

# Community News Sheet

Update on community issues

February 2017

## Welcome

Welcome to the February 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](mailto:communityengagement@stirling.gov.uk)



## Working with you to shape Stirling's Future – Interim Report January 2017

Stirling Council is in Year 4 of Priority Based Budgeting. This report includes the savings and investment options which have been suggested by Council officers for approval at the Council's budget-setting meeting in February.

Along with all other councils, Stirling has been operating in a very tight financial environment for several years now, where government grant has been reducing at the same time as costs continue to increase and service demand pressures are also growing. It is estimated that over the period from 2012 through to 2021, the Council will have to have made savings of over £45 million from its budget in order to meet the increased costs and the reduced funding.

A series of public meetings has already taken place and we would like to thank everyone who participated in the conversations. The online survey has now closed and the feedback is being analysed. You can access the full Interim Report (January 2017) at:-

[www.stirling.gov.uk/documents/pbbjan2017.pdf](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/documents/pbbjan2017.pdf)

## #ScottishCCs Twitter Hour on 7 March 2017

Improvement Service are hosting a Scottish Community Councils Hour on Twitter on 7 March 2017, focusing on the topic of Engaging the Wider Community. Starting at 8pm, we will tweet questions over the course of an hour, encouraging community councils on Twitter to get involved by tweeting using the hashtag #ScottishCCs.

The times and questions for Scottish Community Councils Hour are listed below. Remember to include an A for answer and the number of the question that you're answering (e.g. A3: We'd like to... or A6: We could do...) and #ScottishCCs in your answer.

8:00pm - Q1 Introduce yourself. Who are you and where are you tweeting from?

8:05pm - Q2 What are your best ways to engage with your community?

8:15pm - Q3 Who would your community council like to better engage with?

8:25pm - Q4 What do you think your community council could achieve through better engagement?

8:35pm - Q5 What do you think are barriers to getting involved in community council work?

8:45pm - Q6 How do you think your community council can help overcome engagement barriers?

Please remember to use #ScottishCCs in the tweets to help others follow the conversations.

## Licensing Forum

Dear Community

My name is Robert Orr and I am the newly appointed Chair of the Stirling Licensing Forum.

As you hopefully know, part of the Forum's remit is to provide feedback and suggestions to the Stirling Licensing Board on Liqueur Licensing policy matters; many of which directly impact members of your community.

However, while the Licensed Trade and various Council Departments are well represented on the Licensing Forum, my colleagues and I believe that more needs to be done to encourage Community Council representatives from the various communities within our area to attend our meetings.

I am therefore writing today to invite you, or a representative from your community, to join with my colleagues and I as an active participant of the Licensing Forum, so that your communities voice can be heard.

Our scheduled dates for 2017 are: 03 April; 31 July; and 02 October. All meetings take place in Stirling Council's Viewforth Building, from 3pm and usually last no more than an hour.

If you, or another member of your committee would like to attend any of these meetings, can I simply ask that you respond to this email at your earliest convenience, confirming who would like to attend and the area you/they represent. Thereafter, we will ensure that your representative is added to the Forum's mailing list, so that you can be updated with all developments as and when they occur.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Orr  
Stirling Licensing Forum Chair  
[robert.orr@attraction-inns.co.uk](mailto:robert.orr@attraction-inns.co.uk)

## Code of Fundraising Practice Consultation

The Fundraising Regulator has just opened consultation on the Code of Fundraising Practice which applies across the UK.

This first consultation, which closes on 28 April, seeks views on the following areas: Charity trustees; The fundraising ask; Solicitation (disclosure) statements; Raising concerns about fundraising practice (Whistleblowing); People in vulnerable circumstances; Charity collection bags; Third parties and General questions on the Code.

You can take part by clicking the following link:-

<https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code-of-fundraising-practice/code-consultation/>

# Talking "Fracking": A Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas

Opened 31 January 2017 and Closes 31 May 2017.

## Overview

The future of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland has proven both complex and controversial, and deeply held, sincere views have emerged on all sides of the debate.

The Scottish Government's position is to take a cautious, evidence led approach while we gather and consider evidence. In January 2015, the Scottish Government put in place a moratorium on unconventional oil and gas development in Scotland, which prevents hydraulic fracturing for shale oil and gas, and coal bed methane extraction taking place while the Scottish Government investigates evidence on potential impacts.

To support this consultation, the Scottish Government has compiled a comprehensive evidence-base. This has included commissioning a report by an Independent Expert Scientific Panel at [www.gov.scot/publications/2014/07/1758](http://www.gov.scot/publications/2014/07/1758), and commissioning a series of research projects at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/onshoreoilandgas/EvidenceGathering> to explore certain issues in more detail.

