



CAMBUSBARRON NEWS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2013



The next meeting of **YOUR** Community Council is on 19th February 2013 at 7pm in the Community Centre. Meetings of the Development Trust will also be publicised in this newsletter. All are welcome to attend meetings and express their opinion on current, local issues, some of which are highlighted in this publication.

SHOCK PLANS TO REACTIVATE QUARRY

We have learned that one of the landowners of Murrayshall Quarry is at a critical stage in agreeing a new lease with a contractor to quarry the rock for them.

As we reported earlier, Hanson decided to walk away from this lease. The community council also found out just before our last meeting that, despite the clear decision of Stirling Council on 11th October 2012 to issue a Suspension Order for the planning permission, officials at Stirling Council took it upon themselves to delay issuing the Order until the landowner's "delicate" negotiations with his contractor were complete.

We think these officials clearly overstepped their power, and it needed the help of our local Councillors to ensure that the Order was issued.

So it looks as if the Order is now on its way to the Scottish Government where hopefully it will be ratified.

However the Suspension Order will not stop the landowner and his new contractor submitting an application to reactivate the quarry, and we are convinced this application will be submitted sooner rather than later.

The only plus for the community is that this time, unlike the rubber stamp "Review" of 2002, they will have to consider all the environmental issues. What can we as a community do about it? If we don't present a strong case to preserve our environment, then the noise and dust of the quarry and the roaring of the lorries past our local schools will soon be a reality.

Last month, at a Save Gillies Hill meeting, it was decided to continue with efforts to gather information that will strengthen the case, possibly employing a planning or environmental consultant to highlight its strengths and weaknesses.

Your Community Council fully supports this action. If you have anything to add to the background knowledge of ecology, heritage, recreation etc of the area, which we have built up over the years, or if you are familiar with the planning procedures which we will have to navigate through, or know someone who does, then let us know as soon as possible.

We will have just one chance to save our environment for ourselves and future generations. Please help.

OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB: Much progress has been made since local parents last month contacted the Newsletter seeking help in resurrecting the Out of School Club, which folded last autumn.

Paul Dimeo addressed the January CC meeting and valuable contacts were made. Meetings have since taken place with school headmistress Roz McEwan as well as with representatives of the Bruce Memorial Church and Stirling Council.

A parents' meeting held in the Foresters proved very productive and a group of parents are now drawing up a constitution, choosing a name and registering the group as a charity.

Applications can then be made for funding.

In addition, talks have started about the possibility of also having a morning club from 8am to 9am in the school.

The school will be issuing a questionnaire to parents on this topic.

With 210 children attending Cambusbarron Primary plus another 50 in the nursery, there is now growing confidence that the minimum numbers required to make the club viable can be attained.

If you would like to learn more about this venture, contact Fionn McIntosh at 01786 479015 or 07594 646195 or email Alan Rennie at alancraigrennie@yahoo.co.uk who will pass on messages.

THANK YOU: The village is much indebted to the generosity of the local boss of Kelvinside Electronics who sponsored many of the floral decorations last summer. A four-figure sum may be needed if the programme of planting and hanging baskets is to be extended this year. **Fortunately we have received a very generous contribution from Scottish Power and we want to thank them for their generosity.**



If your business is prepared to be public spirited enough to make a contribution, get in touch with John Brittan or any community councillor.

NOTHING TO DO? In January, the Newsletter highlighted the fact that the Stirling and District Keyboard Club hold a monthly concert in the bowling club. But there are plenty other things happening in the community.

An Over-60s Club meets in the community centre on Wednesday from 2pm to 3.15pm with bingo, a cuppa and plenty of chat.

A meeting of Cambusbarron branch of the SWRI meets in the centre on the third Wednesday of the month (Sept to May) at 7.30pm.

If you are an event organiser and would like some publicity in the CCC Newsletter, drop an email with some details to alancraigrennie@yahoo.co.uk

YOUR LIBRARY: Have you visited your local library branch in the community centre lately? There are a number of new facilities on offer. The most recent is the availability of eBooks for downloading with free access to hundreds of works of fiction, biographies and children's titles. To use this service, you must be a library member and have your library barcode and pin to hand. Books can be read on a variety of eBook Readers (but NOT the Amazon Kindle) and mobile devices such as smartphones. Find out more at <http://bit.ly.stirlingbooks/>

SNO' FAIR: "Yer aff yer trolley!" That was the verdict of a passer-by on one of our Community Council Winter Team, shovelling away snow from the Murray Place pavement. A very brief debate ensued in which our man defended his work – and that of the other members of our team – from a community perspective. Mention was made that the nearest dwellings to the pavement housed older residents, some of whom did not keep perfect health. The snow-covered pavements would be particularly risky for them. But to no avail, for his opponent was wiping the floor with him (but not the snow from the pavement) by railing

against the gross incompetence of Stirling Council's road squad. In weather as bad as this, our man explained, the Council workers follow



a logical plan – motorways first, then A-roads, then B-Roads etc. As they

TRAFFIC BOTTLENECK: Further concerns have been raised about access problems to Douglas Terrace caused by parked vehicles (*see picture*).

At January's CC meeting, it was revealed that gritting work had been suspended at Douglas Terrace from Birkhill Road and the connecting communities of Parkdyke and St Thomas's Well. The gritting lorries found difficulties in getting past the parked vehicles. Stirling Council has been seeking a voluntary agreement with residents to stop parking in the most critical areas but no consensus has yet been reached. Some householders are concerned that the lack of adjacent parking could reduce the value of their homes. After discussion, Cambusbarron CC agreed to back Stirling Council moves

to ensure access for gritting vehicles even if it meant installing double yellow lines.



Access for funerals at St Thomas's Cemetery was raised. Since that meeting, a resident at St Thomas's Well has written to the

often have to repeat this procedure, they are stretched every way, sometimes working 18-hour days for days and nights on end.

"Aye!", glowered the lady moving towards Main Street, "An' makin' a fortune oot ae us!" It was a winning point. Our beaten man snow-ploughed his way home, resigned from the village volunteers, and has applied to become Stirling Council's Head of Winter Wonderland.

The moral of the tale is that *our* Winter Team requires more volunteers. If you're interested in helping, contact any Community Councillor, or phone 472347.

Roads Department with further concerns. Over the years, he has seen HGVs and commercial vehicles experiencing great difficulty but it worries him that a Fire Service vehicle in an emergency situation might have problems negotiating the road.

"There is little doubt that the situation is getting worse due to the increase in traffic using the road and also the increase in parked vehicles," he added.

Stirling Council has responded that it is "likely" that a section of double yellow lines will be introduced.

However, there are no funds to do the work in this financial year. This subject will be discussed again at our next CC meeting.

NOTE FROM LAST YEAR'S GALA COMMITTEE- *There will be short extra-ordinary meeting of Cambusbarron Gala Committee on 25th February in the library to decide if the gala will go ahead-this is of course dependent on a special someone coming forward to organise the fundraising. If the Gala gets the go ahead, then we will discuss all future business at a separate meeting. The constitution states that this must take place.*
All Welcome

DIARY DATES

19th February

Community Council meeting

UPDATE ONLINE: If you wish to receive a copy of this monthly newsletter by email, get in touch with Alan Rennie at alanraigrennie@yahoo.co.uk