

VIEW



Clackmannanshire Council
www.clacksweb.org.uk



Wedding belles grace refurbished town hall

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Work set to begin on new Council houses

Council houses are set to be built in Clackmannanshire for the first time in over 30 years.

The £2.3 million project will see 24 new houses being built in Tullibody and Alva. This funding includes a contribution of £600,000 from the Scottish Government.

Work will begin at the end of July this year and is expected to last 17 months.

Council leader Sam Ovens said: "Clackmannanshire Council is committed to providing quality, affordable housing for the people of Clackmannanshire. These new homes are desperately needed and they will just be the first step

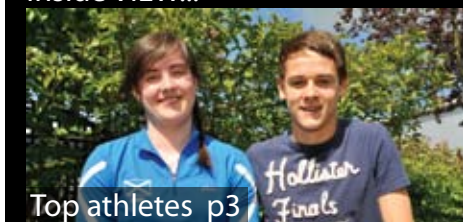
towards addressing the serious imbalance we face between genuine housing need and the availability of Council houses. They will also be affordable, energy efficient and accessible. The last houses built for rent by the Council were in Sauchie in the mid 70s, so this decision marks a new era for social housing in Clackmannanshire."

A central element of the project is the continued regeneration of the Newmills/Orchard area of Tullibody begun by Ochil View Housing Association. The Council will construct 16 new 2-bedroom houses for rent on the site currently occupied by lock ups at 80-98 Newmills.

And eight much needed

homes for older people will be provided at the current Dalmore Centre, Alva. There will be four one-bedroom and four two-bedroom houses. The Dalmore Centre, which is a former infant school, was listed last year and ongoing feasibility work for the site is subject to detailed discussions with Historic Scotland.

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Electronic registration now available

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is offering electors the opportunity of registering to vote electronically.

Each year the ERO has to send a voter registration enquiry to every address and it is a legal requirement to respond to the enquiry.

Forms will be posted out to those who have not already supplied their email addresses by 31st August which you can reply to by email, telephone or text. If you respond by email and supply your contact email address you will be emailed in future years.

The ERO estimates that he can save at least 50p per household through this initiative and with over 23,700 addresses in Clackmannanshire the savings could be considerable. With print and postage costs increasing and individual voter registration due to start in 2014 the more people who supply their email address the more can be saved.

To participate, send an email to ero@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk giving your home address, name and your email address.

Please remember to notify the ERO when you move home as you will need to apply to register at your new address as soon as possible so you can vote in future elections and not have your credit rating reduced.

More information at www.saa.gov.uk/central

Library Passport Takes Readers to New Places

Clackmannanshire Council has teamed up with other public libraries across central Scotland to create a new Library Passport scheme. This new scheme gives library users access to a broader range of information and resources across the Forth Valley area. Whether you are following an educational course or just pursuing a special interest of your own, if your own library can't

supply what you need, you can now visit other libraries in the region to find the information or resources you are looking for.

The passport scheme formalises existing arrangements between a number of libraries in central Scotland. The passport provides access to the following public, academic and health libraries: Clackmannanshire Council Library

Service, Stirling Council Library Service, Falkirk Council Library Service, Stirling University Library, Forth Valley College Library and the Dementia Services Development Centre. The passport also gives access to the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The passport takes the form of a small credit card-sized card and will be issued by the borrower's



home library service. The passport provides access to each of the libraries in the scheme, but at this stage each library service will decide its own policy on borrowing rights. In Clackmannanshire we have decided to grant full borrowing rights, including books, to anyone presenting a Passport and Home Library ticket. Access will also be given to the Web4U computers.

Improving our environment

These are challenging times, and with increasing pressure on budgets, we've had to seek new and innovative ways to deliver services and support the people of Clackmannanshire. Our Corporate Priorities, developed in consultation with local people, include a commitment to maintaining and improving our beautiful environment.

Did you know?

The Council processed 95% of householder planning applications and 84% of non-householder applications within the 2 month target time last year. We are consistently ranked 1st in Scotland for processing planning applications.

Did you know?

We continue to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill, sending 10,585 tonnes - nearly 1,000 tonnes less than last year. We've been ranked 1st in Scotland for recycling in 4 of the last 5 years, and were 3rd in the other year.

Did you know?

Our streets are getting cleaner. Having scored 74 (out of 100) in the Street Cleanliness Index for the last 2 years (which was also the Scottish average), in 2010/11 we achieved a score of 77. This is a very positive result, and is rarely achieved by a 'semi-rural' Council.

Did you know?

The number of streets with graffiti reduced from 13.1% in 2009/10 to 9.5% in 2010/11. There was also no racist graffiti reported to the Council during the year.

Did you know?

Despite the extreme winter weather, and reducing from 2 to 1 electricians, 89% of street light repairs were completed within 7 days, slightly below the target of 90%. The weather also impacted on housing repairs, but improvements in performance in the spring months resulted in 96% being completed on target.

Did you know?

We're constantly seeking ways to reduce our own consumption of gas, electricity and water, and indications are that we have succeeded in this in 2010/11.

Did you know?

We removed 100% of abandoned vehicles within 14 days.

While we have strong results in many areas, there are some areas which still require improvement. Our 'Growing in Excellence' programme ensures that we are better placed than ever to address these issues. We constantly review how we work, introduce new initiatives, and work with partners and communities to ensure that Clackmannanshire is an attractive and sustainable area for everyone.

Doorstep Crime Booklet Launched

A new advice booklet has been published by the Clackmannanshire Doorstep Crime Partnership containing information on how to feel safe and secure in your home.

The Partnership has developed a strong message 'Safe and Secure, Open when Sure'.

