

DOWN YOUR

Street

Tenants' Magazine

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Safety
Advice**
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Get in touch

Produced by: The Tenant Participation Team

If you need to get in touch about this issue, or in setting up a Tenants and Residents Association for your area, you can contact us in the following ways:



Tenant Participation Team, Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre, Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW



tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk
www.fife.gov.uk/housing



Fife Council Tenant Participation



Welcome!

Spring is at last here and Housing Services is looking forward to delivering another year of service to tenants across Fife.

You should now have received confirmation that the agreed rent increase for this year is +5.5% which allows the Council to bridge the gap in the Housing Revenue Account funding (mainly caused by inflation) and to boost borrowing capacity to build more houses and improve the housing stock. This rent option was the majority view of the tenants who responded to the rent consultation. Members are also aware of the ongoing cost of living pressures that many tenants are facing and wanted to keep the rent increase as low as possible.

I appreciate that tenants may have difficulty in paying their rent, so we have continued with our rent and fuel poverty support funds for this year.

If you need help, ask for it through your Housing Management Officer.

John

John Mills

Head of Housing Services



Rent increase from April 2026

Fife Council has agreed a rent increase of 5.5% for council houses. This increase will apply from 6th April 2026, adding £5.09 a week to the average rent cost.

The same increase will apply to service charges, garages, lockups, and temporary accommodation.

Council agreed to make additional investment for property adaptations, to help tenants remain safely in their homes. There was also an agreement to harmonise charges for stair cleaning services subject to all required consultation being undertaken.

We appreciate that any increase in the current financial climate is a difficult one, but it is essential to support Fife's under pressure housing services.

This increase allows us to continue to deliver services to tenants and maintains our commitment to home improvements, building new council houses, acquiring properties, and providing additional older persons housing. You told us these are your top three service priorities, and a 5.5% increase is necessary to maintain stability and sustain investment.

It means Fife Council's average weekly rent will be £97.73. Our rent levels remain below the local authority average, below housing association rents and significantly below private market rents.

2025/26 Annual Survey Responses

1,010 tenants responded to our Rent Increase Survey within our December newsletter – thank you to all who took the time to vote.

Rent Proposal	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Option 1: 5.5%	620	61.39%
Option 2: 6%	156	15.45%
Option 3: 7%	60	5.94%
Other	174	17.23%

Tenants top priorities:

- Home improvements
- New council houses/property acquisitions
- Additional older persons housing

New council houses/ Property acquisitions	385	38.12%
Additional older person's housing	301	29.80%
Disability adaptations	194	19.21%
Home improvements (e.g. kitchens, bathrooms)	504	49.90%
Neighbourhood/Estate improvement	259	25.64%
Home energy efficiency works	291	28.81%
Fuel poverty support	180	17.82%
Rent support	224	22.18%
Estate regeneration	72	7.13%
External paint works	176	17.43%
Lock-up improvements	40	3.96%
Fencing	214	21.19%
Caretaking Improvements	26	2.57%
Other	85	8.41%



Scottish Housing Regulator

The Scottish Housing Regulator is the independent regulator of social landlords in Scotland. They regulate to safeguard and promote the interests of current and future tenants of social landlords, people who are or may become homeless, and other people who use housing services provided by Registered Social Landlords and local authorities.

The 'Scottish Government's Social Housing Charter' sets out the standards social landlords need to achieve and it's the responsibility of the Scottish Housing Regulator to monitor, assess and report on the performance of landlords in achieving these standards.

What can you expect from your social landlord?

Social landlords should:

- work towards achieving the standards and outcomes set out in the Scottish Government's Scottish Social Housing Charter and send performance information to the Scottish Housing Regulator on an annual basis.
- tell you how they are performing against the Charter.
- be able to show how they have involved tenants in how they gather and share information about their Charter performance.
- give other groups the opportunity to make their voices heard such as people who are homeless, homeowners who get services from social landlords, and Gypsy/Travellers who use sites provided by social landlords.
- meet the regulatory requirements for social landlords.

Complaints about your social landlord

Sometimes you might have a problem with a social landlord. The Scottish Housing Regulator does not deal with individual complaints. So, if you have a complaint about a social landlord that relates to you or your home, you should:

- **Step 1:** Follow the social landlord's complaints procedure in full which can be accessed through the following link: www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/have-your-say2/make-a-complaint/complaints-procedure
- **Step 2:** If the complaints procedure ends and you are unhappy with how it was dealt with you can contact the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO): www.spsso.org.uk/contact-us

Serious Concerns

If you are a tenant of a social landlord, and the specific complaint affects a group of social landlord tenants, you can report the issue to the Scottish Housing Regulator as a serious concern. Full details on what is considered a serious concern, how to report this, as well as further information on 'Complaints & Serious Concerns' can be found within the information factsheet for tenants and service users, which can be accessed via the QR code below.



