

The Communicator

Email: buchananccsecretary@outlook.com Web: buchanancc.org

Interim Elections

Nominations close 4pm on Friday 21st October

Your Community Council needs Your Help

If you are over 16 and have an interest in looking after our unique rural community please complete a nomination form THIS WEEK to become a Buchanan Community Councillor. The current Councillors can recommend the job as being both interesting and rewarding.

Buchanan Community Council currently has 6 vacancies and a minimum of 4 places must be filled in the current Interim Elections or the Community Council will fold.

Losing the Community Council is Serious

The Community Council is the local statutory consultee. Its main objective is to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community which it represents, to liaise with other community groups within the area, and to fairly express the diversity of opinions and outlooks of the people

Having no Community Council would mean residents wouldn't have a formal voice on planning issues, licensing, provision of services and initiatives coming from the National Park Authority, Stirling Council, Rural Stirling Housing Association and other agencies.

Short Term Commitment

Due to the vacancies arising mid-term, the commitment will only be for 2 years.

What to Do

Stirling Council is managing this interim election. Nomination forms have to be submitted to Stirling Council by 4pm on Friday 21st October. They are available by email from the BCC secretary, at Drymen Library or on the Stirling Council website.

<http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/community-life-and-leisure/communityadvice/community-councils-and-assemblies/community-councils-information>

Any Questions?

For more details of what we do, please look at The Communicator and our new website, www.buchanancc.org.

The Councillors would be happy to answer any questions and look forward to welcoming you into the team.

Community Councillors

Dave Morris 660632,
Audrey Peebles 661304,
Lorna Buchanan 660700

BCC Meeting, Buchanan Memorial Hall

Mon 7th November, 7:30pm
All Welcome.

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New Era for BCC

The climate in which community councils operate has changed substantially over the last year and Buchanan Community Council is transforming accordingly.

Communities now have a say in how services are delivered and Stirling Council is actively paving the way for this. Last week the Chief Executive of Stirling Council, Stewart Carruth, and four of his senior staff asked to meet local community organisations. Community councillors from Buchanan, Croftamie, Buchlyvie, Arnprior and Kippen discussed local issues and began to explore areas where Community Councils and Stirling Council officers could work together to tailor local solutions.

Best Practice

Stirling Council officers brought along a copy of the revised 'National Standards for Communication Engagement' which had launched a few days before. Our CC secretary was involved with the review which was commissioned by Scottish Government to produce best practice principles to support Scotland's developing community empowerment landscape and inform the way that government agencies, councils, health boards, police and other public bodies engage with communities.

Buchanan Transport Question?

Alan Milliken, Head of 'Communities and People; Children, Communities and Enterprise' and the BCC are meeting later this month to focus on local transport provision in Buchanan and explore how services could be delivered. We are keen to hear your views on current arrangements, your travel needs and ideas you may have for doing things differently. We bear in mind the current economic climate. Please email or phone.

Following the resignation of a number of councillors earlier in the year, those remaining have been sponsored by Stirling Council to continue as an interim committee until elections can be held to restore the council to full strength.

In the interim period, the BCC finances have been examined by Stirling Council and the new treasurer will assume the position formally and within the next week when the office bearers of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer become signatories to the BCC bank account. The new treasurer will have no responsibility for transactions prior to the date of signing at bank.

Financial procedures will be drawn up so that all documentation and transactions are easily traceable and visible to the community via the website.

A financial statement has been prepared for the period March 2014 (from when sequential bank statements are available) to 2nd August 2016.

The most significant item over this period was the donation of £6000 to the Buchanan Memorial Hall Committee. The Hall Committee was not present at the community council meeting of 27th June when the donation formally proposed by W McAlister and D Fraser - the vote was then carried by the Community Councillors who have now resigned. The rationale for the donation was that the Buchanan Memorial Hall was in financial difficulty, everyone in the community makes use of it, and the £6000 sum was community money largely raised several years previously from sales of the book 'Buchanan Remembered'.

Taking uncashed cheques into account, the donation left the BCC current account in deficit by £527.75. This, plus the deposit account balance of £647.09, gave the BCC total assets of £119.34. Grant money of £432.72 had been ring-fenced for the Communicator.

A deposit of £1000 (29th June) from the Balmaha Village Shop for sales of the book 'Buchanan Remembered' leaves the bank total on August 2nd at £1,339.34 with one cheque for £220 written on 10th July 2016 still to be cashed: for sanding, re-varnishing and sign-writing on the noticeboards (work not yet complete).

The remaining community councillors have not been given access to the former BCC Secretary email account, CC files, documentation or archives.

Questions From the Floor

At the Buchanan CC meeting on 9th September, under agenda item 'Questions from The Floor', Sandy Fraser of Balmaha asked that the CC publicly acknowledges the long service and contribution made by the Community Councillors who resigned around the time of the June meeting. The Chair agreed to include the request in the next Communicator.

