

TheView

All the news from YOUR South Lanarkshire Council

SPRING 2017

DANCE CHAMP MYA SCOOPS TOP PRIZE



STEP UP: 12-year-old Mya McDade, from St John Ogilvie High School, won best overall senior performer in the 2017 South Lanarkshire Active Schools Secondary Dance Competition. More than 250 pupils in 25 teams from 17 schools took part as the annual event celebrated a seventh successful year.

NEW HOMES TARGET DOUBLED TO 1000

AMBITIOUS plans to double the council's house building programme to 1000 new homes have been announced.

The target is to complete the homes by 2022 and sits alongside the housing improvement works which continue to raise the standard of all council housing in South Lanarkshire.

Delivering much needed affordable homes, work is currently ongoing towards

meeting this target and a further eight projects that will deliver 204 new homes are scheduled to go on site in 2017/18 in communities across South Lanarkshire.

The new homes are being designed to both high quality and space standards and in a range of innovative and flexible styles to suit varying needs.

Modern design and insulation, and the incorporation of renewable technologies such as solar panels, will also ensure that the new homes are energy efficient

and cheaper to run benefitting both the environment as well as household budgets.

Council Leader Eddie McAvoy said: "New council homes are already being built in areas across South Lanarkshire, and current plans would see us build a total of 500 new homes by 2022. I am doubling that target. By 2022 South Lanarkshire Council will have built not 500 new homes but 1000 new homes."

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INSIDESTORY ACEPROGRAMME



Giving youngsters unlimited access to arts, culture and exercise

ECOWARRIORS



Schoolkids have designed their very own Eco House

CITYDEAL

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First major transport project has opened in South Lanarkshire



USEFUL CONTACTS

Editor

Tom Little

News editor

James Davitt
01698 454747

Cover photograph

Anne-Janine Nugent

Publisher

South Lanarkshire Council
Produced by Communications
and Strategy
Floor 7

Council Offices Almada Street
Hamilton ML3 0AA

Phone 01698 454747

For all enquiries:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Payments

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Council tax and benefits

Phone 0303 123 1011

Council Tax arrears

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Housing repairs

Phone 0303 123 1010

Housing enquiries (except repairs)

Phone 0303 123 1012

Social Work and Money Matters

Phone 0303 123 1008

Refuse, grounds maintenance and street cleansing

Phone 0303 123 1020

Conference and banqueting

Phone 0303 123 1009

Parking

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Bereavement services (cemeteries and crematorium)

Phone 0303 123 1016

Fraud helpline

Phone 0303 123 1013

For all other enquiries

Phone 0303 123 1015

Out-of-hours emergency repairs

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Out-of-hours Social Work emergencies

Phone 0303 123 1008

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Council tax freeze continues as well as investment in roads, education and facilities

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South Lanarkshire Council Chair of Housing and Technical Resources, Councillor Alex McInnes, said: "South Lanarkshire Council's HOME+ programme is delivering both improvements to our existing housing stock and building excellent new homes right across the council, helping the council to meet its commitment to the provision of high quality accommodation and improving the lives of our tenants and communities."

Executive Director of South Lanarkshire Council's Housing and Technical Resources, Daniel Lowe, said: "1000 new homes by 2021/22 is an ambitious target but, with support from the Scottish Government, one that we will look to meet while adding value in terms of a range of other community benefits including employment and training opportunities. We currently have a number of sites nearing completion, including 12 amenity standard flats in Uddingston, and recently planning approval was given for a new development of 24 homes in Carluke."

The announcement about the new homes was made by Mr McAvoy as the budget for 2017/18 was set.

Mr McAvoy, who is stepping down in May after 21 years as a councillor, said the budget left South Lanarkshire Council "in good financial standing", despite years of battling with cuts in government grant.

He said: "This budget does more than just keep our finances straight for the next year. They also set out some ambitious plans for South Lanarkshire's future. The Capital Programme in particular lays out details of £255million in investment by 2020.

