

WHO'S WHO IN BREADALBANE

A very brief guide to local community organisations, from a community viewpoint

1. COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Community Councils are the third and lowest form of Scottish government. The top layer (Figure 1) is the Scottish Parliament which comprises elected MSPs, plus the Scottish Executive which is the old Scottish Office or Civil Service. The middle layer are the Local Authorities or Local Councils, roughly organised

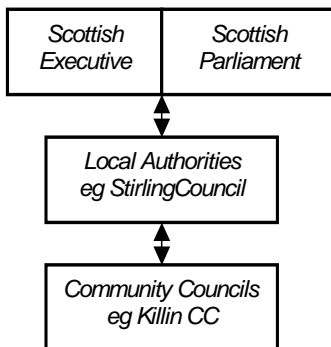


Figure 1

on the lines of the old Scottish counties.

Most of Breadalbane is covered by Stirling Council (Figure 2) (which absorbed most of western Perthshire in a previous local government reorganisation); the area around St Fillans is covered by Perth & Kinross Council. The elected

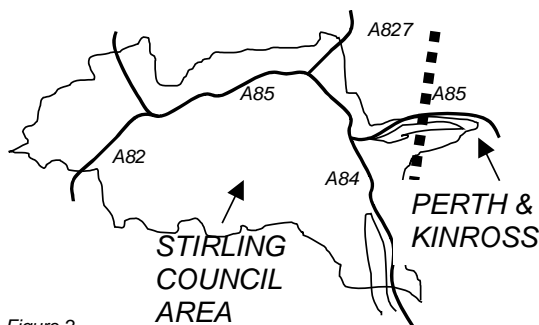


Figure 2

Stirling Councillor covering Stirling's 'Highland Ward' is *Tony Finch* (Con.). In 2007 another major reorganisation will take place which will introduce proportional representation and multi-member Wards.

The four Community Councils in Breadalbane are Balquhidder (which includes Locheearnhead and Strathyre), chair *Ian Inglis*, secretary *Alan Clarke*; Killin (which includes Ardeonaig), chair *Fiona Kennedy*, secretary *Tim Frost*; Strathfillan (which includes Crianlarich and Tyndrum), chair *John Riley*, secretary *Moirra Robertson*; and St Fillans, chair *Willie Phillips*, secretary *Russell Cunningham*.

Community Councils are not organised on party political lines. Their main function is to collect and reflect local community wishes and opinions and report these to the authorities as appropriate, and to lobby the Local Authority on matters of community concern such as roads, waste collection, and council housing. Unlike their English counterparts, the Parish Councils, Community Councils do not at present have corporate status, so have limited fund-raising ability and cannot run projects or hire people.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUSTS

Partly in order to compensate for Community Council limitations, many communities have set up community development trusts. The Strathfillan Community Trust, chair *Effie Crompton*, has long been in existence. Balquhidder and Killin are in the process of setting theirs up. These Trusts are charitable limited companies, with membership from the local community, and an elected board of directors, able to raise funds, employ people, purchase land and property, and carry out projects on behalf of the local community, consistent with its legal objectives.

3. PUBLIC AGENCIES

There are other organisations in the public sector which are not part of the three-layer structure of Figure 1. Many of these are organised on a national level (eg Forestry Commission Scotland), or on the lines of the old Scottish Regions. Policing of the Stirling part of Breadalbane is carried out by Central Scotland Police with headquarters in Stirling, and the Perth & Kinross part is policed by Tayside Police whose headquarters are in Dundee. Health in most of Breadalbane is the responsibility of Forth Valley Health Board, while the St Fillans area is covered by Tayside Health Board.

One role of a Local Authority is to coordinate activities between itself and these various 'agencies' (see also section 8).

4. THE NATIONAL PARK

The Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority is a 'non-departmental public body' set up by statute of the Scottish Parliament. Descriptively and organisation-ally it is divided into four areas (Figure 3): Breadalbane in the north-east; Trossachs in the east; Loch Lomond in the south; and Argyll Forest in the south-west. The

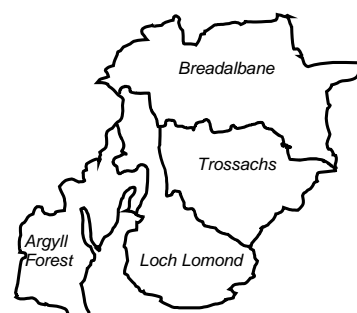


Figure 3

Park covers areas governed by four Local Authorities: Perth & Kinross; Stirling; Dunbarton; and Cowal & Bute.