A dedicated website, [www.talkingfracking.scot](http://www.talkingfracking.scot), will run for the duration of the consultation. The website provides user-friendly information on unconventional oil and gas, and the findings of the research commissioned by the Scottish Government.

Discussion tool-kits have been created to help communities and other groups participate in the consultation. These can be accessed at [www.talkingfracking.scot](http://www.talkingfracking.scot).

Download the consultation paper at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00513575.pdf>

## Why We Are Consulting

Studies have shown that Scotland's geology, and in particular a stretch of land through Scotland's central belt (referred to as the Midland Valley), contains significant quantities of shale gas and oil, and coal bed methane. The central belt is also one of Scotland's most populated regions, supporting important industries and business.

Accessing these resources would require the use of technologies such as hydraulic fracturing (commonly referred to as 'fracking'). This has led to a widespread debate on potential environmental, health and economic impacts, and on compatibility with Scotland's ambitious climate change targets.

The Scottish Government's approach to unconventional oil and gas is therefore one of caution while we gather and consider evidence, encourage dialogue, and give you an opportunity to set out your views.

This consultation does not set out or advocate a preferred Scottish Government position or policy. Instead, this consultation is an opportunity for the people of Scotland and our stakeholders to consider the evidence, and to present views on that evidence and the future of this industry in Scotland.

Give us your views – click for consultation:- <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/fracking-unconventional-oil-and-gas/consultation/subpage.2016-07-07.1474135251/>

## Consultation on the Future of the Scottish Planning System

The Scottish Government has set out 20 proposals for changing the planning system and launched a public consultation (<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-architecture/a-consultation-on-the-future-of-planning/>) that runs until 4 April 2017, as a step towards a new planning bill, to be brought forward this year. This follows an independent review of the existing system ([www.gov.scot/resource/0050/00500949.pdf](http://www.gov.scot/resource/0050/00500949.pdf)).

A brief article from SURF (<https://www.surf.scot/2017-consultation-planning-system/>) provides a useful overview of the key proposals in the consultation. The report proposes a new right for community bodies to create their own 'place plans' which would set out what changes they will help deliver, based on wider community consultation.

It is also proposed that during the development plan preparation process Local Authorities should be legally required to consult community councils as well as use engagement methods more likely to involve children and young people. Research is also being undertaken to inform action on including other 'hard to reach' groups in planning.

Other changes include zoning more land for housing, promoting self-build and removing the need to apply for planning permission for more types of development.

## Community Shares

Community Shares Scotland has a new publication – [A guide to investing in community shares.](#)

## Microfinance loans

Grameen in the UK provides micro-credit loans of up to £1,000 to kick-start small firms or help existing companies develop and grow. Based in Glasgow, the [organisation has now secured additional investment](#) of £250,000 from Social Investment Scotland to provide micro-finance loans to community initiatives. Grameen in the UK is part of the Grameen Foundation, a worldwide network of social development lenders founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Professor Muhammad Yunus.

## Volunteer Scotland

Volunteer Scotland, with the support of Stirling Council and SVE, hosted the first Volfest2017 meeting on January 30th. The meeting was well attended with many local organisations keen to be involved in helping to design and deliver a Festival which will really bring volunteering to the forefront of Stirling's agenda.



The meeting took the format of an Open Space, where individuals and organisations had to 'bid' to have their idea on the wall. It was an interesting concept which saw people pitch their ideas to others amidst further discussion on the wider festival. There was some brilliant ideas and lively discussions which really highlighted the passion local people have for volunteering, as well as the benefits of partnership working to achieve a common goal.

It's not too late to have your ideas heard and get involved in shaping Volfest2017.

Contact [volfest2017@volunteerscotland.org.uk](mailto:volfest2017@volunteerscotland.org.uk) for further information.

## HMRC and Apple Gift Card Fraud

**The fraudsters are using the following contact methods to defraud people:**

**Voicemails:** Fraudsters are leaving victims automated voicemails stating they owe HMRC unpaid taxes. When victims call back on the number provided, they are told that there is a warrant out for their arrest, unless they make payment via iTunes Vouchers.

**Spoofed calls:** Fraudsters are cold calling victims using a spoofed 0300 200 3300 number and convincing them that they owe unpaid tax to HMRC.

**Text messages:** Fraudsters are sending text messages requesting victims to urgently call back on the number provided. When victims call back, they are told that there is a case being built against them for an outstanding debt and they must pay immediately.

Fraudsters are using iTunes gift cards to collect money from victims because they can be easily redeemed and sold on. The scammers don't need the physical card to redeem the value and instead get victims to read out the serial code on the back over the phone to them.

Action Fraud has been working with **Apple** (<http://www.apple.com/uk/shop/gift-cards>) and HMRC to warn people about this type of fraud.

### How to protect yourself

HMRC will never use text message to inform about a tax rebate or penalty.