"This means we will replace three of our care homes, we will improve community



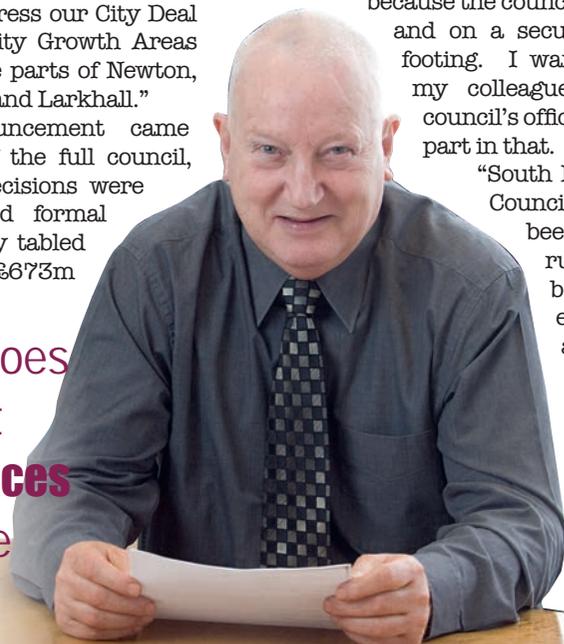
NEW BUILD: More homes like this one in Fernhill are to be built

facilities, such as replacing Balgreen Hall, and we will invest to make sure our school kids have access to the best IT equipment.

"We will also extend our roads improvement programme with another £5.5m and we will progress our City Deal projects. Our Community Growth Areas alone will help revitalise parts of Newton, East Kilbride, Hamilton and Larkhall."

The housing announcement came at a special meeting of the full council, at which a series of decisions were made. These included formal acceptance of previously tabled plans to balance the £673m

"This budget does more than just keep our finances straight for the next year"



budget while finding savings of £19m, and to continue the freeze on the council tax as controlled by the council.

The council also approved the Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20 and the Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2017/18, which set a 2% rent increase and continued the process of rent harmonisation across the area.

The council also agreed to set the Living Wage paid to employees at a minimum of £8.69 an hour.

Mr McAvoy said: "We have had to find £100m in efficiencies in recent years and this year we have had to find another £19m in efficiencies after the Scottish Government cut another £160m from Scotland's local services.

"The council should always lead on the fight against austerity, but the only reason I have been able to take these positions on Council Tax and the Living Wage is because the council is well run and on a secure financial footing. I want to thank my colleagues and the council's officers for their part in that.

"South Lanarkshire Council has always been well run. It has been run efficiently and we have always looked for best value for the public money we are entrusted with."

WARM CLYDESDALE WELCOME AWAITS SYRIAN REFUGEES

FIVE Syrian refugee families are expected to arrive safely in Clydesdale this week – the first for the area.

They will settle in the wider Clydesdale area as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS).

The arrival of the families sees Syrian refugees now living in every area of South Lanarkshire.

A total of 64 men, women and children have settled in the East Kilbride, Rutherglen and Cambuslang and wider Hamilton areas since December 2015.

The new arrivals will raise

the number to 21 families, a total of 79 refugees.

Families have been welcomed as part of the council's commitment to accommodate up to 60 men women and children in the first year of the resettlement scheme and a further 60 people throughout 2017.

Eddie McAvoy, South Lanarkshire Council Leader, said: "I am delighted we are welcoming Syrian refugees to the Clydesdale area.

"Those who have made their new homes in our communities have received a good Scots welcome, building new lives here and

I am sure the experience of refugees will be the same in Clydesdale.

"Across our communities Syrian children are settling in well at school and the families continually express their thanks and gratitude for the help they have received.

"This has been achieved by the commitment of an extended network of council and Community Planning partners, including health professionals, DWP, voluntary sector, community and faith groups who provide ongoing support. Other social landlords are involved in helping us house the

refugees and this has been invaluable."

The council will continue to provide assistance to Syrians who have fled to neighbouring countries as a result of conflict in their homeland, including survivors of violence and torture, women and children who are at risk and people who need medical care.

The UK Government has expanded the SVPRS to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees from camps neighbouring Syria by 2020.