Door stickers have been produced with this message on them which are widely available. The aim of the sticker is to act as a reminder to people as they answer their door, to only answer when you are sure of the person who is on your doorstep.

Copies of the booklet are also widely available.

The booklet aims to inform and empower people, helping them to feel confident in their own home. The booklet also contains contact details for a number of agencies who can offer advice and support in relation to doorstep crime.

Superintendent Alan Douglas, Chair of Clackmannanshire

Community Safety Partnership said: "The booklet has been produced by the group and highlights simple steps that can be taken to avoid becoming the victim of doorstep crime, whilst also providing useful local contact details."

It is always important to be cautious about agreeing to buy goods or services on your doorstep or allowing people you don't know into your home. If you are suspicious about anyone that calls at your

door then you should report it to the Police or Trading Standards.

The booklet and sticker are available from libraries and CAP offices or you can obtain one by contacting Stirling and Clackmannanshire Trading Standards on 01786 443322.

The Clackmannanshire Doorstep Crime Partnership involves Clackmannanshire Council's Trading Standards Team, Central Scotland Police, Care and Repair, Age Scotland and a number of Community Councils.

Photo shows: Left to right - Gordon Wilson Central Scotland Police, Lindsay McNeil Trading Standards, John Gillespie Head of Community and Regulatory Services at Clackmannanshire Council, and Doreen Harvey, Margaret Malcolm and George Horsburgh from Alva Community Council.



Picture your vision of Clackmannanshire

Members of every community in Clackmannanshire took the opportunity to get involved and help to shape the Council's vision for the future.

The Council was 'on the road' for 70 days with 18 events held for the Local Development Plan Main Issues Report consultation. We'd like to say thank you to the hundreds of people who turned out to these events and for your views, comments, input and anecdotes. Many more people submitted written comments. A summary of all representations received is available on the Council's website (www.clacksweb.org.uk) where you can also find a newsletter which provides an overview of the process and the comments received. Copies of the full representations are available to view at the Council offices at Kilncraigs and, in most cases, electronic versions can be emailed.

All of the comments received will be fully considered by the officers preparing the Proposed Development Plan which we hope to publish for consultation early in 2012.

The Local Development Plan will encourage inward investment and create jobs in Clackmannanshire, while at the same time take



into account issues like climate change.

As part of the consultation exercise the Council held an online photography competition called 'My Clackmannanshire'. We received over 400 entries and the winning image was this stunning photo of Clackmannan Tower (above) taken by Jon Marshall who received a prize of an iPod Touch. This winning photo will feature in the designed version of the Local Development Plan along with some of the runners-up.

For more information the Development Plan please email devplan@clacks.gov.uk or call 01259 450000.

Meggan and Martyn are going places thanks to the Community Chest

Two of Clackmannanshire's talented young athletes have received grants from the Community Chest to help them achieve their dreams.

Wheelchair racer Meggan Dawson-Farrell (18) and New Year Sprint winner Martyn Paterson (18) have each received sponsorship from the Clackmannanshire Community Chest.

The Community Chest is made possible through the generosity of local companies Sterling Furniture and Sterling Mills, and is administered by the Council. The fund has been going for 12 years and in that time has handed out £163,000 to local good causes.

Former Alloa Academy pupil Meggan, made her half marathon debut at Silverstone earlier this year and achieved the qualifying time to compete in the 2012 London Marathon.

She followed that up with a good 10k time of 35.57 at the Great Manchester Run, beating her hero Tanni Grey-Thompson by 4 minutes.

In 2010 Meggan achieved staggering improvements in her times across the board from 100m to 1500m: improvements she puts down to a new coach, Ian Mirfin, and a new training programme.

Meggan, who lives in Tullibody with mum Kirstie and dad John, said: "I train six days a week, with two sessions a day. I'm doing a combinations of work on rollers at home, on the track at Glasgow and Grangemouth, on the local cycle tracks and in the gym at Stirling University, pushing between 10k and 15k a day."

Meggan has used the Community Chest funding to buy a new pair of racing wheels for her chair.

"The racing chair and wheels cost as much as a new car so I really appreciate the funding from the Community Chest. I'm currently on the look-out for a new sponsor after receiving support from OI last year," she said.

Meggan's plans for the rest of the year include a few more half marathons including the Glasgow Half Marathon in September, working towards the London Marathon next year.

Martyn, who lives in Clackmannan, is currently concentrating on the 400m and 800m having won the 142nd New Year Sprint at Musselburgh Racecourse for which he received the Eric Liddell Memorial Trophy.

"I have been working on continually improving my 400m time and want to get under 48 seconds this year," said Martyn, who has a range of good times from 200m to 800m.

Martyn is currently looking forward to the British championships at Bedford and the Scottish senior and junior championships at Scotstoun.

"I travel to Pitreavie six days a week to train with my coach Eric Simpson. I really appreciate the funding. It will make a huge difference. I've spent it on new spikes and travelling expenses. I've been involved in sport for a long time and have never had any funding before," he said.

As well as the financial support, Martyn says he appreciates the support of his family - mum Helene, dad Gordon, a former international steeplechaser, and grandad John - who go everywhere with him.



Paul Sutton and John McGirr present cheques from the Community Chest to Meggan and Martyn.

A second year accountancy student at Stirling University, Martyn added that he is looking forward to being able to train on the new 400m athletics track at Lornhill, his former school.

Martyn now has his sights set on making the Scottish team for the

2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The Community Chest is open to any individual, community group or voluntary organisation which is locally based, or provides a service in Clackmannanshire.

To find out more about the Community Chest and to download an application form go to www.clacksweb.org.uk/community/communitychest/. Application forms are also available from Greenfield reception.

