

Community News Sheet

Update on community issues

November 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the November edition of Stirling Council's Community News Sheet.

We have included a host of information which we hope that you will find useful – if you have any questions about any of the information – or would like to know more – please don't hesitate to contact us on 01786 233076 or email communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk

Community Planning in Stirling and the development of a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)

Community Planning is the term used to describe how public services work together with local communities and third sector organisations to plan and deliver services that will improve quality of life and tackle inequalities. It is based on the principle that by working together, we can achieve much more than we would trying to do things on our own and collectively we can resolve complex and deep rooted inequalities in our communities.

Community planning is not new and there has been a Community Planning Partnership operating in Stirling for 20 years. However, a new Act called the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has made amendments to community planning and it is now a statutory requirement for a number of public sector bodies to participate in the community planning process. The Act has also placed a duty on 5 public sector bodies to own and lead the community planning process. The 5 key partners are Stirling Council, NHS Forth Valley, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Scottish Enterprise.

The Community Empowerment Act clarifies the purpose of community planning. In a nutshell, community planning is now about how public bodies work better together, and with local communities, to plan for, resource and provide services that improve local outcomes and reduce inequalities.

Community Planning Partnerships have a statutory duty to prepare and publish a 10 year strategic plan setting out the high level outcomes they want to achieve and their partnership approach to making this happen. This high level plan is called a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and will be underpinned by detailed Locality Action Plans for our most disadvantaged communities.

The LOIP must be developed from a strong foundation of understanding of our area. In Stirling, data and evidence has been captured from national, regional and local sources to provide an understanding of the differing levels of need and inequality across Stirling. Community planning partners have also worked in conjunction with a community sounding board and third sector representatives to develop the LOIP.

A consultative draft LOIP is now prepared and a series of engagement events are being planned for January 2018. An on-line consultation will also be launched early in the New Year. Further details on LOIP engagement and consultation will be available in the next edition of this newsheet.

Review of Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils

The first phase of the review closed at the end of November, we want to thank everybody that contributed to the survey and to those Community Councillors who attended the Community Council conference at the end of November.

There was over 399 responses to the survey with a wide range of contributors from individuals, community councillors to elected members and Stirling Council Officers.

On Saturday 25 November 2017, community councillors came together to receive feedback on the online survey and to discuss the key themes of governance, boundaries, representation, communication and resources.

This information will inform proposed and improvements to the amendments to the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. This will be presented during the 2nd Phase Consultation starting in March 2018.

Rural Transport

Stirling Council is stepping in to help residents in rural locations who have been cut off by a lack of transport options with a range of new measures. The rural communities of Drymen, Buchlyvie, Callander and Killin were identified as areas to target as part of a transport review using census data looking at key demographics and current transport links.

Before agreeing which solution(s) to implement a community survey was carried out to identify the transport needs of these community and confirm the main transport gaps. An online survey was live between 30 June 2017 and 31 August 2017 with in total 531 respondents across the council area in addition to feedback from local consultation events within the communities.

The £140,000 project includes a new shopping bus service and a social bus service to rural areas, an online transport booking service, and a youth scheme to help school pupils develop their own ideas to improve accessibility to rural areas.

The funding will also help develop a new improved Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) online booking service, which will allow users to manage their own bookings, make same day bookings, and receive text alerts confirming the DRT operator, phone number and fare.

Pupils from Balfron and McLaren High Schools, working in conjunction with Young Scot, will also be given the opportunity to develop their own ideas to overcome transport barriers in rural Stirling via a Youth Innovation Solution project.

Further details of all these initiatives as they develop will be available soon on www.stirling.gov.uk/ruraltransport

Online benefits and employment advice platform

Stirling Council has launched the **Better Off platform** which will seek to significantly improve the way customers access benefits and employment advice. The web-platform, will show people the benefits they are entitled to and will provide help to apply for them online. Better Off also provides information on how to find and apply for jobs.

The web platform, accessed from the Council's website, will offer secure and confidential access with Libraries across the Stirling region offering access to the platform.

Our aim is to put money in people's pockets faster. The tools include:

- An income maximisation calculator, enabling customers to find out what benefits they are entitled to.
- Applications and appeals, to apply for a benefit or appeal a benefit decision.
- Employment advice, search for jobs and volunteering opportunities and record your job search activity.
- Advice on finding jobs, childcare, budgeting and debt issues.