And Scottish councils have pledged to take 2,000 refugees from the UK-wide figure.



ENGAGING: ACE members Orlagh, Patrick and Ethan take part in a range of classes. Picture: Anne-Janine Nugent

ACE access improves health and wellbeing for the young

SOUTH Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's ACE membership for under-16s is bigger and better than ever.

The unique programme already gives children and young people unlimited access to arts, culture and exercise (ACE) across all local authority sports centres and venues for less than £25 a month.

But it's now adding newer and more diverse classes for 2017, as well as fantastic holiday timetables for the forthcoming Spring break and Summer school holidays.

Siblings of members qualify for a further discount, as do members of SLLC's hugely popular swimming lessons programme.

Indeed from tots to teens – and in between – there is genuinely an activity to suit all. And, the more you get involved, the better value it is.

Eight-year-old Ethan Carstairs loves

his ACE membership as it gives him the opportunity to try out classes he wouldn't have before.

He went on: "I really like my football class on a Saturday morning where lots of my school pals go too. The coaches are really fun and my favourite is when I get a turn as goalkeeper. On a Tuesday after school I have made new friends at my urban dance class. We learn cool moves and play games. I've also been to drum lessons and I'd love to learn to play the guitar. My mum says that it's only because I have ACE I can do all these things, because she only has to pay once.

"It's good that I can also go swimming whenever I want with ACE. I am getting lessons every week and need to get in extra practice."

ACE is a sector-leading programme in Scotland, packaging up access to all sports, culture and arts for young people. Figures

"New classes, activities and improved school holiday provision have seen our membership grow and, more importantly, more of our young people genuinely engaged with arts, culture and exercise"

compiled by SLLC show participation increasing year on year, with many families signing up en masse.

Explained Gerry Campbell, General Manager of SLLC: "Our aim with ACE was to develop a comprehensive, customer-focused, affordable, equitable and accessible programme of activities across South Lanarkshire to improve health and wellbeing amongst the younger generation.

"Since its introduction in 2014 we have been heartened to see that this approach has been both well-received and successful and we continue to build on that as the programme develops. New classes, activities and improved school holiday provision have seen our membership grow and, more importantly, more of our young people genuinely engaged with arts, culture and exercise."

■ **Bookings are now open for the ACE Spring Break programme. Full details of activities and membership options are available at: http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/6/sport/850/ace_childrens_activities**

Come and enjoy festival for the 'Young at Heart'

SOUTH Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture's 12th annual Young at Heart festival is offering its most diverse line-up yet.

Celebrating the arts as "engaging and accessible for all", the festival is aimed at those aged 50 and over and will run until 18 March.

And the action-packed programme does indeed offer something for everyone.

South Lanarkshire's cultural venues will come into their own hosting a fabulous array of shows. Theatre lovers are also spoiled for choice.

Also on the varied list are workshops and heritage events, tea dances, crafts, textiles, jewellery making and sewing tuition.

Appetite for Apps will show those taking part that there really is an "app for everything" whilst a Lego workshop will be pure child's play.

And new for this year is Active Arts Mornings with opportunities to try a range of arts and cultural opportunities from dance and digital photography to drums and singing.

Look out for two unmissable events too - Arts in the Park at Chatelherault Country Park on Sunday, 12 March, and the



SPECTACULAR: The Taiko Drumfest will bring the festival to a thrilling finale

festival grand finale, the Taiko Drumfest. Described as an "exotic feast for the eyes and ears", this show on Saturday 18 March brings together Scotland's top taiko players with one of Japan's most exciting young groups in a cross-cultural collaboration and celebration of life.

Councillor Hamish Stewart, Chair of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, said: "As always, Young at Heart promises to be a fabulous festival. If you are over 50 and interested in the arts then this festival is for you, and we are confident that there really is something for all in this appealing and unique programme."

Copies of the Young at Heart brochure are available at libraries and SLLC venues throughout South Lanarkshire or you can ring The Town House Hamilton (01698 452 299) and ask to have the brochure mailed to you. The brochure is also downloadable from www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/festivals

■ Whilst there are a number of free events, most events are charged – with some offering reduced prices for Active members. Places are limited for most events so advance booking is advisable.



