

DOWN YOUR

# Street

Tenants' Magazine



**Phoebe  
Says  
P26**

# Summer days!

Lower Largo  
by Monarch Photography,  
Fife Photographer



#DYSFife

[www.fife.gov.uk/housing](http://www.fife.gov.uk/housing)



**Brucefield TRA have their say**  
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## Useful Numbers

Homeless (24 hr)	08000 28 62 31
Housing Repairs	03451 55 00 11
After hours and weekend	03451 55 00 99
Housing Information and advice	03451 55 00 33
Rent and Arrears	03451 55 00 44
Automated Payments	03451 55 00 55
Council Tax & Housing Benefits	03451 55 11 55
Recycling & Waste	03451 55 00 22
Births, Deaths & Marriages	03451 55 00 77



### Alternative Formats

Information about Fife Council can be made available in **large print, braille and audio CD** on request by calling

**Alternative Formats line:**

**03451 55 55 00**



**British Sign Language**

**please text (SMS) 07781 480 185**

**BT Text Direct:**

**18001 01592 55 11 91**

### Language lines

Arabic	خط هاتف اللغة العربية: 03451 55 55 77
Bengali	বাংলায় আলাপ করার জন্য টেলিফোন লাইন: 03451 55 55 99
Cantonese	中文語言熱線電話: 03451 55 55 88
Polish	Polskojęzyczna linia telefoniczna: 03451 55 55 44
Urdu	اردو زبان کے لیے ٹیلیفون نمبر 03451 55 55 66

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### Get in touch

**Edited by: The Tenant Participation Team**

**If you need to get in touch about this issue, you can contact us in the following ways:**



**Tenant Participation Team, Methil Local Office,  
Wellesley Road, Methil, KY8 3PA**



**01383 602220**



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



**@fifecounciltp**



# Summer is here!

**"Summer is here - so long as the weather holds! This is a time for the Council, local tenants and residents to focus on the place we all live in.**

In February this year, the former Community & Housing Services Committee agreed to a revised Estates Management Approach for council housing estates. The approach focusses on practical improvements the council can make to improve the place you live in, following two years of the pandemic. We need your help to do this. Working closely with the Tenants & Residents Associations across Fife, we can make a difference together.

Additional financial resources have been applied to support additional works to help local services work better together to make the difference you are looking for. Please support this initiative which I am sure will bring benefits to local places across the Kingdom.

I am very conscious of the current cost of living crisis we are all experiencing at the present time. Additional support for rent payment and fuel cost



support is available for vulnerable tenant and households. Please contact your local Housing and Revenues staff for more details. The council is determined to do all it can to help."

*John*

**John Mills**

*Head of Housing Services*



**Welcome to this edition of Down Your Street!!**

I am delighted to be continuing as your Housing Spokesperson following the recent Council Election. I am now also responsible for Building Services. Improving our housing and building service response to you as council tenants will be my priority.

WE are all aware that we are now in the grip of the cost of living crisis. All prices are getting higher and higher, including food, power and fuel. And I want to assure you that we will put every effort in to help the most vulnerable tenants with costs of heating

support and rent support. This support does not take away the pressure but will help those who might be struggling just now.

Costs are rising for us and our main challenge is to ensure that we continue to deliver value for money in Housing services to help you with repairs, anti-social behaviour, improving our estates and to keep building new council houses to help people in housing need. I will work closely with officers to ensure that we deliver the best services we can.

I look forward to working with you all again

*Judy*

**Cllr Judy Hamilton**

*Housing Spokeperson*



# Collydean has it say!

**As part of an ongoing Fife wide review of Fife Council lock ups, Housing Services and Transportation are aiming to reduce any low demand or poor condition stock and improve the condition where there is high demand. This will improve the aesthetic of estates for tenants and residents within the area as well as safer neighbourhoods.**

Housing Services worked with Transportation to carry out analysis of the lock ups in the Glenrothes area looking at those with an occupancy rate of 30% and below. Several sites were identified within the Collydean area for consideration and approval.

Consultation regarding lock ups was carried out within Collydean, with Heather Path residents first to have their say on local improvements. Housing Management Officer, Michelle Dunn, organised a survey in the local community and sought opinions and ideas from residents on the lock-ups and what they felt they would like to see in their community.

