

Community News Sheet

Update on community issues

December 2018

Welcome

Welcome to the December edition of Stirling Council's Community News Sheet. We have included a variety of information which we hope you will find useful. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please don't hesitate to contact us: communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk. We can include information about community activities and topics, please feel free to email us any contributions.

Direct Funerals – lowering the cost of funerals

Stirling Council is piloting a pioneering new service which will ease the financial difficulties experienced by some families after the loss of a loved one.

Elected Members recently gave their resounding backing to 'Direct Funerals', the brain child of Cemeteries Service employee Thomas Rennie (Tam).



At the final Full Council meeting of 2018, councillors heard that recent figures published by the Citizens Advice Bureau suggested, of Scotland's 55,000 funerals annually, 10 per cent of families struggle to pay the bill.

Direct Funerals aims to address that by having the Council assume and provide several responsibilities normally associated with funeral directors.

The national average cost of a traditional funeral is £3,600 but the Council's pilot will offer an affordable and dignified alternative to families who already have access to a lair across Stirling. It will cost £1,800 – a combination of the existing interment and lair fees - with Council staff taking on extra responsibility for liaising with the family of the bereaved, contacting a local funeral director, carrying the coffin and controlling the cortege, as well as handing out cords for the lowering of the coffin – all at no extra cost.

Through the new service, families will be expected to provide their own transport to the cemetery, arrange floral tributes and organise the graveside service. The Cemeteries Service will monitor and assess the new initiative over the pilot period which will guide its future delivery. Tam (far left in the picture) has worked for Stirling Council since 1994 and in the Cemeteries Service for the past 17 years.

He developed his plan through a scheme called The Lens, which is run through large organisations across the UK, including Stirling Council, and helps employees develop ideas. After being successful in the initiative, Tam pushed on with his research and was proud see his vision become reality.

He said: "By speaking to families, I know the financial cost of funerals can be a real struggle for them. This gave me the idea for the Council to deliver more of the service to reduce the financial burden on families. I'm really proud to see Direct Funerals become a reality through the Lens and at the Council meeting, but there has been a real team effort in putting this in place involving many people in the service and within the Council. Helping people is the motivation for everyone in the team and we are now fully prepared to provide this important service across Stirling."

For more information please contact the cemeteries service on 01786 404040, 0845 277 7000 or email cemeteries@stirling.gov.uk

Stirling Council's Annual Report 2017-18

The Annual Report can be viewed online – if you would like to see some of the Council's work and achievements please visit: https://issuu.com/stirling/docs/annual_report_26_sep_2018_low_v2

Stirling Council's Small Grants Still Available – Don't Miss Out!

Community Grants Scheme & Community Pride Fund - Stirling Council's successful small grants programmes continue to run, and during this year have supported a good number of organisations to deliver projects and activities for the benefit of their communities.

Grants of up to £1500 are available to eligible groups for a wide range of costs – training, new equipment, community events, environmental improvements and much more. Any project that benefits the local community could be considered.

To apply your group must be constituted with inclusive membership, hold a bank account in the group's name and keep annual accounts, and hold regular minuted meetings.

So far this year there have been 61 successful applicants with grants awarded ranging from £200 up to £1500 to deliver activities and projects that help to make our communities interesting, attractive and lively with opportunities for all. Some of the successful groups include Stirling Rowing Club who got £1500. With a membership ranging in age from 11 to 86 years old the Rowing Club was in need of a new outboard engine to get a boat back into use for training purposes and safety cover on the river. Neuro Central, a peer support group which aims to advance the health of people with neurological conditions was awarded £625 towards neuro-physiotherapy sessions with tailored exercise programmes. Dunblane Development Trust continues making improvements to the Braeport Centre, a well-used community centre hosting many community groups and activities. It was awarded £1000 towards new gravel and paving at the front entrance of the Centre, improving the safety, the appearance and the drainage in this area. Balfour Women's Institute organised a summer outing for their older members and local residents, giving what was, for some, a rare opportunity for a change of scenery and fun with friends, for which it was awarded a small grant of £250.

The range of activities and projects funded is varied and with money left in both programmes **we are encouraging more applications over our next two rounds – deadlines are 3 January and 6 February**. Don't miss out on this opportunity to apply for funding for your community projects.

Contact Jean Cowie on 01786 233143, email cowiej@stirling.gov.uk or visit <https://my.stirling.gov.uk/community-leisure/support-to-communities/community-grants/> for further details and an application form.