ECO WARRIORS ME

A unique school project is set to bring **benefits to** the wider community

BY SARAH BURROWS

AS part of Mount Cameron Primary School's environmental and enterprise education, the pupils of P5 have designed their very own Eco House which will be built in the school playground.

The forward-thinking school has managed to secure around £23,500 of funding to push ahead with the project and really bring their ideas to life. The money was granted through the Aviva Community Fund. The

pupils will be able to watch as their initial designs take shape and are built before their very eyes.

The impressive house will use recycled materials wherever possible, will be powered by a sustainable energy source and will be built using environmentally sound techniques. The detailed plans are currently going through the planning process, but it is hoped that work will start in the summer and will be completed by the end of the year.

Head Teacher Caroline Reid said: "We have been working closely with our parent council to get this project off the ground and secure funding.



"We would like to congratulate Mount Cameron Primary School on their win. It shows the positive impact they have on their local community"

"But in essence this is a project by the children for the children. They have been involved every step along the way and will benefit from all aspects of the house once it is built.

"To enhance both the educational and environmental purpose of the house, it

will include recycling facilities and, as part of the project, planters for growing food, demonstrating sustainability, natural water collection and the development of animal habitats.

"The house will serve as an outdoor classroom as well as a play facility and I

have absolutely no doubt that it will be a fantastic asset to our school."

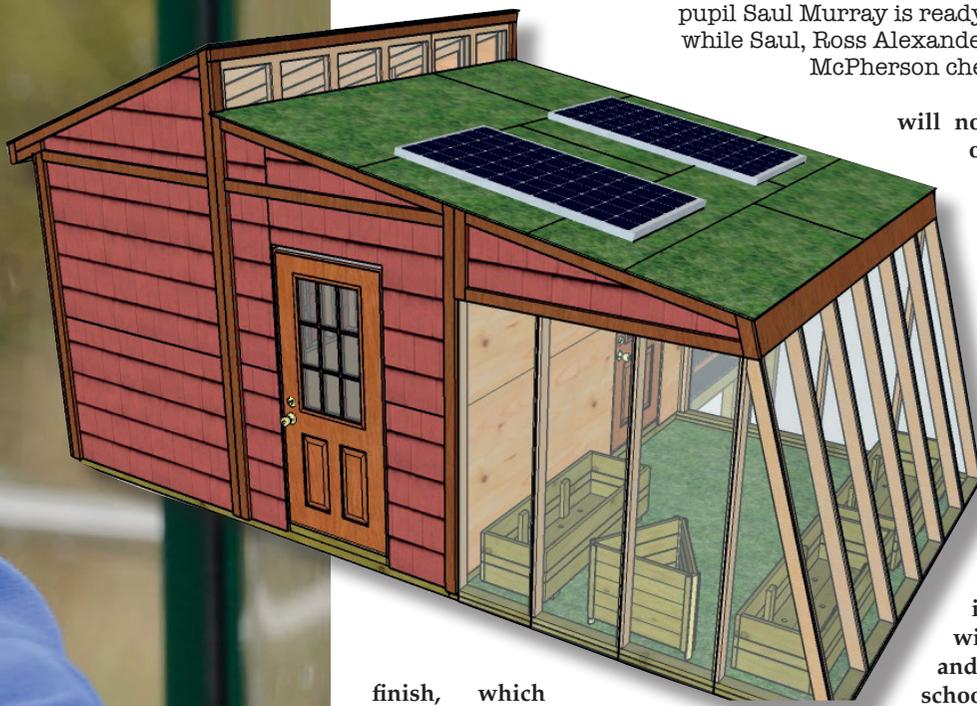
The project has been a great example of hands-on learning. The Mount Cameron pupils have designed the house in a cross curricular way – they used various design and drawing



LEAN BUSINESS



TEAMWORK: All P5 pupils have been involved in the project (above); an artist's impression of the finished house (below); pupil Saul Murray is ready to go to work (main pic); while Saul, Ross Alexander, Marc O'Brien and Anna McPherson check out the plans (far left)



finish, which has been an invaluable hands-on maths project.