Educational Support Worker is Top of the Class

Jane Edwards, an educational support worker at West Dollarbeg Farm, picked up a prestigious award at the Scottish Education Awards 2011, which recognise excellence in Scottish education.

She collected the coveted Educational Supporter of the Year Award at a glittering award ceremony in Glasgow, after judges selected her as a worthy winner for her work with Strathdevon Primary School in Dollar.

Jane gives Strathdevon pupils the opportunity to visit her farm where they can learn about farming and carry out a range of tasks. From this the pupils gain hands-on experience and can contribute to the maintenance of the land. Jane gives up her time to educate the children and works closely with pupils to share her expertise and resources.

Last year, Jane gave P3 pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of the world of work and commerce. The children were given their own area of land within the farm where they prepared the land and planted vegetables, wild flowers and fruit trees. The pupils then gave guided tours to members of the local community to display the work being done at the farm.

After the summer holiday, the children returned to harvest their crops and sold their potatoes at a local food festival. The money they earned was used to buy more compost and seeds to continue their work on the farm.

Jane's enthusiasm and generosity has allowed the pupils at Strathdevon develop their planning, team-working and communication skills, whilst encouraging them to explore and consider the environment.

Jane was joined at the event by Eleanor McGlashan, a physical education teacher at Tillicoultry Primary School who was shortlisted by the judges for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Eleanor started her work with Clackmannanshire Council in 1989 as the only peripatetic primary PE teacher in the area. Travelling and working throughout 20 primary schools, Eleanor created a PE programme that she delivered with support from primary teachers.

In 2000, Eleanor joined the sports development team one day a week and was instrumental in creating the vision and initiating an improvement in the educational opportunities for all pupils in Clackmannanshire. Eleanor worked alongside Active Schools co-ordinators to provide support, advice and an understanding on how schools work and strategy on how to develop the partnership.



Eleanor has been based in Tillicoultry since 2004 and her high level of energy and commitment is demonstrated everyday in her teaching and involvement in the ethos of the school. She had developed PE and sport within the school and runs numerous sports clubs and teams including gymnastics, cross country, basketball, badminton, athletics, cricket, and rugby.

Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, said: "These awards have again given us the chance to highlight the work that takes place on ground that often goes unrecognised. I'd like to congratulate this year's winners. They are an example to the whole of Scottish education."

Clackmannanshire Councillor George Matchett, Inclusion Portfolio Holder, said: "I'm delighted that two Clackmannanshire nominees were finalists at these coveted awards and my congratulations go to Jane for winning the Educational Supporter of the Year Award."

"In Clackmannanshire, we work hard to make sure schools are part of the community, supporting happy, active and creative students. Both Jane and Eleanor exemplify this and it's important that we recognise their hard work and dedication."



Kilncraigs plan progresses

The Council's plans to relocate all staff into one building have taken a step forward.

Last year the Council agreed to progress a project which will eventually see all Council staff currently based at Greenfield and Lime Tree House being relocated to Kilncraigs. This plan will make use of the currently empty 1936 building and Paton's School.

A Property Developer Project Manager and design team have now been appointed to undertake the design and feasibility exercise and we are now seeking to appoint contractors to deliver this multi-million pound project.

Council leader Sam Ovens said: "This major initiative shows the Council's commitment to the ongoing regeneration of Alloa Town Centre, particularly during the current economic downturn. This is an opportunity to cut the cost of running three corporate buildings in Alloa, while creating a modern, efficient and flexible working environment for our staff. It will bring new opportunities for streamlined working as well as creating over 100 jobs during the construction phase."

"This plan represents a multi-million pound investment in the town centre, bringing a large amount of

staff into the town centre, assisting it commercial vitality and viability.

"The Kilncraigs development comes on the back of the hugely successful Imagine Alloa project which transformed the town centre. It is also happening alongside the opening of the new Forth Valley College campus, the work to create a modern library and customer service centre at the Speirs Centre, Alloa Town Hall's refurbishment and the new state-of-the-art dental centre which is coming to Drysdale Street. I am positive that our faith in the town centre will encourage others, particularly those in the private sector, to invest and make Alloa a better place to visit and do business."

The Kilncraigs project, which is subject to final Council approval, is expected to take up to two years to complete and will create job opportunities during the construction phase. The plan will deliver savings and efficiencies as well as improve customer service in the long term.



Latest artwork inspired by emergency services



The latest sculpture by internationally renowned artist Andy Scott has been installed on the Shillinghill roundabout as part of the Imagine Alloa project.

The sculpture, in Andy's distinctive metalwork, depicts a giant hand supporting a woman and child and has been inspired by the service provided by the blue light services in the area.

At just under eight metres high, this is the artist's largest work in Clackmannanshire and his sixth in the area.

The new sculpture has been paid for by the Scottish Government-funded Imagine Alloa project with a contribution from Forth Valley College, whose new campus overlooks the Shillinghill roundabout.

Councillor Eddie Carrick, Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, said: "This sculpture is a beautiful addition to the other popular works by Andy Scott and others across Clackmannanshire. With six of his artworks in such a concentrated area, I hope that people will identify Clackmannanshire with public art and Andy Scott in particular. Andy's brief was about representing helping hands in the community, which he's done, taking the shape of the giant hand from the gauntlet on Clackmannanshire's coat of arms. This new work also develops themes which flow through the other artworks which can be seen nearby."

Andy has named this latest sculpture 'Lifeline' - a name he came up with in collaboration with one of Scotland's most renowned poets Jim Carruth. Appropriate text by Jim has been incorporated into the sculpture. The words 'Life-line Reach out Hold Close Cradle Cushion Shelter

Protect Support Lift Up' have been laser-cut from 16mm steel plate and individually welded onto the sculpture in a pattern decided by Jim, which spreads up the back of the hand section of the artwork.