HMRC will never ask for any payment in the form of iTunes Vouchers.

HMRC will only post out a P800 tax calculations, in circumstances of under or overpayment of taxes, if you're employed or get a pension.

Payments using iTunes Vouchers may not be recoverable.

Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should not trust the number you see on your telephone display as proving the caller is genuinely calling from HMRC.

Be protective of divulging other personal details such as National Insurance number, passport number and bank details over the telephone.

If you receive an unexpected call, whereby the caller requests an advance fee in the form of iTunes gift cards, the call should immediately be terminated.

## Voluntary Arts Festival 2017 - Get Creative from 5 to 14 May!

My name is Sabrina and I am working on the planning and delivery of the Voluntary Arts Festival 2017. Voluntary Arts Scotland is the national development agency for all community-led creative cultural activity.

### Save the date!

We're delighted to announce that the next Voluntary Arts Festival will take place throughout the UK from 5 - 14 May 2017. We are now contacting community-led groups throughout Scotland, encouraging them to take part in the Festival and to help promote their event(s) on our website and social media.

### Spread the word

Sharing our call for participation far and wide among your networks would be really helpful. We want to make sure all the amazing voluntary groups that meet and share their creative passion throughout Scotland are aware of this opportunity to get involved and celebrate what they do. It would be fantastic if you could share the information below on any of your communication platforms (website, social media, e-newsletter, mail-out).

### Voluntary Arts Festival – Call for Participants

The Voluntary Arts Festival is open to creative groups and organisations of all shapes and sizes. You could hold a taster session, open day, pop-up event or simply advertise your regular activity and make it welcoming to new people. Staging an event as part of the Voluntary Arts Festival is a great way to attract new members, raise your profile in local media, celebrate your achievements, and feel part of a nationwide event celebrating community-led, creative cultural activity. Find out more at [www.voluntaryarts.org/festival](http://www.voluntaryarts.org/festival)

Hundreds of groups and thousands of participants celebrated their creativity in 2016 and we're looking forward to doing it all again in May 2017! Watch our short film to find out how to get involved:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQHUF027t0U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQHUF027t0U)

### Contact us

If you're interested in taking part or would like to hear more about the Voluntary Arts Festival, please don't hesitate to contact us on [festival@vascotland.org.uk](mailto:festival@vascotland.org.uk) or 0131 561 7333.

You can also subscribe to the Voluntary Arts Scotland monthly newsletter, and follow our social media platforms, to keep in touch with the latest news, creative opportunities and funding at [www.vascotland.org](http://www.vascotland.org)

Very kind regards,

Sabrina

**Sabrina Leruste**/Project Management Consultant

## RSVP Handyperson Service

**Do you need help with a small or minor maintenance job in your home? Our volunteers help older people with things like -**

- Changing bulbs and fitting batteries in smoke alarms
- Putting up shelves, curtains, mirrors and help with flat packs
- Unblocking sinks, rewiring plugs and changing tap washers
- Set up or re-tune your TV or Broadband



## Call us now on 01259 928 088

We cover—Stirling, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane, Callander and Clackmannanshire



# Forth Valley Recovery Community

- **Currently Recruiting!!**
- **Donate your old stuff!!**

UPDATED JANUARY 2017

Forth Valley Recovery Community will welcome anyone who has been affected by substance misuse.

## Forth Valley Recovery Community Cafes!

### Monday Alloa Recovery Café 4-9pm

The Gate, 2 Ludgate Church.  
Tea/coffee/recovery volunteers/arts and crafts/SMART Recovery/Peer Support

### Wednesday Pop Up Recovery 1-4.30pm.

Tryst Community Centre, Park Drive, Stenhousemuir. Pool/Circuit Training/Health Checks/SMART Recovery/Tea/Coffee.

### Friday Stirling Recovery Café 1-6pm

Ochil Community Centre, Raploch, Stirling.

Food/tea/coffee/live music,/learn to play an instrument,/SMART Recovery/Recovery Volunteers/Peer Support

### Saturday Falkirk Recovery Café. 10.30-3pm

ASC Falkirk, 32 Vicar Street Falkirk. Recovery Films/N.A. Meeting/coffee/tea/soup,/SMART Recovery, live music and entertainment, alternative therapies Reiki and Acudetox.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Helpline 0800 9177 650

help@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

### SMART Recovery Meetings

www.smartrecovery.org.uk

### **Monday 6.30pm-8pm**

The Gate, 2 Ludgate, Alloa, FK10 1DS

### **Tuesdays 4.30pm-6pm**

ASC Falkirk-32 Vicar Street, Falkirk, FK1 iJB

### **Wednesdays - 1pm -3.30pm**

**Signpost Recovery**—Units 1+2, Block 7, Cooperage Business Village, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK10 3LP.