The pupils, along with the parent council, are currently sourcing material for their house. Working with local suppliers to source, where possible, recycled building materials or materials produced in a sustainable way is also teaching the children of the importance of protecting the environment.

As the project moves into the construction phase, the Mount Cameron team will work with local suppliers to build the property, using traditional methods where possible. And the children will be involved in choosing the interior design of the house to make sure that it fits all their requirements.

Julia Whittle, of the school's Parent Council, said: "It has been a fantastic experience to work with the children on this from the very first idea to nearly being at the construction phase.

"Once completed, the eco house

will not only benefit the pupils of Mount Cameron, but we're hoping to also be able to host community workshops and clubs that the wider community will be able to take part in. It's set to be a great community success story.

"The eco house is a significant part of the Mount Cameron Parent Council Play Ground Legacy Project and the PTA has been very supportive. This is a whole school project with children, staff, parents and parent groups within the school all working together to make Mount Cameron a better place to learn."

Lindsay Forster, UK and Ireland Customer Marketing Director at Aviva, said: "We would like to congratulate Mount Cameron Primary School on their win. It shows the positive impact they have on their local community. It has been incredible to see the number of entrants and the diversity of causes that applied for funding this year. Each had a powerful story to tell which showcased not only the generosity and compassion of those who are involved with community groups across the UK, but also revealed the ongoing need for funding in order to continue their inspiring work.

"The reaction from Mount Cameron Primary School and everyone who supported their campaign has been overwhelming. It proves that funding, even in small amounts, can help make a huge difference and enable this school to continue and grow."



ICE WORK: Councillor Mitchell with Glassford Primary pupils Murray Pollok and Shelby Adams

Official opening for EK Ice Rink

THE newly refurbished ice rink in East Kilbride Town Centre has now been officially opened.

Chair of the East Kilbride Area Committee, Councillor Alice Marie Mitchell, performed the opening ceremony.

She said: "I was delighted to be asked to formally open the ice rink, it is a fantastic flagship facility for South Lanarkshire and beyond.

"This whole area of the shopping centre has been transformed thanks to the creation of the EK Hub, which as well as the refurbished ice rink has a variety of family-orientated restaurants, a new commercial gym, the existing cinema complex and the aerial adventure zone above the ice.

"The ice rink is already proving to be extremely popular with a wide variety of customers, who range in age from three to almost 90.

"The twice weekly disco sessions have more than 500 people attending and the skating coaching programme is also extremely popular.

"As well as a fun place for all the family to enjoy, the ice rink is home to two figure skating clubs who have competed and won medals in British and international championships.

"The rink is also used by several curling clubs, with schools also able to participate in coaching sessions led by the curling development officer."

The £2.2M modernisation of the ice rink included a new ammonia and air handling

"The ice rink is already proving to be extremely popular with a wide variety of customers"

plant, ice pad, redecoration and improved access for those with disabilities.

The majority of the costs involved in the refurbishment of the ice rink were met by the council with contributions secured from sportscotland, Renewable Energy Fund and Orion, the Town Centre Developer.

Construction work on the ice rink, which was carried out by Interserve, began on 5 January last year and the modernised facility opened on 23 December.

Councillor Mitchell added: "The new modern design for the ice rink and surrounding areas looks absolutely stunning and I am sure it will be a big attraction for the local community and people from far and wide for many years to come."

technology to submit their initial ideas and did various types of research to ensure that the house is fully sustainable.

With assistance, pupils have secured the funding and have costed each element of the project from start to



CALM UNDER PRESSURE:

Lifeguard Thomas Baxter, Duty Officer Chris Markey and Duty Officer Fiona Miller (left to right)



Lifesavers say training and teamwork are key

BY ANDREW THOMPSON

LEISURE centre staff who saved a heart attack victim's life say training and team work are the real heroes.

When a regular user of Carluk Leisure Centre collapsed during a walking football session, the coach raised the alarm and staff at the site rushed to help the man, who is in his 70s.