Andy said: "I asked Jim to be involved once I had been asked to create the artwork and had developed the basic theme and narrative I was trying to capture. Jim and I discussed the concept therein and created a simple but very effective piece of text. This was then laser cut from steel plates and the actual words are incorporated into the artwork, in this instance arranged up the back of the hand of the sculpture.

"I asked Jim to decide where the words should be placed, and we agreed mutually on the typeface to be used. I very much enjoy the creative discussions with him regarding the use of written language alongside the sculptural, and having another artist's interpretation adds a new creative dimension to the process for me."

Andy's five other sculptures in Clackmannanshire have attracted wide praise and this latest addition is already becoming a popular landmark.

Councillor Carrick added: "I would like to thank all the companies who have made these works of public art possible. It is part of normal planning requirements for significant developments to contribute towards public art and we have been lucky enough to enjoy a construction boom in recent years which has led to these important assets being erected at various sites across the county."



The first of Andy Scott's sculptures was installed in Clackmannanshire in 2007.

Andy said: "I have had a very positive experience working with Clackmannanshire Council over these few projects. I think the Council are to be applauded for the integration of visual artworks into Clackmannanshire's landscape and towns. Not just my creations of course...I know there have been many other projects initiated and I believe they all add a new and exciting dimension to the area."

Woods to be revitalised

Two Alloa woodlands will be granted a new lease of life thanks to funding boosts totalling £70,000.

Arns Brae Pleasure Grounds and the Gean woods will have new trees planted, footpaths built and access improved.

The work follows successful applications by the Council to the Forestry Commission Scotland's 'Woodlands In and Around Towns' fund and the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust.

The existing Arns Brae Pleasure Grounds, which welcomes visitors to Alloa arriving from the east, will be restored to a mixed native ornamental woodland, while maintaining the existing mature copses of trees.

Public access to the Pleasure Grounds, which offer a fantastic panoramic view of the River Forth, will be improved. The paths, in particular the core path linking two residential areas of Alloa, will be upgraded to encourage more people to use this area for walking.

Tree work should start on site in September and path and drainage works in October.

Funding will also be used for access improvements and the control of non-native species found in the woodland which surrounds Gean House.

The house and woods were named after the abundant wild cherry trees in the area and these will be enjoyed by far more visitors once the improvements are carried out.

Check the Council's website ClacksWeb for more information over the autumn months about how you can get involved in supporting these improvement works. There will be opportunities to take part in activities such as 'rhoddy bashing' and fire wood will be available to collect.

New Alloa Campus On the Horizon



Forth Valley College

The wait is nearly over... Forth Valley College will open its new Alloa Campus in September this year.

The new campus is part of a college wide estates strategy with plans to develop across all campuses. In 2008, the College received £50million from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to build new campuses in Alloa and Stirling and the project is now nearing its first major milestone with the Alloa opening now imminent.

The college will move from Branshill Road to the heart of the town centre over the summer. This prominent position is ideally located next to main transport links and will increase accessibility for all learners. The college's vision has

always been to create a 'community college' for the 21st century bringing people from all walks of life together. The new campus will provide excellent opportunities for gaining qualifications and skills across a range of programmes and flexible delivery, attracting school leavers, adults and mature learners as well as offering a portfolio of programmes and training for local businesses.

The new facility will totally transform the learner experience with the campus boasting modern teaching spaces, state-of-the-art workshops and all the latest resources. The heart of the building boasts a bright and inspiring student resource centre with floor to ceiling windows taking full advantage of the stunning views. College wide facilities on offer will include a comfortable canteen a

hi-tech gym and industry standard hair and beauty salons.

The support of local organisations and businesses, and significantly Clackmannanshire Council, has been essential throughout the project. Excellent working relationships have been established through Clackmannanshire Alliance, and a range of specific initiatives such as the Clackmannanshire Employment Strategy. This strong partnership and collaborative approach continues to bring mutual benefits to the College, Clackmannanshire Council and its partners.

For all the latest updates and photos, please visit www.forthvalley.ac.uk/building_your_future

Smart House to

A vacant bungalow has been converted into a 'Smart House' to transform disabled peoples' lives.

The Council receiving funding from the Scottish Government's Telecare programme to create the Smart House. Social services staff worked with colleagues from the NHS, a specialist advisor and an electronics firm to rewire and completely refit the Cambus bungalow to ensure that it is suitable for people with all types of physical disability.

The property contains a huge range of gadgets and smart technology hard-wired into every room of the two-bedroomed house which can be programmed to match the individual needs of service users. The technology is far beyond equipment that can be plugged in to enable independent living. The smart technology is built into the very fabric of the building to ensure that, as needs of users change, the house can be as response as it



needs to be, helping to improve a disabled person's independence and increase their safety.

The Smart House is being used by people with physical disabilities and a high level of need to assess their needs and help determine what support is needed in their own home. This is particularly relevant to people who have acquired a disability and are about to leave hospital. It is also suitable for people who live with family and are looking for more independence like disabled young adults who are looking to move into their own home.

People with physical disabilities can also use the house for respite breaks. The house is suitable for staff training

Town Hall's Splendour Restored

The second year of a four year programme to refurbish Alloa Town Hall is complete.

The work to renovate the interior of the building, which dominates the town centre, was completed on schedule and on budget.

This followed the first year of the programme when the roof, guttering, downpipes and ironwork was overhauled.