### **Wednesdays— 3pm-4.30pm.**

**Pop Up Recovery Cafe**, Tryst Community Centre, Stenhousemuir,

### **Thursdays—4.30-6pm**

**ASC Stirling**, 90 Drip Road, Raploch.

### **Fridays 3pm-4.30pm**

**Ochil Recovery Café**, Ochil Community Centre, Raploch Stirling.

### **Saturdays 1.30-3pm**

**Falkirk Recovery Café**, ASC 32 Vicar St. FK1 1JB

### Recovery Support Meeting

**Monday at ASC Stirling 92 Drip Road, 10:30-12:30 and Friday at ASC Falkirk, 10:30-12:30. Come relax, have a chat and a cuppa!**

### Narcotics Anonymous

Helpline 0300 999 1212  
www.ukna.org

Monday 7.30pm - Stirling Methodist Church Halls, Queen Street, FK8 1HL

Wednesday 7.30pm - Stirling Methodist Church Halls, Queen Street, FK8 1HL

Friday 2-3 pm - Salvation Army, Raploch, Stirling

Saturday 1.30pm-3pm

Falkirk Recovery Café, ASC Falkirk, 32 Vicar Street

### SCOTTISH FAMILIES AFFECTED BY ALCOHOL & DRUGS (SFAD)

### —DROP IN GROUPS

Helpline: 08080101011

www.sfad.org.uk

6pm -8pm Thursday Group (Fortnightly)  
Raploch Community Campus, Stirling

2pm-3.30pm Friday Group (Fortnightly)  
The Hub, Whins Road, Alloa

12pm-2pm - Every Tuesday,  
Stirling Substance Misuse Service,  
Stirling Community Hospital

10am-12pm - Every Monday  
Grangemouth Education Unit, Abbots Road,  
Grangemouth

5pm -7pm - Every Wednesday  
CVS Building, Unit 6, Callendar Business Park,  
Callendar Road, Falkirk

Parkrun— 5km Run in Callender park every Saturday leaving at 9.30am. Free to register online, contact Sean for details or go online to <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/falkirk/>

### Recovery Ramblers Walking Group Stirling

Meeting every Monday at 12.30pm.  
ASC Stirling, 90 Drip Road, Raploch.

The walks are suitable for all ages and abilities!



## NEW FOR 2017!!

Follow us on twitter @FVrcvrycmmnty

### Peer Recovery in Forth Valley for 2017

New for Mondays and Fridays in Forth Valley we are focusing on peer support and peer recovery. Commencing 6th February Mondays will look like this:

#### **Monday 10:30-13:00 Peer/Volunteer Training and Contact Group**

For FVRC Volunteers who wish to be peer supporters, or community members who wish to become volunteers. Every week we look at how to support other community members. We look at the skills, knowledge, and attitude required to support other members of the community including practical experiential training and how to use volunteering as a stepping stone into a career.

#### **Monday 13:00 -14:30 Residential Rehab Peer Group at ASC Falkirk.**

If you have attended residential rehab, or are on the pathway to residential rehab come along and meet your peers, help each other, support each, look at the 12 step programme, FOCUS ON WHAT MAKES US STRONG, NOT WHAT WE THINK IS WRONG!

#### **Monday 09:30-12:30 ASC Stirling, Drip Road and 14:30-17:00 ASC Falkirk, Vicar Street. FVADP SMS Recovery Drop In Service**

If you work within substance misuse services in Forth Valley, if you live within Forth Valley and are seeking help for substance use, or if you are currently within any treatment service in Forth Valley but would like to access community rehab, counselling, or the Forth Valley Recovery Community, just drop in every Monday to either Stirling in the morning, or Falkirk in the afternoon. Meet our peer supporters and recovery volunteers, or meet our addiction workers to discuss your future. No appointment necessary!

#### **Friday 10:30-12:30 Recovery Support and Recovery Planning ASC Falkirk**

This is a peer led group with a focus on supporting our recovery in any way possible, or helping those at the earliest stages of their recovery to plan their recovery. This group offers care and support, but also practical solutions which should prove useful if you are planning changes.



## Forth Valley Recovery Community

Do you have any old board games you no longer use? Do you have any fitness or gym equipment you don't need? PLEASE donate your old stuff to FVRC!!

### **WE ARE RECRUITING!!!**

**If you know of anyone who would like to become a volunteer contact Sean, Jardine or Carrie for more info:**

**Sean 07920576375**

**Carrie 07955622154**

**Jardine 07920234694**

**REMEMBER! Service users can now be referred to ASC**

**Community Rehabilitation all year round, just call 01324 874 969 for info.**

For more information on anything within this newsletter, please contact Sean McCann - Telephone: 07920 576 375  
Email: [smcann@asc.me.uk](mailto:smcann@asc.me.uk)