

The BCC Communicator

Buchanan CC News and Community's Views

Contact the editorial team at bcccommunicator@outlook.com

Buchanan Castle Estate Consultation

INVITATION to all Buchanan Castle Estate Residents

You are invited to attend a meeting at 4pm on Sunday 1st November arranged by the National Park.

Arrangement has been made with Buchanan Castle Golf Club to utilise the dining room within the Clubhouse to hold the meeting.

The aim of the meeting is to offer the residents the opportunity to voice their opinion on whether the new multiuser path through the Estate should be redirected from the current Core Path route along the bottom road to an alternative route closer to the castle. Options can be discussed on the day.

The meeting will be chaired by Tom Wallace, Chair of the Drymen Community Development Trust who has been leading on the development of the new "cycle paths" and is supported by His Grace the Duke of Montrose who is keen to offer the residents the opportunity to be consulted in this project.

If possible, please will you confirm your attendance by emailing Tom at drymen_community@yahoo.co.uk, but you will be welcome anyway.

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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

BCC Meeting: Mon 2nd Nov, 7:30pm, Memorial Hall

Agenda

Standard Items plus:

- Meetings attended
- PBB Conversation 28/9/15
- Opportunities for Community Councillor Training
- NHS Community Health news
- Roads Workshop Report
- Loch Lomond and Trossachs Community Partnership Gathering
- Date for workshop on Data Protection
- Review of Aberfoyle area bus routes (Balmaha /Balloch not affected) Drymen/ Glasgow C8 is up for review

Thanks to Stirling Council for a Connect Fund Grant designed to 'assist Community Councils to effectively communicate and widely engage with and involve their communities through consultation, developing local community plans, and communication'. The BCC can now print two more Communicators and mend noticeboards.

Stirling Council Priority Based Budgeting 2015-2105

Due to impending financial challenges the PBB (Priority Based Budgeting) process was initiated in 2013, and opened up to everyone a discussion about what the council spends and where it directs that spend. In the first two years of PBB, savings were achieved in a number of areas including - restructuring chief executive service, fleet car hire reductions, and procurement service improvements.

In this 3rd year of PBB a more flexible model has been introduced which will allow ideas to be developed throughout the year. To this end PBB seeks to engage with communities on a regular basis – community conversations have been held in 2015 including Balfron High School on 28th Sept. At that session senior officers

explained where the council budget money comes from and what it is spent on - heads of service then presented a series of transformational plans.

The PBB is not only about cuts but is looking for better ways of delivering council services – community input will be essential. PBB also allows the council to look seriously at income generation and spend to save opportunities. At the last council meeting a business plan was approved to develop a 5 Megawatt (MW) solar farm on a landfill site at Lower Polmaise. This will complement an existing scheme which has installed solar photovoltaic (PV)

on many council properties including houses and primary schools.

Locally at Mugdock Country Park we are looking to reduce the level of council grant and longer term put the park on a self-funding basis. The intention is to introduce car parking charges with a loyalty card for regular visitors. When first mooted there was significant resistance, but through considerable visitor and community engagement there has been a realization that this is a workable proposal.

My intention is to include a PBB update in all of my community council newsletters and to provide details of other initiatives

People's Forum: 0845 277 7000
shapingstirlingsfuture@stirling.gov.uk
shapingstirlingsfuture link can be found on <http://my.stirling.gov.uk>
Thank you. **Cllr Graham Lambie**

New Planning Committee Chair

After Owen MacKee's resignation from the Planning Committee, Petra Biberbach, a government appointed National Park Board member, has taken the Chair. Petra Biberbach is also Chief Executive of the charity 'Planning Aid Scotland', and she most recently helped to develop a sustainable tourism business in the Harz National Park in rural Germany.

Community Action Plan Update

After a rather elongated production process the Buchanan Community Action Plan (CAP) will be published shortly, and should be in your hands in a matter of weeks.

In simple terms, the Action Plan attempts to define what the community wishes to accomplish over the next three to five years, what specific activities this requires, in what timescale and, in our case, provides a starting point for identifying what resources are going to be needed, in the form of people, funding and materials.

It's important to remember that Buchanan's CAP has been put together by local people, and is our best effort to reflect the main issues identified during the consultation process that many of you took part in, via interviews, a written survey, and an open day.

