional line cabinet from which their telephone line would be distributed. However, the implementation for this approach would be a major undertaking since the existing EO lines would have to be replaced.

From a recent update, it is understood that the Drymen exchange is likely to have a "green cabinet" installed in the first quarter of 2016. It is becoming increasingly clear that the fibre rollout timescales are highly dependent on the specific existing local infrastructure. It is interesting to speculate on whether individual communities should form pressure groups to influence the delivery programme.

Agenda for BCC Meeting 7th Sept

Apologies
Police matters : to include congestion in Balmaha
Minutes of meeting held 22nd June & Matters arising
Secretary & Treasurers Reports
Planning matters
Update on projects
Connect Fund application
Road repairs
Broadband information
AOCB
Date of next meeting

The Buchanan Memorial Hall,

available for use by local residents, is managed by the Hall Users' Committee for the good of the community and the organizations that use the Hall. The Hall has been from its start a war memorial in honour of those local residents that served in the Great War and has a long history supporting the local community. Highlights of activities happening in the Hall include the annual Buchanan flower show, music nights including sessions presented by Dave Arcari, and social events such as 'Mince and Tatties' evenings and Burns Suppers. Good times, experienced by all, are a highlight in themselves. Tickets from the organizations that hold events in the Hall are often in demand.

The Hall can also be used for meetings and other events such as parties and training sessions. The committee members include John Proctor – Chair and Maggi Milner – Secretary/Treasurer (01360 870 345) with each main user organization of the Hall being represented. The current Buchanan Community Council representative is Barbara Crooks.

The Hall is currently examining applying for charitable status and is always thinking of the future. If anyone would like to book the Hall, please contact one of the committee members above.

M Milner, August 2015

Editor's note: Information on ownership, committee and future of the Hall was requested by readers via the Communicator Survey. Stirling Council owns the Hall.

Communicator Survey Feedback

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Thank you to all who returned the Communicator Survey. We received 34 replies which was only two short of the return for the Community Action Plan. We are grateful for the huge number of very positive comments and we value those which give the BCC insight into facets we need to work on.

Of 28 subjects covered, the articles of interest to most people, in order, are:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Roads Maintenance | 4= Minutes Summaries | 6= Broadband |
| 2 Paths network | 4= Local Information | 6= Planning Applications |
| 3 What's On | 5 Local Dev Plan - NPA | 8= Editorial Comment |
| | | 8= Bin Collections |

97% of people who gave an opinion valued the Communicator, feel more informed of local matters and know how to contact a Community Councillor. 93% would like to see the Communicator continuing and also have more insight into what the BCC does.

We hope to write on more of the subjects you suggested in future issues.

If anyone has expertise in specifying green energy projects, please would you contact the editorial team if you can offer help on that subject.

- A description of any sub-committees – who sits on them, why they were appointed and who they report to, the aim of the sub-committee, its terms of reference and accountability.
- More on the Memorial Hall, who runs it and what's going to happen to it.
- Background information on subjects which are going to be discussed at the next CC meeting so we can make informed contributions and feel we are being consulted
- Please continue to report in an unbiased way the progress on the Affordable housing in Balmaha. Remember that we are not all in favour of the project
- Public transport to Hospitals e.g. Forth Valley and Stirling
- Pursuit of permanent doctor at Drymen Health Centre
- The dropping school roll and implication for us
- The newsletter makes the work of the CC transparent
- The one time I contacted a Councillor by email, I had no response at all and as far as I know, the issue was not brought up in a meeting. As a result, I have little faith in Councillors hearing what their community have to say
- I hope to see the BCC continue to move to more expansive footing and not concentrate on Balmaha as has been the case in recent times
- The Affordable Housing – why is this going ahead in an area with only minimum wage and part time work. People requiring low cost housing are on no income or low income and would require a car. Would it not be better for them to be housed in an area with better public transport and where the job prospects are greater?
- Bushes at Montrose house overhang pavement. Walkers use road at this point – very dangerous
- Cars parked on pavement near Arrochoile are a big nuisance to walkers, especially those with toddlers in buggies
- It would be helpful to know who the main points of contact are in the other public bodies and what their responsibilities are for Liaison e.g. Stirling Council, LLTNP, local Schools, Rotary, Local Business Communities etc.

Roads Resurfacing Question Raised at BCC Meeting

The Community Council is awaiting news from Stirling Roads Department on whether all residents can be consulted via the Communicator on local preference regarding resurfacing works. Two jobs are scheduled: one in March 2016 the other in 2017. Which first? Balmaha village centre or Whinnydrum brae East of Stuc an T'Saigart?