Alloa Town Hall is a 'C' listed building and the Council will invest to total of £750,000 over four years in restoring the building's splendour in order to maximise its potential as a community venue.

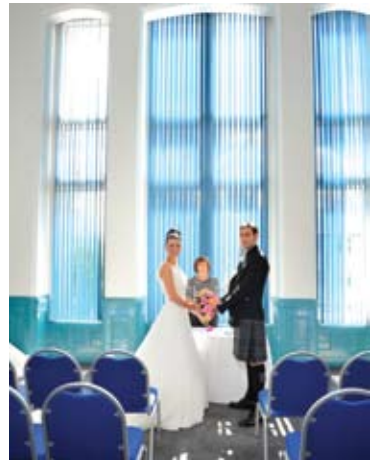
Further external improvements carried out this year have included resurfacing the access road, improved landscaping and cleaning the surrounding paving.

The Town Hall has many fine architectural details including the magnificent tiled staircase and mosaic floor tiling. These have been meticulously cleaned and new lighting show these features in their full glory.

The centrepiece of the building is the imposing main hall, which originally housed Alloa's first public library.

The improvements to the main hall include complete redecoration and the heating has also been upgraded. Performance lighting, a new sound system, and two large, wall-mounted televisions have also been installed. The floor has been sanded and varnished, new carpets have been laid, new stage and window curtains have been hung and the chairs on the balcony have been recovered. A new bar has been installed and a new floor has been laid on the stage. All the 'behind the scenes' rooms have been redecorated with new lighting and new carpets.

The two public rooms on the first floor have also been redecorated and new carpets have been fitted.



The bar has been removed from what is now the 'blue room' to make the room more flexible.

Low energy lighting has been installed throughout the building and the stained glass window on the first floor has been repaired.

The majority of the work was carried out by the Council's own trades people except for the very specialist work.

One of the first events to be held in the hall after the refurbishment was a Wedding Show and the hall was 'dressed' to show how it could look for a couple's big day.

Civil marriages can be conducted

either in the Registration Office in Alloa, or in certain designated halls such as Alloa Town Hall, or in another approved venue. Alloa Town Hall has a choice of rooms that can accommodate ceremonies of between 50 and 160 people, and receptions for up to 200.

Plans for the future of the hall include installing a stair lift in the stairwell to allow disabled access to

the first floor for the first time. The Council also plans to fully replace the heating system as well as restore the mosaic flooring.

When the hall first opened there were science rooms and art studios in the roofspace and the Council also plans to refurbish these rooms to allow more community use.

Councillor Eddie Carrick, Sustainability Portfolio Holder, said:

"It is intended that the hall will be busier and more popular than ever following the refurbishment. We are extremely proud of the work that we are doing in Clackmannanshire to provide facilities for the local community. Restored to its former glory, the town hall can once again fulfill its role as the heart of civic and community life. Residents and visitors have the opportunity to hire these unique facilities which offer the area a prestigious performance, conference, banqueting and event space."

Transform Lives



and demonstrations and has already been visited by professionals from other local authorities.

The house contains responsive and predictive technology and there are presence detectors in each room - lights work automatically and household equipment such as the TV, phone and even the doors are controlled by easy-to-operate pads. The house can also be monitored remotely ensuring client safety. Other visible features include: door intercom, adapted kitchen, fully equipped bedroom with a ceiling track hoist, an electronic profile bed with pressure relief mattress and Hydrotilt chair.

The spacious bathroom contains a Clos-o-Mat toilet, shower and bath

all designed to give as much privacy, independence and freedom as possible to the client.

However, despite all the technology, the Smart House is first and foremost a home-from-home and maintains a homely environment.

The staff who were involved in the design of the house have taken every opportunity to support well-being and promote independence for physically disabled people with a high level of need.

The second bedroom is the only room in the house which is not wheelchair accessible and is suitable for a carer or family member to use if needed.

Councillor Janet Cadenhead, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, said: "I am delighted and proud that Clackmannanshire Council has created this Smart House to help people with a high level of need to be more independent in their own home, as well as providing respite."

Improvements to Cycle Network



Cyclists can now enjoy a smoother journey on the local cycle network with the completion of improvement works.

The Council has recently resurfaced the entire six miles of the Devon Way from Alloa to Tillicoultry. The work was made possible thanks to support from sustainable transport charity Sustrans.

The Devon Way is part of the National Cycle Network, number 767, which links Clackmannanshire to neighbouring Fife and Stirling.

The Council is now working to improve part of the 'Round the Forth' cycle route at Cambus. Once complete, cyclists will be able to ride from Dunfermline, through Clackmannanshire as far as the Manor Powis roundabout on the outskirts of Stirling.

And with the help of Sustrans and Diageo, we have plans to create a new cycle route following the course of the former railway line between Cambus and Menstrie.

Councillor Eddie Carrick, Sustainability Portfolio Holder, said: "The only way we can change travel behaviour is by making walking and cycling more comfortable which is why, over the past five years, we have spent around £750,000 improving local cycle routes. Thanks goes to Sustrans who have provided around half of that funding and to Diageo who have allowed us to use their land. Cycling offers a good alternative to the private car for short to medium length journeys - it has no impact on the environment, is relatively affordable and can contribute to improving the health of Clackmannanshire's population."

Katherine Soane, Project officer with Sustrans Scotland, said: "Sustrans is delighted to be supporting Clackmannanshire Council in the creation of a fantastic legacy of a network of active travel routes across the council's area. Most of the communities in Clackmannanshire have at least one route running through them, these routes that can be by everyone as they make their daily journeys by foot or bike, these allow physical activity to become part of everyday life be this through walking to school, cycling to the station or enjoying a breath of a fresh air, making Clackmannanshire a healthier place to live. This year we have been funding works between Cambus and Tullibody, within Alloa and between Fishcross and Tillicoultry, and we are looking to be funding more works next year, so look out for new works coming soon!"