Home Fire Safety

We want everyone in Fife to be safe in their home. Every year in the UK more than 6,000 people die in accidents in the home and 2.7 million turn up at accident and emergency departments seeking treatment.

Every hour of every day there's a house fire in Scotland. During 2024 in Fife there were around 40 fires in people's homes caused by the incorrect use of electrical equipment or faults with electrical equipment including heaters, an iron, a battery charger, microwave oven, washing machines, dishwashers and at least six incidents involving tumble driers.

Everybody's home is at risk of fire. It's important to know how to reduce the chances of fire happening in your home and, if it does, how to protect yourself.

Here are some hints and tips on how to stay safe:-

Smoking safety

- Smoke outside and always make sure cigarettes are put right out.
- Never smoke in bed or anywhere you could fall asleep.
- Do not leave any type of lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Use proper ashtrays and never throw hot ash into the bin.
- Keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of children

Electrical safety

- Never overload electrical sockets.
- If you have to use a fused in-line adaptor – know the limits.
- Don't leave items on continuous charge.
- Turn off all other electrical items when they are not in use.

Electric Blankets

- Check the blanket, plug and flex for damage
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never leave an electric blanket switched on when you're in bed unless it's marked 'suitable for all night use'.
- Never use a damaged or defective electric blanket.
- Never fold, but roll a blanket when storing

Appliances in the home

- Plug straight into a wall socket and avoid using adaptors
- Clean the filter in tumble driers after each use
- Keep heaters well away from anything that can catch alight and never use them to dry clothes.
- Only leave essential appliances switched on such as the fridge or freezer.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service carry out free Home Fire Safety Visits for those most at risk. They will take you through a questionnaire and then discuss a fire escape plan. They can provide information about smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms. To find out whether you are eligible for a Home Fire Safety Visit, go to **www.firescotland.gov.uk** or, if you do not have internet access, call **0800 0731999**.

**REMEMBER:
GET OUT, STAY OUT
& DIAL 999**



Citizens Advice & Rights Fife (CARF)

New office opening

Citizens Advice & Rights Fife (CARF) is an advice agency formed in 1997 with locations throughout Fife. They have offices in Cowdenbeath, Cupar, Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and Leven and are opening an office in South West Fife. The seven offices, mirror Fife Council's seven areas, while recognising the needs and location of many clients.

The new office is located at **Forth House, Burnside Court Business Park, Inverkeithing, KY11 1NZ**. Details on the site progress, when the office will launch and times for in-person advice sessions are on CARF's social media channels **@cabfife** and website **www.cabfife.org.uk**

At CARF over 70 paid staff and a further 70 volunteers provide free, independent, impartial and confidential information and advice. They cover a wide range of subjects including Benefits, Debt & Money, Employment (but not representation), Utilities, Healthcare, Consumer, Relationships, Education & Housing all free to the citizens of Fife

CARF are members of Citizens Advice Scotland and adhere fully to the twin aims of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) service: To ensure individuals do not suffer through ignorance of their rights and responsibilities; or through an inability to express their needs, and equally to exercise a responsible influence

on the development of social policies and services, both locally and nationally. CARF is a registered charity authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

During 2024–25 they helped Fife residents access £9.4m, which they previously hadn't known they were entitled to. You can find the full annual report detailing the work they do at

<https://carfannualreport2024-25.my.canva.site>

Anyone struggling with debt or any other issue should get in touch at the earliest opportunity. For Debt advice self-help please see

<https://moneyadvice.cabfife.org.uk>

You can always access a wide range of advice on their website by visiting

<https://cabfife.org.uk/get-advice> The key is to get help as soon as possible - Advice Changes Lives.

Contact them on **0345 1400 095** Monday to Friday, from 10am to 3pm. Text Service for the Deaf community **0787 2677 904**.

If you are interested in volunteering with CARF, please contact their Training and Resources Officer, Ross Livingstone by emailing **ross.livingstone@carfonline.org.uk**



Highlands and Islands

Following feedback from a number of residents on the estate, both at the Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) and via phone/email, regarding broken and uneven paving slabs close to the estate's playpark, we agreed to investigate the possibility of having some remedial work undertaken.

The old broken slabs were lifted and replaced with porous tarmac, significantly improving the aesthetic appeal and delivering an improvement in drainage.

This has provided residents with a much nicer and, more importantly, safer means of accessing the playpark for both parents and children. The square forms the central part of the estate, between Orkney Place and Shetland Place, and has helped to make the estate a much nicer place to be. My thanks, as always, to the tenants and residents of the Highlands & Islands Estate for their continued feedback and suggestions of how we can work together to improve their community.