Patient Transport– Scottish Ambulance Service	www.scottishambulance.com
Book on 0300 123 1236 Mon – Fri 8:15am – 6pm.	Local rates from landlines and mobiles. Be prepared to wait in a phone queue. Best to avoid 10am –noon and 2-3pm.
For hospital appointments only.	Cost: Free.
For anyone where help is essential for mobility or medical needs	You will be asked about your mobility them medical condition then the advisor will decide if you qualify.
If healthcare costs (travel, optician, dental etc) presents a financial problem, use Form HC1	Please phone 0845 850 1166 to have an HC1 form posted to you.
Dial-a-Journey	www.dial-a-journey.org
Call 01786 465355 to book.	Very friendly people offering a reliable ‘door to door’ service
For people with mobility problems who are unable to use conventional public transport.	You will be asked about your circumstances. You will be asked to register with the Service.
Journeys can be taken for any purpose at all.	Cost: Drymen to Stirling £6.60 one way. Rowardennan to Larbert £9.10
Shop Mobility	www.dial-a-journey.org
Call 01786 465355 to book.	
Membership is available to anyone who has a temporary or permanent physical impairment. For Dial-a-Journey registered users and visitors	Loan of scooters, powered chairs and manual wheelchairs that make getting around the shops very easy. Training given. Pick up from points are at public transport stops
Phone to book for Falkirk, Stirling, Grangemouth and Alloa town centres.	Stirling: £1/hour member. £1.50/hr visitor. Falkirk: Donation.
TaxiCard Booking Service	www.dial-a-journey.org
Call 01786 465355 to book.	
For those who don't require the same level of specialised service of Dial-a-Journey	Subsidised Taxi journey for members of the scheme who are also unable to use conventional bus services
Taxis are registered with Stirling Council	If normal taxi fare is up to £4 then half price, more than £4 then £2 off.
Croftamie Minibus - Milngavie Town Centre	
Phone 07932 739346	Grant funded.
For everyone. Community helper on board if anyone needs a hand boarding or carrying their shopping.	Thursdays 10am, Croftamie Nursery - return Noon. Plenty of parking. Drop -off points: Milngavie carpark near Boots, Tesco. Pick up: Tesco , M&S. Donation £2
British Red Cross	www.redcross.org.uk
Phone 01436 672507	
To help provide freedom of travel for people with mobility problems: medical appointments and essential daily needs.	Contribution towards costs, based on mileage used, but no-one will be refused a service because they cannot pay

Affordable Homes in Balmaha

Tony Teasdale

As previously reported, Rural Stirling Housing Association is seeking to develop 10 rented homes and a number of self-build plots for affordable sale on Forestry land at Balmaha. Site investigations are now complete and the results of the geo-technical surveys indicate that only minor changes are needed to the planned site layout. A detailed Cost Plan for the development is now being worked up. This will, amongst other things, confirm the amount of income that will be required from the sale of the plots in order to make the whole development viable. We will shortly be discussing the proposed arrangements for the sale of the plots with the Community Panel. We expect to then issue an information leaflet/survey form to all Buchanan residents with a view to confirming what interest there is in both the rented homes and plots for sale. The outcome of this will help inform the finalised housing mix in advance of submission of the planning application. If you would like more information in the meantime please contact: Tony Teasdale, Rural Stirling Housing Association, Stirling Road, Doune. Tel: 01786 841101

tony@rsha.org.uk . www.rsha.org.uk.

Trading Standards Doorstep Advice

Following their visit to the BCC meeting earlier this year, the Trading Standards office held an informal Open Afternoon at the Buchanan Golf Club in June. Residents were shown a short video on how to beware of scams, supplied with details of the Nominated Neighbour Scheme which seeks the help of neighbours or relatives to check whether unexpected callers are genuine and handed “DoorStoppers” labels which can be easily fixed to front doors to advise callers that you don’t purchase items or services .

Phone **Stirling Doorstep Crime Partnership** on 0845 277 7000 to obtain your label or a copy of their booklet Doorstep Advice. Phone 01786 443322 to find out more about the Nominated Neighbour scheme.

The **Scottish Charity Regulator** (OSCR) advise that if someone comes to the door collecting for charity, they should be able to provide a Charity Number which can be checked by calling the Regulator on 01382 220446.