The Scottish Social Housing Charter



Did you know the Scottish Government is developing a Scottish Social Housing Charter?

The Charter will come into effect in April 2012 and will set out the standards and results that social landlords across Scotland should be achieving for their tenants.

The Scottish Government requires your help to get the charter right and views can be submitted online at <http://housingcharter.scotland.gov.uk>. Clackmannanshire Council hosted a consultation event with tenants and residents to get feedback which we have used to produce a Clackmannanshire response to the consultation.

Some key points emerged from the event. These included:

- A more transparent Housing Revenue Account to provide more information to tenants on how the rent is spent on services.

- The increasing requirement for social landlords to review and enhance their support offerings. This includes supporting those who are threatened with homelessness (to help sustain tenancies), tenants with complex support needs, tenants experiencing or perpetrating anti social behaviour, and to assist young tenants in their first tenancy.
- Regular and relevant communication. Tenants want evidence that we follow through on agreed actions via feedback and information.

These comments have been fed back to the Scottish Government in a consultation response document. A formal consultation on the first charter will be led by the Scottish Government over the summer and Clackmannanshire Council will be hosting further consultation events at this time. More information will be available on ClacksWeb and in our local offices.

Fun at the Delph Pond

Improvements the Council has made at the Delph Pond have been given the thumbs up by the local community.

A questionnaire was handed out at a recent environmental fun day held at the Pond and the results show that local people are pleased with the improved footpaths, youth shelter and new picnic tables and the area is being used more as a result.

The Delph Pond is located between Delph Wynd, Alloa Road and Delph Road in Tullibody. The area consists of a pond with wildlife habitat, a children's park, a multi-use games area, a youth shelter, seating areas and plenty of green open space.

It was in this space that an Easter weekend event was held with many agencies getting together to create an environmental fun day. The Delph Pond Forum wish to extend a big thank you to all those who took part on the day and helped make the event such a success.

The questionnaire also asked people about future improvements to the area and the Council is currently considering the suggestions. A copy of the Delph pond questionnaire (for reference) and the results are available on ClacksWeb.



Coming Soon

Following the success of the Easter environmental event, we are holding a Family Fun Day on 10th September. Attractions include a woodland storyteller, DJ and face painting. Look out for posters with more information. If you want to get involved in the Delph Pond Forum or if you are interested in helping out at future events, please contact Michelle Flynn on 01259 452404 or email mflynn@clacks.gov.uk

Joint Landlord Housing Conference proves a big hit



The joint landlord Housing Conference held on 19th April 2011 also proved to be a big success. Tenants, residents and staff of Forth Valley landlords Clackmannanshire Council, Falkirk Council, Link, Ochil View and Paragon Housing Associations met up in Falkirk Municipal Buildings to discuss housing matters including the Scottish Government's proposals for a Scottish Social Housing Charter.

Julie Strain Tenancy Services Manager commented: "I was delighted to see a great turn out from tenants and staff of all the landlords to take part in this very important discussion as the Charter will be a key influence on how landlords will deliver services in future."

Naomi Breeze of Breeze Productions, performed a one

person play on antisocial behaviour and how it affects people. It looked at this from both sides and aimed to create a better understanding of the complex issues involved.

One participant said: "I thought the play was really good –it was very emotional and it helped me to think about how things that happen in people's lives can influence their behaviour. It also showed that things like communicating with your neighbours can improve situations."

The feedback from the joint event will be collated and reported back to the Scottish Government.

If you would like to get involved in future events or want more information on the Charter, please contact Michelle Flynn by email mflynn@clacks.gov.uk or by telephoning 01259 450000.

Go Walkabout with Housing Staff

Are you interested in joining our staff on a walkabout of your estate?

We want you to be proud of where you live and during the walkabouts you can help us identify things that could be improved so we can ensure your neighbourhood is clean, tidy and a place where people want to live, work and play.

The walkabouts are held twice a year, in the spring and autumn and the next round will be from 15th August to 30th September.

Our housing staff are constantly out and about, but these walkabouts are a formal chance for tenants and residents to accompany senior staff, community constables and elected members and give feedback.

During the walkabouts, staff look out for environmental problems such as neglected gardens, broken fences, litter, missing drain covers and fly tipping. All findings are recorded and reported for action.

For further information about these inspections call 01259 450000, email housing@clacks.gov.uk or check the events diary on ClacksWeb.



Services, not buildings, our priority

This is an unprecedented period of change for Clackmannanshire Council and the public sector as a whole across Scotland.

Our agreed budget strategy involves making savings of at least £13m over the period 2011-2014 and that means we are having to do things differently, stop some services and charge for others.

The Council's ambitious change programme is underway and we are again asking for the community's help in shaping the future of public services in Clackmannanshire.

After payroll costs, the largest outlay for the public sector is the amount spent on the ownership and upkeep of premises. In order to protect and enhance frontline services we will have to reduce the number of buildings we own and maintain. The Council has carried out a review of all the properties we own to appraise whether they are providing value for money.

We are committed to engaging with communities about these forthcoming changes and that process is already underway in Tillicoultry, the first of eight 'settlements' we are going to consider in this property review.

The next 'settlement' area we will be looking at will be Tullibody & Cambus, followed by:

- Menstrie
- Dollar & Muckhart
- Alva
- Sauchie & Clackmannan
- Alloa
- Fishcross, Coalsnaughton & Devonside



Muckhart is an Excellent School



Muckhart is a primary school with high attainment levels where children really enjoy their learning, according to a report by HM Inspectorate of Education.