Capturing community aspirations in the CAP has a number of benefits. First and foremost, it provides a degree of focus and direction for action by the Community Council and Community Partnership as well as "Community Champions" and volunteers. It also provides evidence of need and want from within the community to external agencies, and closely linked to this, it is an important component in securing funding for projects. For example, the East Loch Lomond alcohol and camping bylaws are a direct result of aspirations set out in the last Buchanan CAP.

If you want to be involved, either as a volunteer, or as a Community Champion, there are plenty of vacancies and opportunities. You will find the details of how to do this in the CAP.

Kevin Lilburn Sept 15

Note—Tom Wallace who handled the Buchanan CAP in his role as Development Manager, Community Partnership, advised the CAP Steering Group that he left the job on 23/9/15. The position has been advertised.

Refugee Crisis

Stirling Council has formed an operational group in response to the First Minister's announcement that Scotland stands ready to welcome refugees. Families could be accommodated first and single people in 2016.

Dog Fouling

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With the upgrade of Wilkie's Path, many new dog walkers are now circumnavigating Buchanan Castle Estate resulting in an increase in animal fouling or poo bags dropped in verges and bushes. Owners need to dispose of these off the Estate. The issue was passed to the cycle paths project owner, the Drymen Community Development Trust for discussion at their October meeting. Tom Wallace, the Chair, indicated that signage will be installed soon and he is asking for suggestions on how to control the issue. Unfortunately, as the Estate is privately owned, the Stirling Council Dog Warden is unlikely to help.

Legislation: The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 makes it an offence if you do not clean up after your dog in any public open space and owners can be fined. The Council provided 300,000 free poop scoop bags per year from Council offices, recreation centres and Drymen library has a good supply. Please help yourself.

Community Empowerment - Test Sites

Stirling Council is rolling out a new project which focuses on empowering communities to make decisions about services in their local area. Council Officers want to introduce ways in which local residents can work collaboratively with the Council, local businesses and partner organisations, to create new and improved ways of delivering services specifically tailored to their needs as a community.

Four different areas in Stirling have been chosen to take part in the 'Community Test Site Projects' – Cowie, Strathfillan and Killin, Stirling (Mercat Cross) and Strathblane, Balfron and Killearn – as these communities have expressed a desire to work in a different or innovative way, while providing a diverse mix of urban and rural geographies.

Over the summer, community views and aspirations have been gathered and local priorities are now being agreed, with Stirling Council now beginning to test unique solutions to local issues. These include more collaborative and innovative ways of packaging up the various services that the Council provides to our rural communities, more holistic approaches to supporting older citizens, investigating the possibility of providing services together in local community hubs and exploring more innovative community approaches to tackling crime.

Broadband Update...Action Required...Any volunteers?

At the invitation of Killearn Community Council, a BCC rep attended a Broadband Open Day on 24th October. Killearn has a very active Broadband Group. Killearn are close to having fibre based broadband. They have been told that 519 premises (58%) will be connected by early 2016. However, this is far short of the Scottish Government's target of at least 95% by the end of 2017.

KCC are exploring ways of extending coverage since it is clear that "exchange only" lines cannot deliver fibre based speeds unless the premises are close to the exchange. Conversations took place with several exhibitors -

Locust World explained and demonstrated a radio link based distribution system that has the ability to hop over distances of up to 20km. It is particularly suitable where the land topography makes it difficult to implement conventional cabling systems.

Ofcom indicated that BT/Openreach appear to react positively to competitive pressure. Thus apparently entrenched policies were sometimes revisited.

Community Broadband Scotland indicated that grant funding may be available to assist communities who will not be served by the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme. Our area might be eligible.

Dave Morris

If any proactive residents are interested in forming a Buchanan Broadband Group or have knowledge or useful contacts, please would you email the Communicator or phone Dave Morris on 660632 as soon as possible.

This year, the Roads Department is working with a budget of £5.813 million to cover a 1011km road network with a remit to maintain carriageways, footpaths, verges and road drainage systems. Council budgets across Scotland have been compromised in recent years resulting in general deterioration of roads nationally. Stirling Council's overall budget is £200 million which will reduce as the Priority Based Budgeting process delivers £25 million of savings over the next 5 years. Our Roads Team faces a real challenge, particularly when they recognise that 43.1% of roads (436km out of 1011km) need attention and £90 million is required to bring all roads up to standard. To stand still, 4% of road networks need to be resurfaced annually. This year's funding will allow around 3.3% of Stirling Council's road network to be resurfaced.