Your community. Your voice. Your FFOTRA.

Making Fife a better place to live together!

Fife Federation of Tenants & Residents Associations (FFOTRA) is a community-focused charity based in Fife, helping local people improve their neighbourhoods and quality of life.

What we do

We provide free, friendly, and independent support to Tenants & Residents Associations (TRAs) and individuals, including:

- Advice on housing, environment, and local issues
- Help setting up and running a TRA
- Support with meetings and community events
- Administrative support and guidance
- Low-cost printing and photocopying

No matter where you are in your journey — we're here for you.

Support & training

We make it easier to run your group with practical training and guidance for:

- Chair / Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee members

From getting started to growing your group, we're here to help.

Join FFOTRA

Once established, your TRA can become part of FFOTRA — connecting with others, strengthening your voice, and helping shape communities across Fife. Even nominate a representative to join our Board. Together, we are stronger.

Need extra support? We can help

Through the Get Help Fife framework, we also offer support with:

- Benefits & Income – checks and applications
- Energy Advice – help managing rising costs
- Money & Debt – guidance and referrals
- Housing Support – information and application help

If you're struggling, don't face it alone — reach out.

GET IN TOUCH

FFOTRA - Supporting communities in Fife

■ **01592 641968**

■ **Enquiries@ffotra.co.uk**

FFOTRA is coming to communities across Fife – look out for our roadshow popping up near you!



Who would you trust to make decisions if you can't?

A Power of Attorney is a legal document which gives someone you trust the power to make decisions on your behalf. Those may be financial decisions or decisions about your personal welfare. Without a Power of Attorney no one – not even your spouse, partner or children – has the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf in the event that you were to lose capacity. It has never been more important to plan for your future wellbeing - no matter what age you are, a Power of Attorney puts you in control of who makes decisions on your behalf. It's easy to get started, and once you do, the process is simple.

For more information please visit:

www.fifehealthandsocialcare.org/POA

or scan the QR code below:



Fife Health
& Social Care
Partnership



Supporting the people of Fife together

West Wemyss Village Tenants and Residents Association

Residents in West Wemyss have set up a Tenants and Residents Association following a public meeting on 4th March in West Wemyss Church.

24 residents attended on the evening and after healthy discussions it was agreed that a TRA would be a great idea, to give the village a collective voice to highlight and address issues and unite the community.

A full committee was then elected and the **West Wemyss Village Tenants and Residents Association** was formed. The date of the first meeting of the new TRA will be 1st April 2026 a 6pm, in West Wemyss church. All following meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month, everyone welcome. The TRA can be contacted on [**westwemyssstra@gmail.com**](mailto:westwemyssstra@gmail.com)

Carolyn Smith, the newly appointed TRA Secretary said: "The newly formed West Wemyss TRA members are excited to start working with the local community to improve and maintain the beautiful village of West Wemyss. We look forward to working collaboratively with our residents, addressing their concerns and implementing their ideas for the benefit of our neighbourhood."

Will Curley, the new Treasurer, also commented: "When you move to West Wemyss, you are immediately awed by the natural beauty, the heritage and the incredible collection of people who share this village. The opportunity to be involved in developing a shared vision, ensuring we keep what makes our home so special, while developing sustainable strategies for our future, was a cause worth joining."

Another local resident, and new committee member, Fiona P. said: "I'm really excited at the prospect of a village identity being resurrected by the creation of a TRA."

"At the present time, morale is low owing to Tenancy Eviction Notices being served but, as in other instances of this type, it has brought the community together to act as a collective voice to have these withdrawn. The TRA has invigorated our villagers who have expressed a willingness to support and get involved in community matters.

I am very happy to have been voted on as a committee member and look forward to assisting in any way I can. Viva La West Wemyss ...Go us!

If you want to find out more about the benefits of a TRA for your area, please contact the Tenant Participation Team via email [**tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk**](mailto:tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk) or phone us on **07525 392637** or find us and follow us on Facebook - Fife Council Tenant Participation



The CIH conference

Scotland's Housing Festival 2026, organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), took place at Glasgow's SEC Exhibition Centre on 3rd and 4th March 2026. The event was attended by Patricia Gray, FFOTRA Chairperson alongside Board Members, Tony Whinfield and Isabel Campbell, representing the tenants and residents of Fife Council.

FFOTRA members participated in a wide range of discussions and breakout sessions, each attending different sessions to maximise coverage and engagement. This approach allowed them to gather comprehensive and valuable insights into current and emerging housing issues. Their involvement ensured that key developments, policy discussions, and sector trends were effectively captured and understood, strengthening their ability to represent and inform all tenants and residents.