For more information or use the platform - <https://stirling.betteroff.org.uk/#/home>

Crowdfunding Stirling

Crowdfund Stirling is a new initiative to support businesses and communities across our area. It provides an opportunity to crowdfund and promote all types of projects, giving projects a digital presence with access to a large network of potential supporters. Stirling Council is also providing match funding for some businesses, communities and individuals for projects which promote economic growth.

Crowdfunding is an innovative method of supporting projects by asking large amounts of people to pledge or donate small amounts of money to take an idea forward. Using networks and social media, projects have the potential to reach new audiences and raise the money needed to take a project forward.

Guides and information are available online but if you would like more information on how you can become involved contact -

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/crowdfund-stirling>

16 Days of Action

The '16 Days of Action' is an international campaign that calls for the elimination of violence against women and children. It was started by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The 16 Days run from November 25th (International Day against Violence against Women) through to December 10th (International Human Rights Day) with the aim of reframing women's rights as human rights.

Following the success of last year's event, Forth Valley Rape Crisis are planning another Reclaim the Night (RTN) event in Stirling, also with a theme of 'Space for Action.' This is open to people of all genders. Anyone wishing to come along should gather at Stirling Castle esplanade car park at 6.30pm on Thursday 7 December in advance of setting off through Stirling at 7pm with some fantastic musical support. Everyone should arrive at Stirling Indoor Bowling Club, Riverside, just before 8pm, where they will be treated to some welcome snacks, home-baking and refreshments and an after party.

For more information on events see -

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=605995662793458&id=425553627504330

Stirling Libraries rolls out "Every Child a Library Member" to local nurseries

A project to make sure every child in Scotland has access to the library is now being rolled out to nurseries across the Stirling area – with children benefitting from online access and no fines. Using their new library cards, children can borrow books and enjoy free comic books and e-books online.

The national project, titled "Every Child a Library Member" is funded by the Scottish Government and aims to encourage more children to use their local library. The rollout of the Every Child a Library Member scheme will reach nurseries across the Stirling area over the next year.

Police Scotland Rural Initiative

Police Scotland have recently starting a monthly initiative which involves them using the Mobile Police Office to visit rural villages to offer local people the chance to meet their local officers and speak to them on Policing matters. The dates and times are as follows:

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 2017

10am - 11am - Riverside Car Park, Aberfoyle
11.15am-12.15pm - Village Hall, Gartmore
12.30pm-1.30pm - Main Street, Thornhill
2pm-3pm - Doune Ponds Car Park, Doune

MONDAY 8TH JANUARY, 2018

10am - 11am - Riverside Car Park, Aberfoyle
11.15am-12.15pm - Village Hall, Gartmore
12.30pm-1.30pm - Main Street, Thornhill
2pm-3pm - Doune Ponds Car Park, Doune

Buchlyvie Play Park upgrade

Buchlyvie Community Association upgrade their play park in Buchlyvie and enabled the Primary School to be the first school in Scotland and the first primary school ever to secure NIBAS (National Indoor Bouldering Award Scheme) Level 1 and 2 Accreditation. Bouldering is a form of climbing usually practiced on small rock boulders, or at indoor walls.



Parent volunteer and course director, Mark Henley-King says "We've been running a bouldering after-school club using the Buchlyvie boulder since 2015. I'm thrilled that we can offer this formal accreditation programme to young people in Buchlyvie. We have eight young aspiring climbers who are now registered with NIBAS and are working towards their Level 1 Award."

The Buchlyvie boulders are located in the village's play park making it an open access play facility. The views from the top of the big boulder are spectacular. The boulders were designed and built by the artificial climbing wall specialists, Rockworks. "This project has been a great example of collaboration," says Anne Winther, Chair of Buchlyvie Community Association. "We couldn't have done it without the help of Mountaineering Scotland and Active Stirling who helped us select the boulder design."

The project to redevelop the Buchlyvie Play Park over the last eight years was managed by Buchlyvie Community Association (A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC043330), who have worked in partnership with Stirling Council's Land Services and Community Engagement Team.

Torbrex Community Choir

Torbrex Community Choir are having their annual Christmas Concert on Friday 8th Dec at 7.30pm in St Columba's Church. Proceeds in aid of Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

A further concert will also take place in Kippen Parish Church on Thursday 7th December at 7.30pm – donations at door.

Scottish Government Consultation -

Local Bus Services in Scotland – Improving the Framework for Delivery

With around 400 million (three quarters of all public transport) journeys made by bus and the sector facing significant challenges. The Scottish Government are consulting on the legislative framework governing bus services which they consider can be improved to make it more flexible and viable, whether a transport authority wishes to pursue partnership working, local franchising or even running their own buses.