Unfortunately, the boundaries do not always coincide - for example Glen Lochay, a historic part of Breadalbane and covered by Killin Community Council, is not in the NP.

The board of the Park Authority includes five locally-elected members, and the member for Breadalbane is *Owen McKee*. The Park Authority

is a statutory Planning authority (Planning with a capital 'P', which includes development control), and is also a statutory Access authority, concerned with statutory access rights and core path planning. It also has a role to play in promoting the communities within the Park - therefore there is considerable overlap between the activities of the Park Authority and the Local Authorities (eg Stirling Council) regarding community interests.

5. THE COMMUNITY FUTURES PROJECT

One of the successes of the Park has been the Community Futures project, manager *Lesley Campbell*. Her team has created Local Action Plans for each community within the Park. In addition, the Park Authority employs 'community agents', and for Breadalbane this is *Joyce Russell*. Stirling Council employs 'community development workers', and the person covering most of Breadalbane is *Suzanne Player*. These two persons work closely with the Community Councils in Breadalbane.

6. ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Association of Community Councils (ACC) of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, chair *John Riley*, secretary *Moira Robertson*, consists, ideally, of representatives from all 22 Community Councils within the Park. Its aim is to present a common voice when lobbying the Park Authority on Park-wide matters such as Planning and environmental issues. Like the Community Councils, the ACC has limited fund-raising powers and is restricted to lobbying on Park-wide community issues.

7. THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Loch Lomond and Trossachs Community Partnership, chair *Iain MacInnes*, is a charitable limited company. Like Community Trusts, it has powers to raise funds, employ people, and carry out projects within the Park area. Its board consists of two community representatives from each of the four Park areas, plus two representatives from the Park Authority, and a representative from each of the Local Authorities within the Park area. The community board members from Breadalbane are *Alan Clarke* from Balquhidder and *Fiona Kennedy* from Killin; the board members from the NP are *Kate Sankey* and *Russell Bruce*; the board

	<i>individual community</i>	<i>National Park-wide</i>
<i>lobbying</i>	<i>Community Council</i>	<i>Association of CCs</i>
<i>projects</i>	<i>Community Dev. Trust</i>	<i>Community Partnership</i>

Figure 4

member from Stirling Council is *Lyn Kennedy*. The role of the Community Partnership relative to the ACC is

analogous to the role of the Community Trusts relative to the Community Councils (see Figure 4).

One of the main activities of the Community Partnership is to provide assistance and training to 'empower' the Community Trusts. Another activity is to organise quarterly Area Network meetings in

each area. The purpose of these meetings is simply for those persons active in community life in the area to get together ('network') for discussion, information, training, and encouragement.

8. AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING

Area-wide community planning is a duty of, and facilitated by, the Local Authorities in partnership with communities and the various public service bodies, to provide adequate public services. The process is as follows (Figure 5): (a) local communities provide an Area Community Plan in

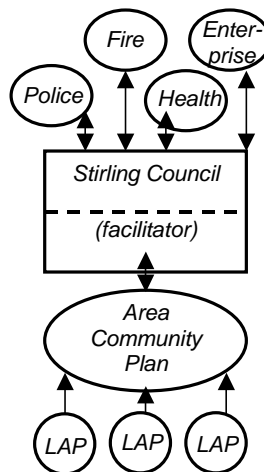


Figure 5

conjunction with the Local Authority, and (b) the Local Authority works with the service providers. Stirling Council has grouped all its communities into seven 'forums' or 'clusters'; cluster 7 is Breadalbane, consisting of the three Community Councils within the Stirling

Council area.

Each 'cluster' has an Area Champion within Stirling Council: for cluster 7 this is *Fiona Macleod*. The three communities produce and maintain the Breadalbane Area Community Plan, from issues appearing in the various Local Action Plans (see section 5). Other departments within Stirling Council work with their four strategic planning partners (Central Scotland Police, Central Scotland Fire Brigade, Forth Valley Health Board, and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley) to match (as far as possible) each service provider's long-term (up to 15 year) and short-term (up to 5 year) plans with the aspirations and needs of the seven Area Community Plans within the Stirling Council area.

In Breadalbane, to reduce the number of meetings, some of the Area Network meetings (see section 7) are used to discuss and update the Breadalbane Area Community Plan. It must be emphasised that this is a long-term process.

9. OTHER ORGANISATIONS

There are many other organisations, constituted or unconstituted, existing in Breadalbane for specific purposes. Mention can be made of: the Breadalbane Life-Long Learning Trust, chair *Alison Inglis*; the Killin Environmental Action group, contact *John Holland*; the Loch Earn Recreational Management Action Group, chair *Lawrence Hopkins*; and various hall management committees.