Café Inc is back in your area
during the school holidays!



visit
www.fife.gov.uk/cafeinc
for more information

Full House at Turriff Tenants Association.

It was a full house at Turriff Tenants Association as they recently came together in their lounge to enjoy a game of Road Safety Bingo delivered by the Safer Community Project Officers and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

This was great fun for all, testing each other's knowledge with a bit of fun and competition for a prize. It was also a reminder on safety, when out and about as a pedestrian, or with a mobility scooter or car. The feedback was that this was most enjoyable and served a great purpose as a

reminder for all on how to be safe when out and about.

If your group would like to take part in a game of Road Safety Bingo then please contact the Tenant Participation Team at TenantParticipation@fife.gov.uk and we will be delighted to assist.



100th birthday celebrations at Ore Valley

Ore Valley Tenants Association in Cardenden recently celebrated Mary's 100th birthday with a party in the lounge. Tenants decorated the area and gathered to enjoy some cake with the birthday girl and wish her many happy returns. Congratulations Mary, enjoy all the celebrations.



A Cuppa at the Corrie!

Cardenden Tenants and Residents Association, in partnership with Fife Council Tenant Participation team and Ore Valley Housing Association, have launched a new venture to bring the community together.

A lovely, well organised and well attended event

- Margaret Gillies

Towards the end of 2025 there were discussions being held over the possible closure of the Corrie Centre in Cardenden. The Corrie Centre is used by many groups in the village, including the TRA, and the issue of social isolation in the town was also highlighted. With this in mind, along with the hope of keeping their community centre open for all users, the group launched 'Cuppa at the Corrie'

This is a free warm space for all, every Monday morning from 11am-1pm. The community are invited to come along enjoy a cuppa, toast and a blether. Since this venture started it has gone from strength to strength with new faces coming along each week. Many residents in the Cardenden community have said they look forward to coming along to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and enjoy a light bite and blether.

I had the most enjoyable mornings

- Ella Mitchell

The group are a great bunch of volunteers who want to help their community. They are always coming up with ideas to improve this and make it a great place to be. Their hope is that everyone feels



welcome and at ease to attend. There are no fees for this free weekly service, which on occasion is themed to celebrate the season and bring the whole community together.

Everyone loves Cuppa at the Corrie and everyone is welcome, every week

- Cath Reilly





Recently, Cuppa at the Corrie has been host to a Burns Day theme and Love thy neighbour event. They have been connecting the community with intergenerational visits and youngsters coming along from the local Cardenden primary school to enjoy some Easter crafts, a sing song or a game with the community.

This new space in the Cardenden community has been key to help tackle isolation, fuel poverty with the supply of goods from Cosy Kingdom, as well as providing advice, sign posting and assistance from local housing, safer communities and welfare if needed.

The group are excited to continue with this great service and look forward to seeing Cuppa at the Corrie progress and attract more visitors from the Cardenden area, as well as visitors from other towns and villages.

Pop along and join us for a cuppa and a blether on Mondays from 11am to 1pm at the Corrie Centre, Cardenden Avenue, Cardenden KY5 0EH, you will be made most welcome.

We hope to see you there!

What a great team! Real community spirit and a genuine welcome for all. Look forward to seeing this progress and the community thrive.

- Jules McDougall, Tenant Participation Officer

Great idea for locals, for a wee cuppa and a guid blether

- Betty Hunter

Brilliant mornings, thoroughly enjoy them

- Jean Doig

Had been for a walk first then came here and it's the icing on the cake, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves

-The ladies from Cardenden Walking Club



East Fife Riding for the Disabled at 50

East Fife Riding for the Disabled (RDA) are celebrating their 50th birthday this year having begun in 1976 on John and Lily Mason's Scooniehill Farm, just outside St Andrews.

They are now based at Balcormo Stud Farm just outside Largo, where they rent eight acres of grassland and have developed part of the indoor area, putting up seven stables, a corral area and a feed and tack room.

Fran Cape has been involved with the group since she was a teenager. Since then, she has achieved her BHSAI qualification but is now fully employed as an RDA Advanced Coach. She runs the yard and oversees all operations. She is accompanied by Karen Naismith who is also a qualified RDA coach and a volunteer coach, Aileen Jones. The three of them take the ridden sessions in the indoor school.

Around 100 participants throughout the year take part

in activities such as Endeavour Awards, Countryside Challenge, Riding Proficiency Tests, National Championships (virtual), reflective, wellbeing sessions (e.g. Quiet Corners), groundwork sessions (e.g. leading, long reining), creative writing, arts and crafts, and horse care.