Closes 5 Dec 2017

<https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/improving-bus-services/>

A healthier future - action and ambitions on diet, activity and healthy weight

This consultation document proposes a range of actions to improve diet and weight in Scotland. In launching the consultation, the Government announced funding of £42 million over the next 5 years to expand services. Other proposals include: action on junk food advertising; preventative services including information, advice and support for children and families on healthy eating; practical support for food manufacturers to reformulate and develop healthier products.

Closes 31 Jan 2018

<https://consult.gov.scot/health-and-social-care/a-healthier-future/>

Empowering Schools: A consultation on the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill

The Education (Scotland) Bill is to create a school and teacher-led education system. The Bill will establish a Headteachers' Charter and aims to improve parental and community engagement in school life and in learning outside of school, and strengthen the voice of children and young people, by actively promoting and supporting pupil participation.

The Bill will also enable registration of other educational professionals with the Education Workforce Council, taking on the responsibilities of the GTCS and Community Learning and Development Standards Council. This will establish professional standards for other education professionals within the workforce.

Closes 30 Jan 2018

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/>

Fuel Poverty Strategy Consultation

The consultation document seeks views on an approach that brings together actions from across government, and across society, to create a comprehensive strategy to deliver reductions in fuel poverty.

Closes 1 Feb 2018

<https://consult.gov.scot/better-homes-division/fuel-poverty/>

Community Woodland Survey & Resource

Central Scotland Green Network Trust has launched an online survey and resource to help groups who would like to manage and create a community woodland. They are working with the Community Woodlands Associations and Forestry Commission Scotland to gather information on community woodlands within the CSGN area. The aim is to identify their support needs which can be address in the future.

<http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/campaigns/community-woodlands>

Building Stronger Communities Vision, Mission and Values

Wednesday 21st February 2018 from 7.00 – 9.00pm
Venue: Wallace Room, Old Viewforth

A vision statement focuses on tomorrow and what a group or organization wants to ultimately become. A mission statement focuses on today and what a group or organisation does to achieve it. Both are vital in directing goals. An organisation's values are its guiding principles which apply across the organisation and underpin how its work is carried out.

This course is aimed at:

People who shape and drive their community and/or voluntary organisations. Those who want to define what their organisation is striving to do and use this to promote to the wider community or funders.

By the end of the session participants will:-

- Understand the importance of a vision and mission statement
- Discuss and draft their group's values
- Discuss and draft their group's vision and mission statements

Booking is essential – to book – www.stirling.gov.uk/BSCTraining or call 01786 233076.

PVG Training

Monday 11th December 2017/ Tuesday 13th March 2018

1:30pm to 4:30pm

Venue: Jubilee House, Forthside Way, Stirling, FK8 1QZ

Cost: FREE

Aim: To have a clear understanding of who requires to be PVG checked, and who does not and to develop an understanding of what the criteria is for undertaking a PVG check within your own organisation.

Objectives

- Understand what the PVG Scheme is
- Know which PVG application form to use
- Understand how to interpret the disclosure information received
- Understand legal requirements

To book - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pvg-training-tickets-38432302050>

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

'Your Voice'

Date - December 13th, 2017 11:00 am - 3:00pm

Venue – To be confirmed

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and Nourish Scotland are working together to develop support for Community Growing Initiatives to explore how they can use their voice effectively at a group, local, regional and national level. Awareness of the benefits of community growing is increasing, however there are many ways in which decision making processes could more effectively support community growing groups. This workshop will be an informal and confidential platform for people to share their learning, and to try to draw out learning and processes for other groups. Lunch will be provided.

More information and to book—

www.farmgarden.org.uk/events/your-voice-scotland

New Data Protection

As you may be aware, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) replaces the current Data Protection Act and comes into force on 25 May 2018. Regulated by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the GDPR strengthens the rules around personal data and requires organisations to be more accountable and transparent. It also gives people greater control over their own personal data.

Like the Data Protection Act, the GDPR applies to 'personal data'. However, the GDPR's definition is more detailed and makes it clear that information such as an online identifier – eg an IP address – can be personal data. The more expansive definition reflects changes in technology and the new ways organisations collect information about people.

For most organisations it should make little practical difference if they already comply with data protection. However the ICO have information on their website and have launched a dedicated advice line on to help small organisations and charities prepare for a new data protection law. The GDPR applies to all EU member states but gives them limited opportunities to make provisions for how it applies in their country. This has meant the British Government has created a Data Protection Bill which is currently going through parliament and covers aspects like national security, immigration and the role of the ICO which is not in the GDPR.