Prioritisation of work is carried out on a prescribed basis. A Class roads are surveyed annually, B and C roads every 2 years and unclassified roads every 5 years. A specialist inspection vehicle fitted with cameras provides analysis of surface condition, i.e. rutting, running profile, surface texture, edge

deterioration and cracking, then a map of deterioration produced. The Roads Maintenance schedule is then prioritised based on a formula taking account of surface condition, road classification, volume of traffic and skid resistance data. The inspection data also predicts the residual life of carriageways and indicates when in the future major work will be required.

Thirty eight percent (£2.235 million) of the current Roads budget is assigned to routine maintenance ie verges, spraying, emptying and upkeep of drains and culverts and filling potholes which takes the lion's share of this money.

The Roads Winter programme is by its nature variable and the gritting requirement has varied between 4000 and 8000 tonnes of salt over the last few years. Winter weather and salt for treating ice and snow adversely affect road condition. The freezing/thawing action of weather causes roads to crack and salt attracts moisture that leads to water ingress into the road make up. When that water turns to ice it expands and causes the cracks to widen to a point where surface failure occurs.

Info courtesy of Jamie Wright, Roads Services

Roads Meeting: Repairs, Maintenance, Verges, Overhanging Vegetation, Traffic Calming

Resurfacing Brought Forward

Previously, Balmaha Main Street was set for resurfacing in March 2016 then the Stuc an T'Saigart section of the B837 in the following financial year. Work can start on the Balmaha pavement now and the road before Christmas. The Stuc an T'Saigart stretch has been brought forward to February and pavement preparation work, eg kerb upstands, will take place over the Winter months.

Balmaha will benefit from new inlay (surface is replaced entirely) and the Stuc section will be strengthened through new edging and patching followed by an overlay. Roads services will also look at the remaining path to Milton of Buchanan under their maintenance programme and hope to improve the worst areas.

If the weather is particularly harsh, there may be some time slippage but the BCC will be kept fully informed of schedule adjustments.

Both jobs will require week-long road closures to comply with safety legislation which ensures that the teams have a 1.2m safe zone.

Both new surfaces will be protected for 3 years meaning any utility company or developer digging will be obliged to replace the carriage way for 15m either side of the excavations at his own cost.

Consultation

The Roads department invite views from businesses and residents on the suitability of proposed road closure times 9 - 10.30am, 11am - 1pm, 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Please contact BCC with comments before Meeting on 2 Nov.

The C6 The Roads Team agreed that the C6 is not in great condition due in part to steep sided bankings above ditches; Winter overflow and repeated icing weakens the structure. Work is planned to improve the ditches at Critreoch and ditch clearance will be undertaken near Forestry Cottages to protect last year's resurfacing. The condition of The Pass was highlighted and range and cost of strengthening techniques discussed for future reference.

Balmaha Issues Concerns over ineffective traffic calming measures in the village are to be referred to the Roads Traffic Management Team who deal with new features as well as need for line painting outside Arrochoile to deter parking and a wish for a roundabout to ease traffic flow at the carpark. The details of the owner of the field adjacent to Arrochoile will be passed to Roads Maintenance so field drainage can be discussed and resolved before manhole repairs sometime the future. Vegetation at Montrose House is problematic due to unknown land ownership.

Overgrown Vegetation on the C6 The Roads officers agreed that this is a significant problem. The difficulty lies in the number of landowners, the requirement for road closures for work and perceived reluctance from the Forestry Commission to fulfil their obligations. Roads will do all they can to help people and recommend a coordinated approach to work so that closures can be arranged for maximum effect. They can also arrange subcontractors to undertake projects on the behalf of landowners and, ultimately, carry out and bill remedial work. Please contact the Roads Maintenance Team if you would like further information.

Land Owners: Please could you let the BCC know if you are willing to explore synchronising your future work and wish to hear about the Roads timetable for their own verge maintenance programme.

Buchanan Smithy Issues

Flashing lights at speed restriction signs was considered as a means of reducing speed through the village, however the budget for these has been abolished. A drop in the speed limit could be considered and a supporting report from the police would be useful. Due to incidences of punctures, the kerb heights to the West of the cottages will be checked for compliance with new legislation—height 75mm. Installation of a mirror to assist egress onto the B837 from the Terrace will be passed to the relevant team.