They have a mixed bag of six wonderful, gentle ponies and horses which are steady for ridden work and also the non-ridden sessions. The group hold ridden sessions in the indoor riding school with fun, seasonal sessions, where riders work through Challenge and Proficiency awards with coaches consistently progressing and challenging them.

Some participants come once a week and have done so for up to 30 years. Others come from schools, for a block of weeks, to match the terms in the school year. There are riders from Buckhaven Primary Learning Unit, Kilmarnock Special School, Anstruther Primary School



and Canongate Department of Additional Support.

The benefits of therapeutic riding include the physio aspect, for children and adults who may spend life in a wheelchair. It also increases confidence in achieving a new challenge and a rosette at the end, while having loads of fun and friendship with the coaches and volunteers.

Volunteers are an essential part of the team. There are around 40 volunteers, who bring a wide skill set, and are involved with paddock





and yard maintenance, gardening, leading ponies, side-walking and buddying participants one-to-one, for non-ridden sessions. They also support the Quiet Corner Sessions where residents from care homes and supported living homes are welcomed for cups of tea and a chat. Not all of volunteers are horsey but they are much valued in other areas on the yard. The coaches oversee, guide and train the volunteers.

The non-ridden side of the work is something that has developed since Covid. The value of getting out and about into different environments and community wellbeing are a key part of the programme, which includes a lovely Sensory Garden with raised box beds and a picnic area for the good weather. Thanks to a wonderful legacy the group were able to build a cabin in the garden for poor weather. The horses are in the paddock beside the cabin so they can take part.

The group also host pupils from Madras College, Waid Academy, Levenmouth Academy, Bell Baxter High School and, most recently, Balwearie High School, helping the young people with lack of confidence, anxiety, or even 'school refusing'. They also work with children from the Central Support Unit in Fife. These are pupils who are either not in mainstream, or are in part-time mainstream education. Last year one of the pupils achieved an SQA Animal Care Level 4 which was a tremendous achievement. The students are taught to lead, groom and perform stable duties like mucking out and tack cleaning. The results have been really positive.

Like many charities East Fife RDA has challenges with fundraising and volunteer numbers. They are currently delivering the non-ridden sessions free of charge to the high schools by fundraising constantly.

As a group, from Trustees to coaches to participants to volunteers, they are all excited about getting to 50 years in operation. There are a number of celebrations planned during the year with the main objectives being to ensure they can continue financially for many years to come. Even more importantly they want to keep a healthy list of volunteers, without whom the group would struggle to offer the volume of activities to so many participants.

East Fife RDA would love to hear from anyone that feels that they or their business might be able to help them either financially or by volunteering some time.

Please feel free to contact either Linda or Ian on **marketing@eastfiferda.org.uk**





COMPLETE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A £30 VOUCHER

Down Your Street satisfaction survey

Please help us to improve your tenants magazine by completing our survey. We value you as a tenant and would appreciate your feedback.

Do you regularly read Down your Street? Yes ☐ No ☐

How do you normally get it? Paper copy ☐ Online (via the website?) ☐

How satisfied are you with the content?

Very Unsatisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Satisfied ☐ Very Satisfied ☐

If Unsatisfied or Very unsatisfied, why?

Does the magazine provide a good balance of information and entertainment? Yes ☐ No ☐

What articles would you like to see more or less of?

What could we do to improve the magazine?

What could we do to improve the magazine?

Would you like to be part of the editorial panel to help produce the magazine?
If yes please add your contact details here.

Additional comments or suggestions.



Return the survey to
**Tenant Participation
Team, Kirkcaldy
Customer Service
Centre, Town House, 2
Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy,
KY1 1XW** or scan
or take a photo and email
it to
**tenantparticipation@
fife.gov.uk**

Remember to include
your name, address and
contact phone number.

Remembering Alan Dalby

Sadly, Alan Dalby passed away on 8th December 2025, at the age of 78.

Alan was passionate about fairness and equality, he became the Secretary of his TRA at Walter Hay Court in Rosyth and, shortly after, he joined the board of Fife Federation of Tenant and Residents Associations (FFOTRA) working his way up to Chair. Alan was also the Chair of the Fife Tenant Forum, working with Head of Housing Services John Mills and Service Managers at a strategic level, influencing Housing policies and procedures. Alan was a member of the Fife Tenant Led Scrutiny Panel and the Sheltered Housing Forum, again working at strategic level to improve policies and procedures across Fife, for the benefit of both tenants and staff.

Alan wasn't content with making improvements only in Fife and was approached to join the South East Scotland Regional Network and the Scotland Regional Network – Disability Panel, to influence and make improvements across Scotland.

Alan supported his neighbours and took them to hospital appointments and for shopping and things. He was there to listen and offer advice to anyone who needed it. Alan did all of this even though he didn't keep in the best of health himself.