The school received two 'Excellents' and three 'Very Goods' for the five aspects the inspectors evaluated. To receive two 'Excellents' is exceptional and these were given in the areas of 'improvements in performance' and 'learners' experiences.' An 'Excellent' rating means that the school has been recognised as sector leading.

The report also highlights the school's particular strengths:

- ▶ The headteacher's leadership of children's learning
- ▶ Children's influence on their own and others' learning
- ▶ Children's achievements and their outdoor learning
- ▶ Teamwork and staff's sharing of effective practice
- ▶ Staff's ability to make children's learning exciting and relevant

The sense of community amongst staff, parents, children and others who work together to enhance children's learning experiences

The report describes Muckhart's pupils as "highly motivated" and "exceptionally caring." Inspectors describe the pupils' behaviour as "impeccable" and their achievements as "very impressive."

Staff, who are progressing very well in using Curriculum for Excellence, deliver experiences which allow children choices, enjoyment and opportunities to challenge themselves, be active, take ownership of and set their own targets.

The school's partnership with parents is impressive and the Parent Council is highly supportive of the school. Staff have strong links with

various partners, including local businesses, which enrich children's learning.

Headteacher Helen Finch is described as providing "high-quality, strategic leadership." She manages change very well and is highly regarded by children and parents, staff and the community. She said: "We are all very proud of our school and to be the first school in Clackmannanshire to be awarded 'Excellents' by Inspectors just confirms our reasons to be proud. There is not one individual who deserves praise for this fantastic report as we really are a close knit team - we may be the smallest school in the County but we certainly pack a punch!"

Councillor George Matchett, Portfolio Holder for Inclusion, said: "Congratulations to everyone involved in this outstanding report. The report confirms that this is a school of which pupils, parents and all staff have every reason to be proud. Muckhart Primary is an excellent school whose many key strengths have been identified by the Inspectors."

A copy of the full report is available at www.hmie.gov.uk



Judy swings in to relaunch tennis club



Judy Murray, mother of tennis champs Andy and Jamie came to Lornshill Academy to officially launch Menstrie Tennis Club.

The event attracted 150 people, including lots of children and young people, keen to get a few tips from Britain's most famous sporting mum.

The club has been in existence since the 1920s when it was DCL Menstrie Tennis Club and members were mainly company workers. But membership waned around a decade ago and the club was disbanded. However, an energetic and enthusiastic group of local residents reformed the club last year and, with the support of the Council, has been running occasional tennis coaching classes at the Dumyat Centre and at Lornshill Academy.

The club now has around a dozen regular members.

The club's interim chairman Dr Jim Hay said: "We are extremely keen to attract new members to the club and hope to have around 50 members by the end of the year. We welcome members of all abilities and from anywhere in Clackmannanshire. We have been working closely with the Council's sports development and facilities management and are keen to encourage young people to take

up the game. It's a great game, lots of fun and a good way to keep fit."

There are club nights at Lornshill Academy on Tuesday and Friday evenings and the club runs coaching sessions on Wednesday evenings for all age groups. The club has also entered a gent's team into the Tennis Central league.

Thanks to support from sports development and Cashback Tennis there is an eight-week summer programme during the school holidays with free tennis coaching at Lornshill every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm for young people aged 12 to 16 years.

Councillor Bobby McGill, spokesman for sports development, said: "Our three secondary school boast fantastic sporting facilities and this club is using the four artificial outdoor tennis courts at Lornshill. The Council is always keen to support and assist local clubs in whatever way we can and sports development continues to work with the club to encourage junior membership and to help train coaches."

For more information on Menstrie Tennis club see their website at www.menstrietennisclub.co.uk.

For any information about the sport of tennis, coach education or access to facilities contact sports development on 01259 450000.

Road repairs after the severe winter

The winter of 2010/11 was the worst that many people can remember and once the ice had melted the true cost of long term maintenance on our roads was revealed.

A massive effort was required by the Council's Roads Service to keep roads open and safe and programme the permanent repair of severely damaged routes.

Initially, we filled the potholes allowing the roads to remain open, often working around the clock in very unpleasant and difficult conditions. In some areas however, damage to the carriageway was so severe that simple pothole patching was insufficient to cover the extensive damage and complete resurfacing

was required to allow the roads to remain usable. The strategic network was tackled first and we resurfaced a large section of the A823 between Muckhart and Rumbling Bridge. The road had to be closed to allow the work to take place and an external contractor carried out the work at a cost of around £70,000.

We repaired the B9140 between Collylands roundabout at Glenochil and its junction with the B913 at Dollarbeg over a period of 12 weeks and at a cost of £140,000. The road was patched and made safe and was closed only for a few days to allow work to be carried out on the bends between Collylands and Fishcross.

The C-class road from Forestmill to the B9140 near Coalsnaughton was patched, resurfaced and damaged

drainage systems repaired under a two week road closure in May. This work was all carried out in-house at a cost of approximately £40,000. In the same month a similar operation was carried out on the B913 between the A977 at Ramshorn and the county boundary, again under a two week closure and at an estimated cost of £150,000.

As can be seen, the cost of these large, programmed works is high and this does not take account of the temporary reinstatements still required on our road network. As a result of last winter's severity, we will be continuing to repair the damage caused to our roads throughout the summer and autumn months.

What's on

CLACKMANNANSHIRE



Circus Arts and Crafts Sessions with the support of Claxart

Alva CAP
Wednesday 27th July
from 2pm-3pm

Alloa Library
Thursday 11th August
from 11am - 12noon



Tickets are free but should be booked in advance at your local library/CAP.