As the victim recovered in hospital, medical staff told the centre staff that they had probably saved his life but Duty Officer Chris Markey, who was first on the scene, says they are no heroes. He said: "You often hear the expression 'training kicked in' but you don't really get it until it happens to you and when I got there it became like it was automatic.

"I carried out an assessment as we are trained to do and within less than a minute I was confident he had probably suffered a heart attack. By then other

members of the team had arrived and we worked together to start CPR, radio for someone to bring the defibrillator and for someone else to call reception."

It was Duty Officer Fiona Miller who brought the defibrillator and while her three colleagues continued with CPR she set about using the machine. Fiona said: "We are trained in using the defibrillator but I still took the few seconds to ensure I followed the instructions step-by-step. In an emergency situation that calm focus can help make sure you get it right.

"The machine indicated a shock was required and it did its job, then within about six minutes a paramedic arrived."

Lifeguard Thomas Baxter, who was one of the three members of staff delivering CPR, said: "As part of the job we have to be qualified first aiders and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture puts us through refresher training every two months so everything stays fresh.

"The fact that we could work as a

team, each knowing the others knew what to do, helped us stay calm and communicate effectively but it was still a huge relief to see the paramedic arrive."

Chris said: "I have to admit that for all we stayed calm and did what needed done at the time, it is in the aftermath that the enormity of the situation hits you. I think that teamwork also helped us cope with that as well, we were able to support each other and talk through the emotions we were feeling."

General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Gerry Campbell said: "Our staff are trained to deal with medical emergencies and I am extremely proud of how they reacted in this emergency situation.

"The defibrillator was used and was effective. The gentleman was taken to hospital by ambulance. We are pleased to report that he is doing well. His family have been very kind in thanking the staff for their quick actions."

NEW CERTIFICATE GIVES GUIDE DOG OWNERS MORE REASSURANCE

A NEW tactile certificate to show when taxi drivers have a medical exemption that prevents them from carrying assistance dogs in their vehicle has been introduced by South Lanarkshire Council.

They are believed to be the second local authority in Scotland to make such a move and this has been welcomed by Guide Dogs Scotland.

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Licensing Committee, said: "The actual exemption process has been in place for some time, where, if taxi drivers present medical proof that they are unable to have dogs in their vehicle due to allergies, then they can apply to be exempt. However, communicating this and providing an adequate 'proof' to guide dog owners has always been tricky. I'm glad that this new tactile certificate will provide comfort and reassurance to taxi users."

Laura Bradley, a guide dog owner from Blantyre, said: "It's good to know that if a taxi driver says they can't take me and my guide dog because of an allergy I know I can ask for this certificate.

"It has an embossed E in the bottom right hand corner that I can feel and for other guide dog owners who have some vision the black and white on the yellow background makes it instantly recognisable.

"I know how it feels to be refused access to transport and I know how it can knock your confidence. It is against the law to refuse an assistance dog as it's discrimination and I feel that this certificate provides reassurance that this will not happen in taxis in South Lanarkshire."

Emma Brown, Engagement Officer for Guide Dogs Scotland, said: "We are delighted that South Lanarkshire Council has introduced the tactile exemption certificate. South Lanarkshire is a particularly key area for guide dog owners as our offices are in Hamilton and we often have guide dog owners coming to and from the office by taxi. We'd like to thank the council for putting these measures in place and we are keen to support other local authorities who wish to put the tactile certificate in place."



REASSURANCE: Laura, with guide dog Autumn, is delighted the new certificate has been introduced

New guidance will support Strathaven conservation and regeneration

NEW planning guidelines for Strathaven Conservation Area have been approved by councillors.

The Strathaven Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) and Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP) have been designed to provide more detailed guidance and advice on the area's special characteristics.

They also support the council in its statutory duty to protect and enhance the conservation area and will now be considered

as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Both were approved by councillors at a meeting of South Lanarkshire Council's Planning Committee, following a period of public consultation.

Launched in August last year, CARS is a five-year project, providing financial help for conservation area based regeneration initiatives.