Alan made a huge difference, not just to the local residents within the sheltered housing complex where he lived, or the other tenants' groups he supported, but also to the whole of Fife.

Alan's involvement in the Scrutiny Panel has reduced the

time homeless people spend in temporary accommodation, whilst improving services and conditions, and reducing the time tenants have to wait on repairs done, as well as improving the condition of the local neighbourhoods.

Alan was always looking for ways to make improvements, he attended many of the tenant groups or events within Fife, to support Fife Council staff, tenants and residents and the local communities. He also participated in videos with the Tenant Participation Team, to promote the benefits of TRAs and to assist with staff training and we are eternally grateful.

Alan attended public consultation days to promote FFOTRA, offer advice to members of the public and encourage people to form Tenants and Residents Associations to give their community a voice and make improvements.

Alan was aware many people were socially isolated, he arranged a bus trip for his TRA and invited other TRA members to join them, to help grow that community spirit.

Alan was the heart of not only his community but wherever he went; he made many friends through the groups he joined and always had a story or a joke to tell. He enjoyed making others laugh even during difficult or more serious times. His famous saying "I shouldn't say it, but I am going to say it anyway" was sure to brighten up any room he was in.



Mr Dalby you were truly inspirational, selfless and compassionate, thank you for your support and for helping Tenants and Residents have a voice, you are sadly missed.

In my Housing career, I have worked with many Chairs of FFOTRA, and I have enjoyed working with them all.

Alan Dalby stood out for me as he was a pleasure to work with, appreciated discussion on a range of housing policy and tenant interests, and he was a true gentleman.

He steered the FFOTRA ship when other Federations in Fife were coming to an end. He sought to reach out to TRAs in other areas to build bridges and had the interests of tenants at heart.

*I miss him and his sense of humour.
RIP Alan.*

John Mills
Head of Housing Services

Helping tenants who need support with their garden

What is the Garden Care scheme?

Fife Council's Garden Care Scheme is a garden maintenance service offered to Fife Council tenants.

The scheme is not available to private home owners or private tenants.

Who is eligible?

You can join the Garden Care Scheme if:

- You are 60 years old or older.
- You are disabled and receive the higher rate of both the care and mobility parts of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).
- You receive Personal Independence Payment (PIP) at the top level for either moving around or daily living.
- You receive Adult Disability Payment (ADP) at the highest level for care.
- There must be no one else aged 16 or over living in your home who can cut the grass or trim the hedge.

If you think someone still really needs help, even if they don't meet all the criteria, please email:

tenancy.management@fife.gov.uk and the team will look at the application and decide if support can still be offered.

What does it cost?

There is an annual fee of £70. This fee increases each year in line with your rent increase

How do you apply?

If you are eligible and would like to apply, contact your Housing Officer.

You can also apply via a Fife Council customer service centre.

What does the scheme offer?

Grass Cutting

- Your grass will be cut every two weeks, weather permitting
- Lawns up to 500 square metres can be cut (about 25m x 20m)
- Lawn edges are trimmed every second visit

Hedge Cutting

- Hedges (not shrubs) are cut twice a year, depending on weather
- Once in June or July
- Once in September or October

Weed Treatment

- Weedkiller can be applied if you would like it
- We spray the weeds, but we do not remove them afterwards

Starting the Service

- Letters are sent out from March onwards
- If you join the scheme after April, you may receive fewer cuts that year



Make
it your
way

Do you have a low cost, tasty recipe you would like to share with the people of Fife? If you would like to see your recipe in a future edition, please send it into us at TenantParticipation@fife.gov.uk.

Mini egg cheesecake

You will need:

200g digestive biscuits
250g chocolate mini eggs*
80g unsalted butter
400g full-fat soft cheese
400g double cream
1 tsp vanilla essence
150g icing sugar
1 cake tin (springform)



Oil the cake tin and line with baking paper.

Add the digestive biscuits into a food bag or a food processor and crush until they resemble a fine crumb.

Melt the butter, mix in the biscuit crumbs then press into the base of the cake tin. Chill for 30 mins.

Chop half the chocolate mini eggs.

Whisk the soft cheese with the icing sugar and vanilla.

Beat the double cream in a separate bowl until it forms stiff peaks.

Fold in the whipped cream and chopped mini eggs into the soft cheese mixture

Add the cheesecake mixture over the biscuit base using a spoon, smoothing the top with a knife.

Top the cheesecake with the remaining mini eggs

Chill overnight. Serve and enjoy!

****If you wish you can change the mini eggs for another sweet of your choice.***

Residents urged to 'Recycle Right' and avoid contamination

Now spring is here, brown bin collections across Fife have returned to a fortnightly schedule. Residents are being reminded to "Recycle Right" and ensure only food and garden waste is placed in their brown bins, to help reduce contamination and protect the recycling process.