Raymondo Bongo Magic Shows

Dollar CAP
Wednesday 17th August
from 2pm - 2.45pm.

Tickets are £2.50 and should be booked in advance at your local library/CAP.



Circus Performers from Zoolab

Snake contortionists, tree frog acrobats and stick insects on stilts!

Tillicoultry Library
Wednesday 6th July
from 11am - 12noon



Tullibody Library
Thursday 7th July
from 11am - 12noon



Sauchie CAP
Friday 8th July
from 3pm - 4pm



Alva CAP
Wednesday 13th July
from 11am - 12noon



Clackmannan CAP
Wednesday 20th July
from 3pm - 4pm



Circus Stars Summer Reading Challenge

Come along to your local library/CAP and join in the summer reading challenge. Once you have filled in a registration card you will receive a 'circus stars' membership card, where you can record the books you read. Every time you return a book, or books, you will get a stamp on your registration card. When you have read six books you will receive your 'circus stars' pack which includes a circus stage, stickers, certificate, chatterbox and bookmark.



Tullibody Gala Day

Saturday 30th July

The 6th annual gala day takes place in the park adjacent to the civic centre and is organised by Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council. The fun kicks off at 11am with the parade and the action in the park from noon.

Sauchie Gala Day

Saturday 20th August

Fairfield Park is the venue for a fun packed day. The parade along Sauchie Main Street is at noon followed by all the usual family entertainment. The event is organised by Sauchie Active8.

Walk on the Darkside

Saturday 20th August

A family night walk through the Woodland Park at Alva searching for bats and other nocturnal beasts that go bump in the night. Please bring a torch and wear sturdy footwear. Event takes place from 9pm - 10pm. Meet at Ochil Hills Woodland Park.



Doors Open Days

3rd and 4th September 2011

Doors Open Days is a great way to find out about the hidden heritage on your doorstep. This is your opportunity to see behind the scenes of everyday buildings as well as important landmarks. And all for free.

This year, Doors Open Days weekend in Clackmannanshire will be on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September and we are planning to build on 2010's 'bumper' year, with the addition of new buildings and exhibitions to attract more visitors.

Several properties are taking part for the first time and people should find them of great interest: Burnfoot Wind Farm will be an exciting new addition to the programme; Glenochil Prison will be open on both afternoons for pre-booked, guided tours only, while Alloa Sheriff Court will be open on Saturday 3rd from 11am - 4pm for guided tours.

Other highlights are the ever-popular Clackmannan Tower, which will be open on Saturday, and Sauchie Tower, which will be open on Sunday, as well as Inglewood, one of the grand former homes of the Forrester-Paton family, which will open its doors from 10am-4pm on Saturday for guided tours. Following on from the successful celebration of glassmaking last year, The Newfangled Glass Company and Retroglass will be taking part again, as well as several churches in the county



Saturday 17th September

ScotFest is a one-day festival in Alva's Cochrane Park. A celebration of the best in Scottish food & drink, craft, design and live music with more than 50 exhibitors. For more information visit www.scotfest.co.uk.

Alva Glen Illuminations

Saturday 24th September

Alva Glen was first illuminated in 1937 to celebrate the coronation of George VI. Organised by the town council and using roman candles and 600 fairy lights, the event must have been a great success, since it was repeated in subsequent years. The illuminations were resurrected in 2004 after a 50-year absence by supporters of the Alva Glen Heritage Trust. Though more modest in size and duration, the celebrations still feature a variety of entertainment which takes place in the magical setting of the beautifully illuminated lower Glen. The event, organised by volunteers, raises significant funds for the work of the Trust in maintaining and improving the Glen. Come along for a free evening of family fun from 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Visit www.alvaglen.org.uk for more information.

Glass blowing courses



Learn the magical way glass is blown and sculpted with Elin Isaksson-Leftwich at Alloa Makers' Village. Elin offers popular hands-on and productive glass blowing courses for beginners to intermediates at her glass blowing studio and gallery. Day course includes making a paperweight, blowing a tumbler and other hollow glass wares which are yours to keep.

Course dates 2011:

- Saturday 23rd July (beginners day course £150)
- Saturday 27th August (beginners day course £150)
- Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th September - cost £290, 2 day workshop to learn further
- Saturday 29th October (beginners day course £150)
- Saturday 26th November (beginners day course £150)

To book a course contact by email

info@elinisaksson.com

Alternative you can now book and pay direct on the website

www.elinisaksson.com/courses



Helping you to live well

Stress Control

Coming soon to a venue near you: Stress Control.

Learn to control your body, your thoughts, your actions and your panic. Just turn up, sit back and learn some great ways to control stress.

A six-week course starting in Alloa week beginning 12th September, early evening.

For further information or registration, contact the Phoenix Centre on: 01259 215048.

Struggling with mental health and over 65?

Stress, low mood and other mental health problems do not age discriminate. Older people can struggle too.

This is why the Council's Integrated Mental Health Services offer support with depression, anxiety, self esteem and social isolation to people over 65.

So there is no need to struggle on your own, go and see your GP and find out what services and support you can access.

Fancy becoming a Mental Health First Aider?

Scottish Mental Health First Aid (SMHFA) is based on the concept of general First Aid training and aims to improve the general public's awareness and understanding of mental health.

The course teaches you to:

- Give initial help to someone experiencing a mental health problem
- Deal with a crisis situation or the first signs of someone developing mental ill health, and
- Guide people towards appropriate professional help.

SMHFA is a free 12-hour course that can be delivered in a variety of ways, to fit in with people's busy lives. We will be running courses in September and November. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us on 01259 215048