The survey response was very positive with the overwhelming suggestion for removing the garages in favour of parking.

Heather Path was the first demolition of the Collydean area, with work commencing January 2022 and finishing February 2022. Works then progressed to Dunlin Avenue, Piper Drive and then Brent Place, all lock ups identified for local survey and improvement.

Effective partnership working between Roads & Transportation, and Housing Services allowed for a smooth and quick turnaround, and all works within the Collydean area were completed by 25th March 2022.

The general appearance of the local community is much improved, the unsightly lock ups are now gone and replaced with fresh parking bays for more cars and better pathways.

A huge thanks to all residents in Heather Path for their help- your voice can make a difference in your local area.

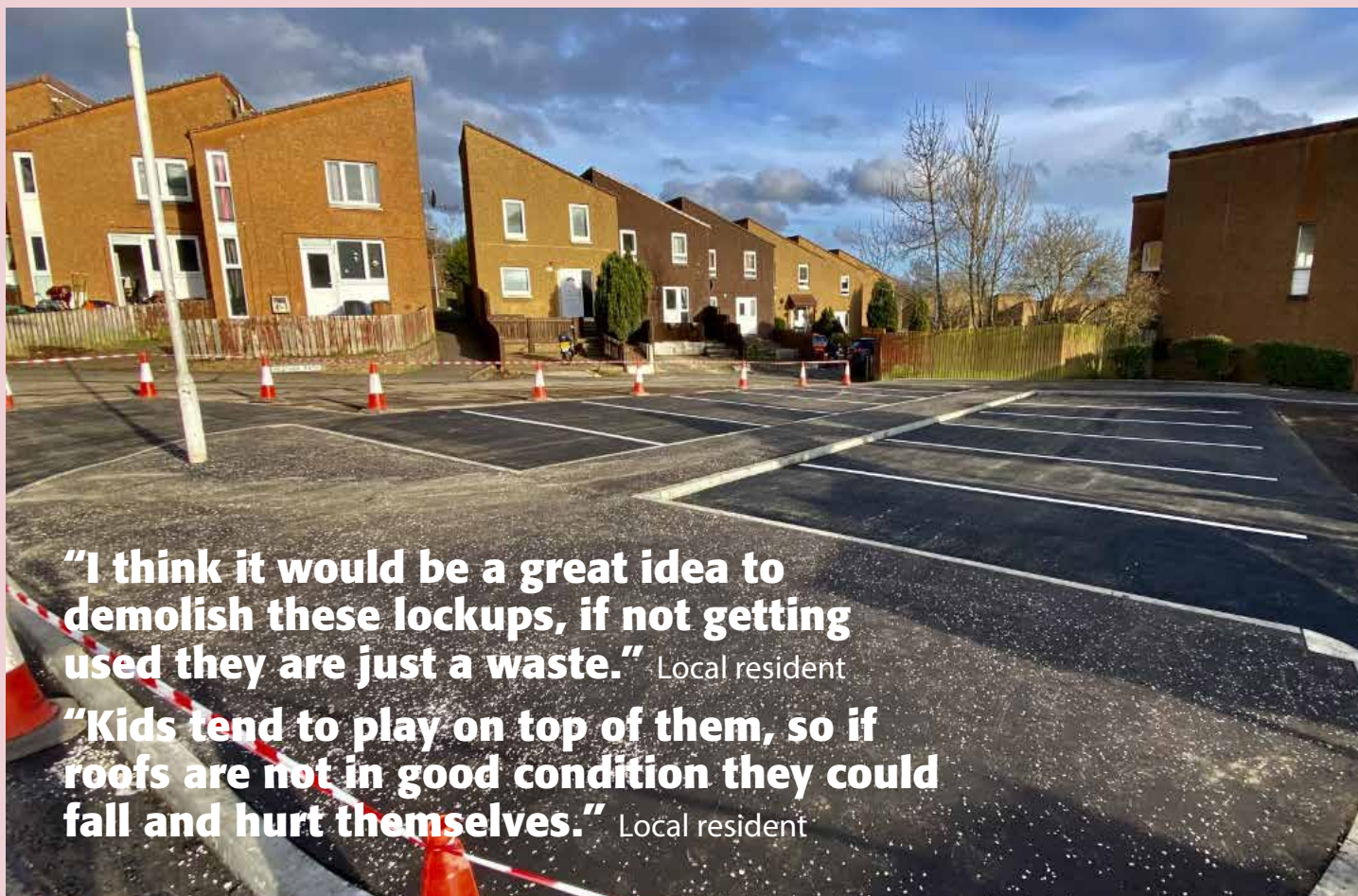


**"I agree that it would be best to demolish these and create more parking spaces."**

Local resident

**"In response we agree that the lock ups should be demolished, and we also agree that the area should be redeveloped as car parking spaces"**

Local resident



**"I think it would be a great idea to demolish these lockups, if not getting used they are just a waste."** Local resident

**"Kids tend to play on top of them, so if roofs are not in good condition they could fall and hurt themselves."** Local resident

## Do you have home contents insurance?

Fife Council are responsible for the Buildings Insurance of Fife Council properties but we do not insure your furniture, belongings or decorations against theft, fire, flooding and other household risks.

Tenants are strongly advised to take out adequate insurance and ensure the value of insurance cover is maintained at a realistic level.

Fife Council offers tenants the opportunity to insure their home contents with a low-cost insurance scheme. Contact your Housing Officer for further information

or call the **Housing Advice Line** on  
**03451 55 00 33**  
(Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm).



## LOOKING TO MOVE HOME WITHIN FIFE?

**Have you thought about Mutual Exchange?**

Register now on HomeSwap - Fife Housing Register's online exchange service. Register your property and search for other tenants looking to exchange. Not sure if it's for you? Check out the public register to see what's available.



To find out more,  
visit: [www.fifehousingregister.org.uk/homeswap-about/](http://www.fifehousingregister.org.uk/homeswap-about/)