As well as funding from the council and Historic Environment

Scotland, additional cash from a range of other sources has also been pulled together to enable a repairs programme for priority projects, a small grants scheme for homeowners or tenants, shopfront improvements works, community engagement through training opportunities and education programmes, public realm works and administration costs, including the appointment of a dedicated project officer.

Councillor Hugh Dunsmuir, Chair of the Planning Committee,

said: "The CARS project will play an important role in protecting and enhancing the character of Strathaven Conservation Area as set out in the CAMP approved today.

"Our aim as a council, working with our partners, is to enhance and safeguard the conservation area, contribute to the vitality and viability of Strathaven town centre and, by default, the town itself, and I welcome the decisions taken as another key part of that equation."

Local communities get chance to have say on Local Plan

COUNCILLORS have approved a further period of public consultation on the proposed new South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. (SLLDP2)

Between March and May 2017 local communities will get the chance to view and comment on the Main Issues Report (MIR).

Documents will be on the council's website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk and at libraries and Q&As. Comments should be made online via the council's consultation portal between 16 March and 12 May 2017.

It is anticipated that the final draft plan will be ready for approval and formal adoption by 2019.



FIRST MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECT OF CITY DEAL



THE first major transport project of the £1.13bn Glasgow City Region City Deal has opened in South Lanarkshire.

Cathkin Relief Road, which is a new 7.3 metre wide carriageway between the junctions of the existing Cathkin Bypass/Burnside Road and Fernhill Road/Croftfoot Road/Blairbeth Road in Rutherglen, is now fully open.

The new road was welcomed by the Depute Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, as well as Ministers from the UK and Scottish Governments.

And among the first VIPs to visit the new road were pupils from four local primary schools – Burnside, Cathkin, Spittal and St Mark's Primary Schools.

The anticipated final cost of the project is £18.6m and in addition to the new carriageway there is a two metre wide footway on the south side and a three metre wide combined cycleway/footway on the north side.

There are three crossing points along the new route, one of which is a controlled crossing. The controlled crossing is around halfway along the new stretch of road.

Depute Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, Councillor Jackie Burns, said: "We are delighted to be able to deliver the first major transport project of the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

"Cathkin Relief Road supports the council's objective of enhancing the local and strategic road network.

"It will improve infrastructure to employment areas across Rutherglen and Cambuslang and reduce traffic impacts on neighbouring residential type roads.

"The road will also reduce congestion at peak times which has the knock-on effect of also reducing carbon emissions.

"Another benefit will be an improvement to public transport reliability and bus/rail integration in the area, primarily because the new road will remove congestion and through traffic from existing routes.

"The capacity and quality of the wider footpath and cycle network in the area



FIRST LOOK:

Pupils from Burnside, Cathkin, Spittal and St Mark's primary schools were among the invited guests to the official opening (main pic); an artist's impression of how the road and surrounding area will look (left).

has been enhanced which will improve access for cyclists and pedestrians. The new paths are also DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant."

Economy Secretary Keith Brown said: "This is a landmark day for the Glasgow City Region City Deal with the first transport project completed and set

to improve local access to employment and relieve pressure on Rutherglen town centre.

"The Scottish Government is investing £500 million over the lifespan of the deal and we are fully committed to working closely with city region partners to maximise the opportunities created

through the Glasgow City Region City Deal."

UK Government Minister for Scotland Andrew Dunlop said: "It is great news that we have reached the first major infrastructure milestone in the Glasgow City Region City Deal with the opening of the Cathkin Relief Road.

"UK City deals are all about supporting cities and regions to become powerhouses of investment and opportunity. The UK Government is working closely with the Scottish Government and local partners to increase economic growth, jobs and prosperity."

The council's contractor for the project has been Land Engineering. They will continue to provide maintenance to the path network for the next five years.

Stuart Dillet, Managing Director, Land Engineering, said: "It has been a real honour for Land Engineering to be involved in delivering the Cathkin Relief Road, the first major transport project of the Glasgow City Region City Deal."

Hamilton's St Mary's strikes gold for sporting achievement

HAMILTON'S St Mary's Primary School has struck gold at national level.