What goes in your brown bin:

- All cooked and raw food waste
- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Meat, fish and bones
- Egg shells and coffee grounds
- Weeds, leaves, grass cuttings, twigs and compost

What must NOT go in your brown bin:

- Plastic bags
- Plant pots
- Pet waste including pet bedding, poo bags and cat litter
- Glass or rubble
- Food still in plastic trays, wrappers, cans or tins

Residents are asked to remove all packaging before recycling food waste. Empty plastic packaging, rinsed plastics and metal packaging should go into the green plastics and cans bin. Clean aluminium foil and metal trays are also recycled in the green bin, or at local recycling centres, while glass should be taken to a recycling point. Pet waste must be placed in the blue (general waste) bin. Although it is organic, pet waste cannot be recycled through the brown bin system and will contaminate the process.

Every scrap of food waste, leaf, and grass clipping makes a difference.



Art in the Community

Hi, my name is Catherine, otherwise known as Katie, I'm from Sunnyside Tenants Association.

We keep hearing about our wellbeing and mental health. Having a hobby offers significant health benefits including reducing stress, boosting happiness, improving mental and cognitive function, enhancing social connections and even improving physical health, through physical hobbies!

Hobbies provide a sense of purpose, build skills and offer an escape. They can also reduce stress, leading to better sleep, lower blood pressure, promoting overall wellbeing and resilience and increased life satisfaction and happiness across all ages.

Well, have you ever thought about painting as a hobby? Painting can be done by young and old, inside or outside, you don't need a lot of investment to start. You don't need to be clever or smart, just willing to give it a go!

Oh, I know what you are going to say, "on no, I can't draw" Well you can cheat! Lots of artists cheated in different ways! You can trace (using tracing paper),

use a light box to create a drawing. Painting doesn't have to be expensive, you can pick up a watercolour paintbox from as little as £3. Many shops sell art stuff, I picked up a light box for £1 at a charity shop.

Unlike other hobbies, you don't need a lot of room or expensive equipment. A paintbox, pencil, rubber, paint brush, paper or pad that can fit into- a pencil case can all be picked up for less than £10!

There are clubs with very cheap yearly memberships in Kelty, Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline, which often go out on day trips, to lovely places to paint. Our local libraries have a full non-fiction section for painting, crafting and hobbies – have a look for a book on getting started.

So why not give it a try?

All your equipment can fit into a small bag, so, get yourself out there and make new friends. Your drawing or painting doesn't have to be perfect, just so long as you enjoy yourself!

Happy painting!

Love, Katie



Replacing your Radio Teleswitch electricity meter | Ofgem

The technology that supports Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) electricity meters is now being switched off one area at a time. Without the technology to tell RTS meters when to swap between peak and off-peak rates, they may no longer work properly.

It may mean that heating and hot water will stop functioning as normal in households and businesses that have an RTS meter fitted.

If you have an RTS meter, your electricity supplier should have got in touch with you to arrange an upgrade to a smart meter before the end of June 2025.

They must make sure you have a suitable meter installed, and that your service is not disrupted.

The switch off will be a phased approach. This will mean that electricity suppliers can make sure that they are able to manage and fix any problems that may come up during this process.

Support to upgrade RTS electricity meters

We are working with energy suppliers, distribution network operators, consumer groups and others as part of the RTS Taskforce to support people with an RTS meter.

IMPORTANT

DO YOU HAVE AN RTS ELECTRICITY METER?

The radio signal that controls RTS electricity has begun the switch off phase-out.

Act now, book an appointment for a replacement meter

ofgem

What suppliers must do

Suppliers must treat all households and businesses fairly. This includes knowing who needs support and extra help.

As part of the phased switch off suppliers should also:

- give you clear, accessible and timely information that should include details about the Radio Teleswitch phase-out, impact it may have and how they plan to replace the meter;
- keep a high standard of customer service by making sure that their processes are accessible, efficient and responsive;
- offer an enquiry service from 1 August 2025 for households, including those where there is someone living there who needs extra help to contact their supplier, any time of day during the week and report any problems such as power cuts;
- and, move households with a Radio Teleswitch meter to a smart meter onto a suitable tariff that reflects their usage patterns or another smart tariff of their choice

Find out if you have an RTS meter

You may have an RTS meter if:

- your home has a separate switch box near your meter with a Radio Teleswitch label on it;
- your home is heated using electricity or storage heaters;
- there is no gas supply to your area, including households in rural areas and high-rise flats;
- you get cheaper energy at different times of day, for example, you might be on an Economy 7, Economy 10, or Total Heat Total Control tariff;

Get in touch with your electricity supplier if you're still not sure which meter is in your home.