# Improving Levenmouth Together – Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

**As the local Community Policing Inspector for Levenmouth, I am committed to improving the lives and wellbeing of people, places and communities across the area. I am acutely aware of the ongoing anti-social behaviour across Levenmouth, and I am working tirelessly with my policing team and our wider partner network to reduce issues in our communities.**

I launched the Improving Levenmouth Together programme on 1st April 2022. Two Police Officers, funded by Fife Council and Police Scotland, are dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour across the Levenmouth communities.

The two officers are responsible for the prevention of anti-social behaviour, tackling offenders, and also looking to divert offenders from committing crime in the future.

Improving Levenmouth Together is a group of partners, led by Police Scotland, working collectively to improve the lives and wellbeing of people, places and communities across Levenmouth.

The project has been in place since 2019 and has led to a 70% reduction in calls to Police Scotland relating to anti-social behaviour in Levenmouth, between 2018 and 2021.

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st October 2021, the dedicated enforcement team, worked both reactively and pro-actively and achieved the following results;

- 36 vehicles seized - this includes motorbikes, cars and a quads.
- 311 people charged in connection with anti-social behaviour and road traffic offences.
- 5 drug search warrants executed. Quantity of drugs recovered.
- 4 Stolen vehicles recovered.

We have recently responded to reports of anti-social behaviour in the area of Steelworks Brae with targeted patrols, along with Safer Communities Community Officers, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Clued Up. I also deployed a mobile CCTV van, which had an impact. Calls and reports have reduced in this time period.

I would encourage anyone experiencing anti-social behaviour to contact Police Scotland to report the matter, so I can ensure appropriate resources are deployed to deal with the issue.

I hope to have CCTV cameras in the local communities in the coming months, which will assist in deterring people committing disorder or crime.

Use this form if you wish to report antisocial behaviour to the council.

[www.fife.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour](http://www.fife.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour)



*Inspector Paul Gillespie*





Crystal Insurance  
Scheme

# Protect the things you love

## Your home contents and personal belongings

As your Landlord, we are responsible for the building of your home. It is your responsibility to look after your home contents and personal belongings.

These include your furniture, carpets, curtains, clothes, bedding, electrical items and don't forget your jewellery, pictures and ornaments.

So what does home contents insurance cover?