Many thanks to Roads Officers David Maley and Kenny Snedden and Cllr Muirhead for chairing the meeting.

Cllr Attendees: LB BC AH DM AP JT

What's On in November

Monday	1-30th	Charity Christmas cards on sale in Drymen Library
Monday	2nd	Buchanan Community Council Meeting Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Monday	2nd	Councillor Berrill's Surgery 7pm to 7:30pm Buchanan Memorial Hall
Friday	6th	Strathendrick Film Society: 'The Producers'. Balfron Campus. Show starts 7:30pm . £4.
Saturday	7th	Community Partnership Gathering. 9:30am start to the day. Gartmore Village Hall.
Sunday	8th	Remebrance Day Service .Drymen Church then parade to Meomorial and short service
Thursday	12th	History Talk McLintock Hall Balfron Heritage Grp David Smith: Napoleon's Fintry Connection 7:30-9pm
Sunday	15th	Stirling Reindeer Parade. Time unknown going to press but check www.stirling.gov.uk
Tuesday	17th	Strathendrick Embroiderers Guild meet Church Hall, Main Street, Killearn
Friday	20th	Strathendrick Film Society: 'Still Alice' Balfron Campus. Show starts 7:30pm. £4.
Saturday	21st	Village Christmas Fayre. Drymen Hall. 12pm-3pm
Sunday	22nd	RSPB Gartocharn Sunrise Goosewatch £5/£2.50. 06:45—9am. Must book: loch.lomond@rspb.org.uk
Tuesday	24th	Preschool Bookbugs 2.30 – 3pm Drymen Library. Illustrator Kate Leiper visiting
Tuesday	24th	Book Week... Author Event: Karen Campbell. Drymen Church Hall. 7:15-9:15pm
Thurs	26th	Love Your Library Day. Coffee and Cake in Drymen Library from 10am to 12:30pm
Thurs/Fri	26-27	Art exhibition 'Perry Harrison' + charity sale of sketches. Kirk Rooms, Strathblane. 10-1pm and 7-9pm

What's On in December

Friday	4th	Strathendrick Film Society: Disney's 'Fantasia. Balfron Campus. Show starts 7:30pm. £4.
Saturday	5th	Croftamie Nursery Christmas Fayre
Thursday	10th	Christmas Carols with Croftamie Nursery 10:15am - 12:15pm
	19th	RSPB Gartocharn: Winter Crafts and Lantern Walk 3-5pm Family £10. Book:loch.lomond@rspb.org.uk
Thursday	24th	Drymen Church Christingle 4pm - Joint with Buchanan
Thursday	24th	Drymen Church Watchnight Service 11:15pm - Joint with Buchanan
Friday	25th	Buchanan Church Service 11am - Joint with Drymen
Sunday	27th	Drymen Church Christmas Service 11am - Joint with Buchanan

Regular Events

Sundays	Buchanan Church Service 10 am
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Welcome to Dr Cheema who is our new GP at Drymen Health Centre from December.

Crossroads Caring Scotland: Practical support for Scotland's Carers, West Stirlingshire SCO 13081 Drymen Committee writes...

Many residents will be aware that the week beginning 7th September 2015 was the collection week for Crossroads Caring Scotland, the local charity for looking after carers. This year the total for Drymen , Croftamie and Balmaha districts was £17795. A huge THANK YOU to all who contributed and to the collectors for their time and energy.

The RBS Mobile Branch Banking service in the Stirling Road car park Drymen, can accept deposits, cash withdrawals*, bill payments, and has an on-board customer phone facilities for contacting central areas to enquire about loans, credit cards, mortgages, insurance, etc. Please REMEMBER to take photographic ID eg full passport, UK Driving Licence (Current, Provisional or Full).

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

Balfron 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
 Remember Photo ID

Waste and Recycling Collections
 Brown Bins **Nov 11,**
 Grey Bins **Nov 4, 18 Dec 2, 16, 30 Jan 13, 27**
Stirling Council 0845 277 7000 Register Issues

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

Police Scotland
 Call 101 for non urgent matters

NHS 24 Free Calls Now
 Call 111 for medical advice

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

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.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this publication is accurate, the Buchanan Community Council and Buchanan Editors cannot accept liability for matters outwith their control. We do not do endorse any organisations or companies mentioned herein. Editorial Team: L Buchanan and A Peebles