Drymen Health Centre
Phone: 660203 Prescriptions: 660809
Prescriptions now available online
www.drymenhealthcentre.co.uk

Library Opening Hours
Mon & Fri 9.30-1pm and 2-5pm
Tuesday & Thursday 9.30-1pm and 2-7pm
Wednesday Closed. Saturday 9am-1pm

Balfroon Recycling Centre
Dunkeld Court (behind the Co-op)
Monday to Friday 17:00 - 20:00
Saturday 10:00 - 14:00

RBS Mobile Bank
Drymen car park
Monday 1.45- 2.45

Waste and Recycling Collections
Brown Bins **Sep 2, 16, 30 Oct 14, 28 Nov 11, 25**
Grey Bins **Sep 9, 23 Oct 7, 21 Nov 4, 18**
Stirling Council 0845 277 7000

Public Transport Buses
www.travelinescotland.com
309 Balmaha – Bonhill
8/C8 Glasgow – Drymen

Drymen Post Office
Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm
Closed for lunch 12:30 – 13:30pm
Saturday 9am – 1pm

Deadline for 'What's On' events is 20th October
bcccommunicator@outlook.com

Police Scotland
Call 101 for non urgent matters

NHS 24 Free Calls Now
Call 111 for medical advice

What's On in September

Thursday	3rd	Hearstart Class 7 -9pm Drymen Library
Monday	7th	Buchanan Community Council Meeting Memorial Hall 7.30
Thursday	10th	Chatterbooks 3.45 – 4.45pm Drymen Library
Friday	11th	Last day of Exhibition of Commonwealth Games photographs, designs, clothing and papers drawn from the University Of Stirling's archive. MacRobert Arts Centre. Free.
Tuesday	15th	Strathendrick Embroiderers Guild meet Church Hall, Main Street, Killearn
	25-27	2nd Annual Callander Film Society Festival bfi.org.uk/neighbourhoodcinema/callander-film-society
Monday	28th	Stirling Council's Priority Based Budgeting Community Conversations, Balfroon Campus, 7-9pm

What's On in October

Thursday	1st	Scotland's Gardens & RHS Stirling Autumn Lectures Albert Hall Stirling 10:30 to 4:30 pm, £45
Thursday	8th	Chatterbooks 3.45 – 4.45pm Drymen Library
Saturday	10th	Callander Film Society showing "The Theory of Everything" 7.30 St Kessogs, Ancaster Square
Tuesday	20th	Strathendrick Embroiderers Guild meet Church Hall, Main Street, Killearn
Saturday	24th	Callander Film Society showing "Boyhood" 7.30pm St Kessogs, Ancaster Square
Tuesday	27th	Bookbugs 2.30 – 3pm Drymen Library

What's On in November

Monday	2nd	Buchanan Community Council Meeting Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	5th	Chatterbooks 3.45 – 4.45pm Drymen Library
Saturday	7th	Callander Film Society showing "Kumiko" 7.30pm St Kessogs, Ancaster Square
Tuesday	17th	Strathendrick Embroiderers Guild meet Church Hall, Main Street, Killearn
Saturday	21st	Callander Film Society showing "Selma" 7.30pm St Kessogs, Ancaster Square
Tuesday	24th	Bookbugs 2.30 – 3pm Drymen Library

Regular Events

Sundays	Buchanan Church Service 10 am
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Online Stroke Resource:

A new online free self-management resource from Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland for anyone who has had a Stroke.
www.selfhelp4stroke.org

RVSP Forth Valley Handy Person Service

The Handy Person Service offers older people, those with disabilities or those unable presently to do things for themselves, support with minor jobs such as rewiring plugs, hanging curtains and unblocking sinks. The service is free, although donations are welcome. Find out if you are eligible for the scheme. Interested in volunteering?
Contact - John Brown 01259 928088 or email

Scottish Ambulance Service: Patient Opinion - www.patientopinion.org.uk is an online forum which allows patients and carers to give feedback on their experiences with the Scottish Ambulance Service. Watch a new video 'Patient Opinion -Tell Us Your Story' to find out how they respond to this feedback. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0x4135xAs5w>.

www.buchanan-lochlomond.org is run by a member of the community and some BCC information can be found there

The BCC Communicator will be distributed to all addresses within the Buchanan Community area. If you learn that you did not receive a copy and think you should have, please contact us on bcccommunicator@outlook.com. It is produced and distributed by a group of volunteers led by Lorna Buchanan who are accountable to the Community Council

Archives: All editions of the BCC Communicator will be held in the National Library of Scotland.