- Fire
- Theft
- Storm and flood damage
- Damage caused by water or oil leaks
- And much more

Crystal Insurance Scheme is available to all our tenants and leaseholders, with all residents being eligible to apply. It's a good idea to consider what a home contents insurance policy would cover you for in order to help you make an informed decision on whether you need one.

Contents insurance is designed to help protect your possessions. No matter how careful you are, there's always a risk that your belongings could be broken, damaged or stolen, so home contents insurance can help provide peace of mind.

### For more information:

- Ask your local housing officer for an application pack
- Call Thistle Tenant Risks on **0345 450 7286**
- Visit: [www.crystal-insurance.co.uk](http://www.crystal-insurance.co.uk) for more information or to request a call back

The Crystal Insurance Scheme is a product name arranged and administered by Thistle Tenant Risks a trading style of Thistle Insurance Services Limited. Thistle Insurance Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN 310419. Registered in England under No. 00338645. Registered office: Rossington's Business Park, West Carr Road, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 7SW. Thistle Insurance Services Limited is part of the PIB Group. For information about what we do with personal data please see our Privacy Policy [here](#).



# Levenmouth Area Housing Plan

**In the Spring edition of Down Your Street we asked people to complete the Levenmouth Area Housing Plan Survey. The purpose of the survey was to help the area team develop an action plan over the next three years.**

You might have met the tenant participation team out and about in Levenmouth asking for your opinion or had a discussion with your Housing Management Officer about the survey. We received a total of 192 responses from residents across the whole of Levenmouth. It's important for Housing to have your views when shaping the future of the Service, we can target the issues that matter in your area and make the improvements you'd like to see.

Once the analysis of the feedback has been completed, a revised area housing plan will be presented for approval at area committee in the summer and thereafter will be adopted. Although the analysis has

not been completely reviewed, common issues include, lack of parking, lack of affordable housing and anti-social behaviour.

The plan, once approved, will be available for viewing on Fife Council's website [fife.gov.uk](http://fife.gov.uk)

Housing Services always welcome the opinion of the community. If you'd like to get involved in other ways, please feel free to contact your local Tenant Participation Officer who'd be happy to chat through other options for you to be heard.



**"Thank you to everyone who took the time and completed the recent online survey. The response has been very positive and has provided us with good information which will be used in the development of the Levenmouth Area Housing Plan for the next 3 years. Thanks to everyone who participated."**

Peter Nicol, Levenmouth Area Housing Manager



North East Fife - Colin Whyte – [colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk](mailto:colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk) – 07525 392728

Levenmouth - Colin Whyte – [colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk](mailto:colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk) – 07525 392728

Glenrothes – Colin Whyte – [colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk](mailto:colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk) – 07525 392728

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Cowdenbeath – Rab Clark – [rab.clark@fife.gov.uk](mailto:rab.clark@fife.gov.uk) – 07525 392637

Dunfermline - Rab Clark – [rab.clark@fife.gov.uk](mailto:rab.clark@fife.gov.uk) – 07525 392637

South West Fife - Rab Clark – [rab.clark@fife.gov.uk](mailto:rab.clark@fife.gov.uk) – 07525 392637



# Fuel Poverty Advice

**The Home Heating Advice Fund seeks to provide financial relief to energy consumers who are experiencing significant financial hardship and strives to provide this support to households regardless of the fuel or payment method used. That is, the project is inclusive of: users of prepayment meters, district heating networks and unregulated fuels. Over the last quarter we have been able to assist those in crisis and have managed to secure around £55,000 of financial assistance across Fife.**

The fund has now been extended until 31st March 2023, or until funds have been exhausted. Applications can be made online at [www.homeheatingadvice.scot](http://www.homeheatingadvice.scot) or the "household application route" at [www.homeheatingadvice.scot](http://www.homeheatingadvice.scot). Individuals who make

applications through the 'household application' form, must supply evidence of having received energy and / or money advice from an accredited agency.