Foundation Scotland's Express Grants

The Express grants are no longer running. Anyone seeking to apply to the Express Grants programme should now apply to the new **Baillie Gifford Community Awards Programme**. The programme will still offer grants of up to £2000.

In 2019, there will be five deadlines for submitting applications:

21 January 2019	3 June 2019	2 December 2019
4 March 2019	2 September 2019	

For more information see -

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/grants-and-funding-for-organisations/grant-programmes/express-grants/>

Greggs Foundation – Local Communities Project Fund

This fund helps organisations, based in local communities, to deliver projects or provide equipment to people in need at the heart of local communities. All projects must support a community of interest e.g. people who are homeless, disabled or suffering chronic illness, living in poverty, isolated older people. The programme will fund, for example, sessional activities/respite support, equipment for sessional activities, trips and residential breaks. The Foundation is most likely to make grants to local organisations based near a Greggs shop. The next **deadline is 28 February 2019**.

For more information see - <https://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/grants/local-community-projects-fund>

Tesco Bags of Help

This is a rolling programme for which eligible organisations such as constituted community groups, charities, schools, local authorities or not-for-profits can apply anytime for funding between £1000 and £4000 for projects that **bring benefits to the community**.

This includes but is not limited to:

- development of and activity in outdoor spaces
- purchase of items such as sports kits, camping equipment, tools or specialised medical equipment
- improvements to community buildings
- volunteer expenses & training, seasonal events, activities

Three shortlisted projects will be voted on in local Tesco stores; the project that receives the most votes in its area will receive a grant of up to £4,000 (projects only get £4000 if they apply for £4000), second place receives up to £2,000 and third place receives £1,000.

Applicants in Scotland are supported by staff from Greenspace Scotland. There are two voting regions in the Stirling Council area – so 6 projects are funded every two months. If you wish more information, please contact:

North-West area (voting in the Callander & Dunblane Tesco stores)

Sue Wyllie, sue.wyllie@greenspacescotland.org.uk Tel 07825 678249

Eastern villages & Stirling City (voting on in Stirling Tesco store)

Helen Stockham, helen.stockham@greenspacescotland.org.uk Tel 07884 495455

More information, the eligibility checker and application form can be accessed online at <http://bit.ly/bagsofhelp4>

Pure Leapfrog & British Airways Carbon Fund

British Airways and Pure Leapfrog have come together to create a passenger donation programme to help UK based community energy projects in deprived communities. Projects have to have a positive social impact on the local community such as increasing education, health and wellbeing or reducing fuel poverty. The fund has helped install solar panels on school roofs, a biomass boiler in a leisure centre and LED lights on community buildings.

For more details visit: <https://www.pureleapfrog.org/british-airways-carbon-fund>

The Fore Trust

The Fore Trust offers development funding and strategic support to early-stage charities and social enterprises. It makes unrestricted grants which have the potential to have a transformational impact on an organisation, for example enabling an organisation to take a step forward in its development or giving it the chance to do something it couldn't before.

More details are available at <http://www.thefore.org/charities/>

Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD) - The Learning Disability Awards

Nominations for the Scottish Learning Disability Awards are now open. If you know a person or group of people with learning disabilities who you think deserve recognition for their talents, achievements or contribution to their community, then it's time to get nominating.

Nominations close on Monday 4th February 2019, so you don't have long! SCLD will be in touch with everyone who is taking part on the week beginning **Monday 25th March 2019**.

For more information see - <https://www.sclid.org.uk/learning-disability-week/learning-disability-awards/>

Forth Valley Third Sector Conference 2019 - Booking Now Open

Following the successful event in 2018, Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE), Clackmannanshire TSI (CTSI) and CVS Falkirk are delighted to announce they will be holding their second Forth Valley Third Sector Conference on **Wednesday 13th February 2019** at Alva Academy in Alva, Clackmannanshire.

The theme for the 2019 conference is "Growing Your Communities", stemming from their commitment to helping community groups, charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises throughout the Forth Valley area continue to thrive and learn.

There will be workshops, stalls and guest speakers from across the local and national landscape. Places are £10 each, covering the cost of lunch and refreshments, with lunch provided by a local social enterprise. Booking is essential.

To book your place, please visit the Eventbrite page at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/growing-your-community-forth-valley-third-sector-conference-tickets-53013723474>

Christmas Waste Collection Updates

Stirling residents are being asked to keep an eye out for letters being delivered this week containing Christmas bin collection information.

Temporary changes to schedules over the festive period have been made to take into account the public holidays on December 25 and 26 as well as New Year's Day and January 2.