For more information see

Website – <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/business/>

Advice Line - 0303 123 1113

The Nineveh charitable trust

This Trust supports a broad range of UK-based projects and activities of benefit to the General Public, with an emphasis on promoting better understanding of the environment and countryside, whilst facilitating improved access, education and research. They are keen to get more applications from Scotland.

Next deadline – no deadlines

<https://www.ninevehtrust.org.uk/>

EST - Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund

Transport Scotland's Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund is an opportunity for public, community and third sector organisations to apply for funding under the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 Programme to facilitate the delivery of active travel and low carbon transport hubs.

Next deadline - 19 Jan 2018

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/businesses-organisations/transport/low-carbon-travel-and-transport-challenge-fund>

Youthlink Scotland - CashBack for Communities Youth Work Fund

The CashBack for Communities Youth Work Fund aims build the capacity of young people and the youth work organisations who work to support them. They welcome proposals for the delivery of targeted youth work activity programmes which provide diversionary youth work activities for young people aged 10 to 24 who face one or more forms of disadvantage.

Next deadline: 15 December 2017

<https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/funding/cashback-for-communities/cashback-for-communities-youth-work-fund/>

Grow Wild Community Project Funding 2018

Awards of £2000 or £4000 are available for groups to transform their space or to do something new or creative projects that help communities and celebrate our native wild flowers, plants and fungi.

Deadline – 15th January 2018

<https://www.growwilduk.com/content/community-project-funding-2018>

Comic Relief – Tech for Good

UK Tech for Good funding programme will fund up to 12 digital projects each with grants of up to £47,000. Projects must address one of our four programme areas: Empowering Women and Girls, Investing in Children and Young People, Building Stronger Communities or Improving Health and Wellbeing.

Next deadline – 20th December 2017

<https://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-grants/open-grants-initiatives/tech-for-good-2018>

CSGN Development Fund 2018/2019

The 2018/2019 CSGN Development Fund is managed by the Central Scotland Green Network Trust, with funding provided by Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government, Food and Drink. It aids the development and implementation of projects delivering the Central Scotland Green Network on the ground. Projects should fit broadly with the CSGN vision and with its priorities.

- Woodlands
- Community Growing
- Strategic Routes
- Active Travel
- Feasibility and project research

Projects that impact on more than one priority may be viewed more favourably, as will projects that focus on vacant and derelict land and/or disadvantaged communities.

Deadline - Monday 5 February 2018.

Stalled Spaces Scotland Toolkit

Stalled spaces are plots of derelict and vacant land which can be brought back into productive use, even if only for a temporary length of time. Architecture & Design Scotland has produced a toolkit to provide ideas and support with all aspects of taking on a stalled spaces project.

<http://www.ads.org.uk/stalled-spaces-scotland-toolkit/>

Useful Websites

Walks With Wheelchairs

The only UK web-site totally dedicated to providing free information on routes that are suitable for those that use a wheelchair. If you can recommend a walk that you think is suitable then it can be added to the site. The site also has reviews and downloadable maps.

<http://walkswithwheelchairs.com/index.php>

Parentzone

Information, advice and guides for parents, carers and professionals on digital safety and all the latest issues caused or amplified by the Internet. You can also report inappropriate sites and behaviours or illegal activity.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/>

Christmas Hamper & Gift Appeal 2017

Each year Signpost Recovery provides extra help to the service users who are facing difficulties at Christmas time. As your own thoughts turn to Christmas we are hoping you can make a small contribution to our 2017 Appeal. We hope to distribute at least 200 Hampers, Gifts and Festive Food Parcels to our Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling service users and their families. The Christmas Hamper & Gift Appeal provides invaluable support at what can be, for some, the most difficult time of year. Priority will be given to service users with children.

You can help us by:

- Donating non-perishable food (Tinned food, Cereals, Pasta, Coffee);
- Donating toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, razors, deodorant); and/or
- Donating new toys or gifts for Babies, Children and Teenagers.

All donations gratefully received at either of the following Signpost Recovery Offices:

1. **Units 1 & 2, Block 7, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK10 3LP.**
2. **9 Callender Road, Falkirk, FK1 1XS (Above the Salvation Army).**

Alternatively, please call 01259 272112 and one of our staff will be happy to discuss the possibility of an uplift.

Any donation, no matter how big or small will be hugely appreciated.
Donations gratefully accepted up until the 12th December 2017.

We at Signpost Recovery, thank you on behalf of our clients for your year on year support.