For it has become one of only 158 schools – from more than 2000 across Scotland – to be awarded the sportscotland gold award.

The award formally recognises and celebrates the school's achievement in quality physical education and school sport.

Elaine Fitzpatrick, Head Teacher

is delighted that the school, its teachers, and 373 pupils have been formally recognised for their efforts.

She explained: "Mr McManus, our PE co-ordinator and the School Sports Committee submitted our application to a sportscotland and were overwhelmed to be granted the Gold award.

"We were all so excited to welcome a representative from sportscotland to the school to present our award. It

was quite a celebration and involved every one of our pupils and staff.

"The school is indebted to local clubs, such as Uddingston Hockey Club and Hamilton Tennis Club, who work hard to improve the skills of the pupils. Laura Somerville, the Active Schools Co-ordinator

sportscotland
the national agency for sport

also works very closely with Mr McManus to provide opportunities and ensure that every child in the school has the chance to be involved in lunchtime or after-school sports clubs.

"And, of course, we are all very thankful for the continued co-operation and support from the parents and carers of the school; without it, the achievement of an award such as this would not be possible."

Tony McDaid, Executive Director of Education Resources, attended last week's ceremony and added: "Congratulations go to St Mary's Primary School on gaining their sportscotland Gold Award. The commitment of the whole school community in encouraging pupils to be physically active during and beyond the school day provides inspiration to all of us."

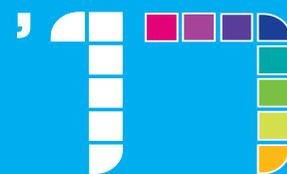


Scottish Local Government Elections

take place on **Thursday 4 May 2017**

elections

Your vote counts



On **Thursday 4 May 2017** voters in South Lanarkshire will go to the polls for the Scottish Local Government Elections. This will be the first time that 16 and 17 year olds have been able to vote in the Scottish Local Government Elections. Polling stations will be open from 7am – 10pm.

Vote using numbers

For your vote to count you should vote using numbers. The instructions on the ballot paper are to “Put the number **1** in the voting box next to your **first** choice. Put the number **2** in the voting box next to your **second** choice. Put the number **3** in the voting box next to your **third** choice. And so on. You can make as many or as few choices as you wish”.

There will be either 3 or 4 Councillors elected to each of the 20 Wards in the South Lanarkshire Council area. There will be a total of 64 Councillors elected.

Voting information

If you are registered to vote, you will receive a poll card telling you where to go to vote, alternatively, if you are on holiday on polling day, or you are working, or prefer not to go to the polling station, do you know you can:-

- vote by post
- ask someone to vote on your behalf (ie by appointing a proxy)

If you are applying to vote by post please take into consideration the time this may take to be delivered to you. Appointing a proxy may be a better option if you are applying to vote by post close to the deadline.

Make sure you are registered to vote

You can register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

If you need to check you are registered to vote contact the Electoral Registration Office.

Deadlines:

- **Registration** – If you are not registered to vote, you must register by **midnight on Monday 17 April 2017** to vote at these Elections.
- **Postal vote** – if you wish to apply for a postal vote (or make changes to your existing postal or proxy arrangements) you must do this by **5pm on Tuesday 18 April 2017**.
- **Proxy** – if you wish to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf you must do this by **5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2017**.

To check if you are already registered or arrange a postal or proxy vote contact:

Electoral Registration Office, North Stand, Cadzow Avenue, Hamilton ML3 0LU

Freephone: 0800 030 4333

Email: ero@lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk

Website: www.lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk

Interested in standing at the Scottish Local Government Elections?

If you wish to stand at these Elections simply contact the Election Office for your Nomination Pack and more information. The deadline for lodging Nominations is **4pm on Wednesday 29 March 2017**. You can also download a Nomination Pack from the South Lanarkshire website at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk from **Wednesday 1 March 2017** onwards.

For information on voting arrangements or to stand at this election contact:

Election Office, 21 Beckford Street, Hamilton ML3 0BT

Phone: 0303 123 1019

Email: elections@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