In Buchanan we have the 309 bus service which connects Balmaha to Balloch and, once in Drymen, we also had the option of using the C8 which ran from Balfron round by Drymen then Glasgow-wards. The C8 bus service stopped on 1st August due to the high cost of operating the route with very low passenger numbers. The service, hourly when introduced, has withered to a skeletal service which was not attractive to bus users. Stirling Council has replaced the C8 with Demand Responsive Transport.

Connect to Bus Services and Neighbouring DRT Areas

DRT ('Taxi' Service) journeys can either connect with existing public transport or simply be to another destination within the DRT area. The newest DRT map spans Balfron, Drymen, Croftamie and Ballat, so Buchanan is not included. This is because access to the bus service (309) running through our area has not changed. We can, however, access the DRT service from Drymen and we can also extend any travel into adjoining DRT areas. For example, it's possible to access Callander, Aberfoyle, Kippen via Balfron, and Blanefield. Travel can be for any purpose and people visiting the area can use the service too. Regular block bookings can be made and this is particularly useful for Balfron High pupils needing to get back to Drymen after extra curricular clubs and activities.

Choose Your Time

With DRT, a taxi will pick you up at a bus stop at the time of your choosing and the cost is subsidised so the fare is comparable to that of a bus. For example, for the 5 miles trip from Drymen to Balfron Co-op bus stop, expect to pay around £3.90 (adult), £1.90 (child), ½ off when using a YoungScot card or free with your National Entitlement card. Taxis may be shared with others wishing to travel along the same route at the same time. Bookings must be made by 3pm the day before, but if you need to travel at shorter notice you may be able to share a prearranged trip so it's worth phoning to ask what cars are running. The DRT organiser may be able to have the taxi make a pick-up in Buchanan in which case the user would pay the full fare to Drymen and the subsidised rate from there onwards.

How to Book

If possible, please book online via Stirling Council's DRT page. Your request will be handled by staff who will contact you with details of your taxi provider. Alternatively, phone 01786 404040, Option3, Option 1 to organise your journey, especially if you need advice on times of connecting services. General enquiries are via drt@stirling.gov.uk.

Telephone bookings can be made on Mondays to Fridays 9am to 3pm, except 25th and 26th December and 1st and 2nd January in any year. Bookings for Tuesday to Saturdays must be made by 3pm on the previous day. Bookings for Sundays (where available) and Mondays must be made by 3pm on the previous Friday.

Bookings can be submitted online at any time, although requests submitted on a Saturday or Sunday or after 3pm on a working day will be treated as having been received on the next working day. 'Working day' means any Monday to Friday other than 25th and 26th December and 1st and 2nd January in any year.

Follow the link for journey information on each area and find the online form link at the foot of the page.

<http://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/social-care-and-health/community-transport/community-transport-on-demand-transport/transport-demand-responsive-transport>

As the meeting started, Buchanan CC noted:

- No representatives of the East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group were present.
- The new Camping Management Byelaws had never been discussed by Buchanan CC elected members; it had never been an agenda item at any meetings.

Simon Jones, Director of Conservation and Visitor Management, presented an update.

The National Park's objective is to transform the experience of campers, tourists, locals and businesses around the busiest loch shores in the National Park using three approaches:

- Encourage enjoyment and respect by promoting positive behaviours and teaching wild camping
- Improve facilities including set-up of new low key camping areas
- Implementation of byelaws including use of fixed penalties

There will be four managed camping zones within the Park and the East Loch Lomond side will be expanded to include the Drymen Bridge area.

An **initial** 300 pitches across the Park will be delivered by March 2017. To manage demand, pitches will be allocated centrally so when sites become full at peak times, campers can be diverted to less busy areas. East Loch Lomond is regarded as being reasonably well off for spaces so only a small increase in pitch numbers is required. Provision is needed for walkers, cyclist and drivers in West Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

New campsites will fall into two categories:

Semi-formal managed sites – charges not yet set but expected to be £5-£7 per night but free to organised groups such as Scouts, Guides, Duke of Edinburgh.

Sites will be similar to Salloch where there are toilets, water and parking

Wild campsites – charges have not been set yet but are expected to be around £3 per night.

Larger sites will have seasonal toilets

Smaller sites will have no facilities and responsible toileting is encouraged.

Rangers will be deployed via a central control centre and move around the campsites as required to educate visitors on how to camp, ensure compliance with the byelaws and the payment structure.

The Park hopes to announce their plans at the end of the year as they are still in negotiations with landowners. Contracts are going out for management of the booking system and new signage is being designed. A budget of £500,000 has been allocated to the project. The Park must report to government annually and there will a review after 3 years.

Q&A session**Will the National Park commit to consult Buchanan Community Council and residents on formation of all new sites?**

Larger sites will require planning permission and comments can be made via that process. Mr Jones was unable to offer commitment for consultation on the night but emailed the following after the meeting:

Engagement with local residents

The question was asked whether there would be consultation with local residents ahead of the creation of any new campsites or camping permit areas within the new East Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone. Further details of campsites and permit areas will be released in the coming weeks, but these sites will be focused on areas where informal wild camping already exists and are designed to manage these sites in a more sustainable manner. Should proposals emerge for campsites with facilities that would require planning permission, then these would involve neighbour notification as a matter of course. Should subsequent campsite proposals emerge from private landowners in time, then the National Park Authority would be keen to ensure that sufficient discussions take place with local residents to take all views on board, including local community councils.