The Council has posted letters to more than 40,000 properties across the region, informing residents of the changes and when to expect their collection.

Additional information on Household Waste Recycling Centre opening times and what to do if your bin is not collected due to adverse weather or unforeseen issues are also contained on the letter.

The changes are different for each area and collection route but the [new Stirling Council website](#) features a postcode search function which has also been amended to reflect the temporary changes.

While there tends to be extra waste for a lot of households over the festive period, with food and presents generally in abundance, the letters sent out should have all the info residents need to manage their waste, as well as detail on our waste recycling centre opening times.

The updates to the service run between December 21 and January 7, allowing the waste service to still run while allowing collection staff the chance to spend time with their families and friends during the public holidays.

Stirling Council's new website will be fully launched in January 2019 but comments can be sent to the web team on its functionality through the 'Rate this page' section at the bottom of each page.

The Best Start Grant - Helping children get a fairer start

The Best Start Grant is a package of three payments, delivered by Social Security Scotland that will give extra money to lower-income families during the early years of a child's life. The three payments include the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, which opened for applications on **10 December 2018**. The Pregnancy and Baby Payment will help with expenses in pregnancy or the expenses of having a baby. This replaces the DWP's Sure Start Maternity Grant and will put more money into the pockets of families on low incomes – paying £600 on the birth of a first child and £300 for each sibling born thereafter. Two additional payments of £250 will help with the costs of early learning and school preparation costs and **will be open for applications by summer 2019**.

To be eligible for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, the family must live in Scotland and be in receipt of a qualifying benefit from the list below:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit

Parents are eligible from the 24th week of pregnancy and applications can be made up until the child is 6 months old. If the expectant mother is under 18 or 18/19 and still dependant on their parents and in full time education or training they do not need to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The Pregnancy and Baby Payment will be disregarded for UK benefit and tax credit assessments.

For information on Best Start Grant and the Pregnancy and Baby Payment visit www.mygov.scot/pregnancy-and-baby-payment or call us on 0800 182 2222.

If you are a welfare advisor and you want to get in touch, please contact Social Security Scotland by email at localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot

Consultation on Stirling Local Housing Strategy 2019

Stirling Council is consulting on the Local Housing Strategy which will set out priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services in Stirling over the next 5 years.

We want to hear your views on what you think should be included in the Strategy. What are the housing issues in your area? Where should we build new homes? How can we support the needs of an ageing population?

For more information and to take part, please visit <https://my.stirling.gov.uk/services/council-and-government/politicians-elections-and-democracy/consultation/current-consultations>

The closing date is Friday **1 March 2019**. If you have any queries about the consultation please contact the Strategy & Development Team on 01786 237695.

Consultation on Scottish Hate Crime Legislation

The Scottish Government is consulting on Lord Bracadale's recommendations following his review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland. The consultation asks questions on the approach to consolidating all Scottish Hate Crime legislation and expanding the statutory aggravations, and aims to capture the public's views on the proposed changes to the legislation.

During the consultation Scottish Government will be running a series of public events to allow individuals and communities to share their views and inform what is included in the new legislation. The events are free of charge but must be booked in advance through Eventbrite. An event will be held in Stirling on **12 February 2019**. To book this event: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hate-crime-consultation-workshop-stirling-tickets-52705121437>

The consultation closes on **24 February 2019**; to participate in the online consultation:

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/consultation/>

Kerse Road – Removal Of Temporary Footbridge – January 2019

The temporary pedestrian footbridge at Kerse Road (A905), installed by Network Rail during the delivery of the bridge works, is due to be removed over two consecutive Saturday nights in January 2019. This will involve a full road closure. A third weekend is reserved as a contingency, in case there should be any adverse weather conditions.

The closures will be:

- Saturday 12th January at 9pm until Sunday 13th January at 9am
- Saturday 19th January at 9pm until Sunday 20th January at 9am
- Saturday 26th to Sunday 27th January has been set aside as a contingency.

The temporary footbridge will be lifted out in sections by mobilising a 450 tn crane, making it necessary to have a full road closure over both weekends and an 'all vehicle' diversion route in place. The diversion routes are those used during the bridge works.

Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout, as the north footpath will remain open, although access will be restricted during the crane lifts.

For further information please email SDAElectrification@networkrail.co.uk or for updates follow us on twitter via @NetworkRailEGIP.





Happy Christmas

from the
Community Engagement Team

See you in the New Year!

If you are receiving this News Sheet you are part of the Community Engagement Team's mailing list. We collect, use and store your information in order to support the community development needs of you and your organisation's activities.

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