If you do not know who your supplier is on **www.ofgem.gov.uk**



Gary's gang

I'm Gary
look at all
my new
furriends!



Blu



Bob



Frankie

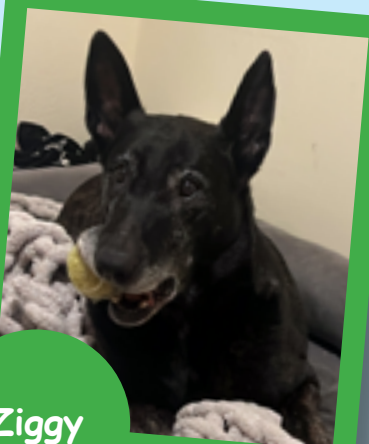
'If you would like your pet
to feature on 'Gary's Gang',
please email
[tenantparticipation@fife.
gov.uk](mailto:tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk)



Luna



Nala



Ziggy



Bandit



Noodles



Tenant Participation News Bulletin

New team member

Hi, I'm Bryan Kirk, and I'm delighted to be joining the team behind ***Down Your Street***. I've been with Fife Council for almost 13 years now, working in a range of roles including Environmental Enforcement Officer, Safer Communities Officer, Safer Communities Investigations Officer, and now Lead Officer for the Tenant Participation Team, along with Area Lead Officer for Safer Community Team in Kirkcaldy and the Housing Estates Management Team.

I'm big on keeping fit, so you'll often find me at my local, functional fitness gym first thing in the morning or taking part in fitness competitions throughout the year. When I'm not in the gym, I'm usually out walking Luna — throwing her ball endlessly while listening to podcasts or audiobooks. Our favourite places to explore are Lochore Meadows, Beveridge Park, and Ravenscraig Park.

I'm really looking forward to getting stuck into my new role, strengthening the relationship between tenants, communities, and housing services across Fife — and of course, helping bring you the stories, updates, and voices that matter most in ***Down Your Street***.



Follow us here



Spring Word Search

Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?

Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!

C	S	N	U	R	A	I	N	B	O	W	D
F	N	L	P	M	H	K	O	R	T	U	P
L	A	D	Y	B	U	G	O	E	I	R	I
O	W	E	O	L	A	R	B	E	E	I	C
W	B	Y	M	O	S	F	N	Z	D	C	N
E	E	G	U	S	F	O	C	E	I	K	I
R	L	B	R	S	T	T	R	U	S	O	C
S	L	D	B	O	K	I	I	A	G	S	A
R	R	P	R	M	W	E	C	T	I	U	N
S	P	R	O	U	T	S	T	O	R	N	S
D	F	C	O	N	F	O	V	L	U	N	N
A	S	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	E

FLOWERS

BREEZE

RAINBOW

BEE

BLOSSOM

SUNNY

LADYBUG

RAIN

BUTTERFLY

PICNIC

SPROUTS

GROW

Can you find Sandy our Mascot? He is hidden somewhere throughout the magazine. Have a look and let us know if you can see him.



Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!

Return postal entries to **Tenant Participation Team, Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre, Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW** or scan or take a photo and email it to **tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk**

Remember to include your name, address and contact phone number.

Competitions close at **5pm on Friday 29th of May 2026.**



Sandy comp winner (left):

Alba Pagan-Laskie, (age 4)
from Kirkcaldy

Crossword Winner:

Linda Brown, Lochgelly,
Lochore



Fife Council jobs for young people

Are you a recent school leaver, graduate or simply looking for a fresh start to your career?

If so, there are a variety of local job opportunities available in Fife where you can earn, learn, and build your future close to home.

We offer several flexible and part-time roles that can fit around college courses or other commitments. These positions come with paid training and opportunities to develop new skills and qualifications.

A range of positions with minimal entry requirements are available, with on-the-job support to help build confidence, skills and experience.

For more information on current available roles with the council and to apply please visit jobs.fife.gov.uk You can also sign up for job alerts so you are notified directly when jobs that meet your search criteria are advertised.

More information for young people is available here: www.fife.gov.uk/youthemployment



You can view current vacancies and sign up for job alerts at:

www.fife.gov.uk/jobs

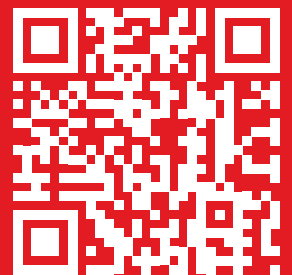
Follow us at:



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FCJobsOfficial



Need some extra support with your bills and household costs?

Lightning Reach is a free online portal where you can find and apply for support with your finances

www.fife.gov.uk/lrfife

Scan the QR Code for support and to sign up