What is the view on camp fires?

Irresponsible fire lighting is not permissible. Campsites like Salloch offer hire of fire pits and sale of wood.

Will you be providing parking spaces for wild camping?

Existing spaces will be used - parking controls are already in place.

Will there be adequate litter collection? This is an ongoing problem in the Buchanan area.

The Park Authority is working with the four local authorities to develop a joint litter policy. There is an education programme to encourage people to take their rubbish home. Provision of bins is too expensive.

Is there a danger that the problems Buchanan previously experienced will return as the Park promotes wild camping - people may choose to set up in non-designated areas and not to pay.

It's the NPA's job to ensure people enjoy the Park sensibly and sustainably.

Will the byelaws cause displacement?

Sites around the edges of the camping zones will be monitored.

What calculations have you done regarding degradation of human waste, how is capacity of a wild toileting site gauged and what risk assessment have you done?

Sites will be monitored for sustainability and, if required, the number of pitches can be reduced or camping stopped. Sites generally will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and demand will be monitored. Some camps may only have 5 or 6 pitches, others may absorb more than expected.

The old byelaws will be rescinded as the new byelaws come into being - will there be any effect on the alcohol ban?

Mr Jones later clarified by email:

Alcohol byelaws

I can confirm that there will be no change to the local authority alcohol byelaws currently in operation on East Loch Lomond, as a result of the new camping byelaws coming into force on the 1st March 2017.

Forestry Commission update

Work on the Blue Path at Balmaha has been delayed until the end of the year.

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

Public Transport Buses

www.travelinescotland.com
 309 Balmaha – Bonhill
 DRT 01786 404040 Opt

Drymen Post Office

Monday - Friday 9am – 5pm
 Closed for lunch 12:30 – 13:30pm
 Saturday 9am – 1pm

Police Scotland ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk
 Call 101 for non urgent matters

NHS 24 Free Calls Now
 Call 111 for medical advice

buchanancc.org
bcccommunicator@outlook.com

New bins for the Buchanan area will be rolled out in the next fortnight. Please take note of paperwork which comes with them and start using them immediately as new diary states. Smaller bins are available on request. Boxes are now redundant and can be retained for other uses, otherwise the Council will pick them up at some point.

Balmaha Congestion and Parking Request

The BCC is asking local residents to provide photographic evidence of any parking problems in Balmaha. Photographs along with the date and time of incident included and a description of the extent of the problem will help us develop an evidence base. Please send them to the BCC secretary at buchananccsecretary@outlook.com. Cllr Muirhead will investigate with the Council what levels of enforcement for decriminalised parking can be expected in Balmaha in future.

Traffic calming measures at Milton of Buchanan

Following consultation with attendees at the September BCC meeting, the Community Council advised Stirling Council that we didn't want a road narrowing build-out in Milton of Buchanan. This has been accepted.

Footpath upgrade works started on 10th October for a period of 3 to 5 weeks. This will allow the road resurfacing next March when the scope of work will include highlighting cycle tracks through the village.

Memorial Hall Update

The BCC Chairman stated at the September meeting that the Community Council was keen to support the Buchanan Memorial Hall Committee to safeguard the hall's future for the community and invited the Hall committee via Maggie Milner to attend the next meeting, 7th November, to bring the community up to date with their plans for the Hall.

Volunteer for the Community Council

Fill out the Nomination form today.

They're available at Drymen Library or by
 emailing the BCC secretary: buchananccsecretary@outlook.com

<http://www.stirling.gov.uk/documents/temporary-uploads/governance-and-resource/cc-elections/candidates-pack.pdf>

The National Park on Parking Charges

In response to the National Park's request for comment on their intention to charge at their car parks, the BCC requested free parking for residents at Milarrochy and provision of a single ticket that covers all East Loch Lomond car parks irrespective of ownership.

Mairi Bell, Head of Visitor Experience, LLTNP, has now advised us our request for free residents' permits would not be possible. At Lubnaig, where there is already carpark charging in place, the Park Authority operates a residents' permit scheme for a nominal £5 fee and the NPA would expect a similar scheme for other car parks.

Responding to the request for a ticket to cover all car parks, Mairi replied: "This is our aspiration but with different authorities and different systems already in place this is something we are aiming for in the longer term".

The cost of parking will again be similar to the current charges at Lubnaig which are £1 for 1 hour, £2 for 2 hours and £4 all day.

The NPA's intention is to have a parking management system that works by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). This will charge people based on how long they park and is operated remotely. With the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system a camera will record when a vehicle enters the car park and the visitor will then pay at the end of their visit at a payment machine in the car park. If payment is not made, a penalty notice will be issued. The scheme will be enforced by a company contracted to manage car park charging.

It is the NPA's intention that these measures will be introduced for Spring 2017.

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