CISWO has launched a new £200 grant to support vulnerable former coal miners with the rise in fuel costs in 2022. The scheme has been launched to provide some support towards combatting the hike in the energy price cap. The one-off grant is now available for people on a low income who meet certain eligibility criteria. One grant is available per household. With former miners often suffering from health issues, mobility problems, and managing on low incomes, they may be disproportionately impacted by the price rises. Further information can be found at; [www.ciswo.org.uk/post/fuel-grant-worth200-available](http://www.ciswo.org.uk/post/fuel-grant-worth200-available)



**It's important to make sure that your gas boiler, gas fire and gas cooker are working safely and correctly.**

Gas Safe Register is the only official list of gas engineers who are legally allowed to do work on your gas boiler, gas cooker and gas fire. By law, all gas engineers must be on the Gas Safe Register. This list is there to help protect you from unsafe gas work.

As your landlord, Fife Council will annually service your gas boiler and gas fire. If you have a gas cooker you will need to get it serviced and safety checked every year. Annual servicing not only helps keep your heating and hot water working properly, it helps keep you safe.

**All Gas Safe registered engineers carry a Gas Safe Register ID card. Always check the card and make sure the engineer is qualified for the work you need. To check an engineer go to [www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk](http://www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk) or call free on 0800 408 5500.**

**Gas Safety Reminder**

# Hillview lockup site work complete!

**In the spring edition of Down Your Street we highlighted planned works to demolish the lock ups in Hillview Cowdenbeath and replace with parking spaces. This decision was taken after a review of lock ups in the Cowdenbeath area. Through this process we found that there was a poor occupancy rate and better use of the space could be created in both Hillview and Park Road.**

We are pleased to feedback that the work is now complete, and the area has been given a much-needed increase in car parking bays at both Hillview and Park Road.

We hope you will agree the areas look great!





# Make way for new parking in Moir Court!

**Moir Court in Kelty will soon benefit from more parking after a recent area walk about with Housing Management Officer Nicola McNally.**

This area was highlighted to the housing team and local councillors by many residents during the recent walkabouts. The main reasons for this were due to inadequate parking that had become more of an issue over the years and was now resulting in vehicles being parked on grass verges potentially causing hazards to pedestrians.

Initially when Moir Court was built there were less cars on the road therefore not a high demand for parking facilities, over the years this has changed with many

households and visitors now having vehicles resulting in a need for an increase of suitable parking.

Housing Management Officer Nicola decided to put forward proposals for more parking after highlighting the issues raised and is thrilled that work is now due to take place to revamp this area. The works planned will see the addition of 13 extra parking bays which will hopefully improve the issues many residents and visitors are experiencing.

Planning is underway and work is due to be completed very soon. We look forward to providing an update in future editions.



# move Dunfermline

## Making it easier to get active in your local area

Fife Sports and Leisure Trust and Fife Council have joined forces to get more people more active more often, and, we are making it easier by launching a QR code – a quick and easy way to find out what sports and leisure services are available locally. Housing Services would love to encourage our tenants to get involved where they can.

Dunfermline residents are being urged to learn more about sport, health and physical activity provision in their local area. Following the Covid pandemic, it's never been more important that we all engage in being active and enjoy all the health and wellbeing benefits this delivers. And, it's a great way to spend time with family or friends alongside a greater sense of social belonging.



Evidence shows that physical activity can have a real benefit to our health and wellbeing, and this can have a wider community benefit by reducing the burden on the NHS and GP and other frontline services.

Please help us to raise the profile of the wide range of opportunities in your local area, all our efforts are aimed at making a positive difference to individual and family lifestyle choices. Why not visit your local leisure centre, community use school or even a sports club today to discover even more information on what we can offer that suits you!

**From free weekly walks to being much more energetic and everything in-between, we've got it covered... we just need you... Come along and join in ....MOVE Dunfermline**

**Active Fife**  
more people, more active, more often

**Fife**  
COUNCIL

**Fife sports and leisure trust**  
Be active • feel great!

*Joining forces and resources for an active Fife!*



Enjoy the health benefits of a swim session

You'll find activities for children of all ages

Relax and unwind in a sauna or steam room

We have fitness classes to suit all fitness levels

Book a gym induction and workout in the gym

Save up to 50% with concession discounts





# Bucefield TRA

**Bucefield Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) was formed to address any concerns within the local area, giving residents a united, more powerful voice when dealing with any issues. As a TRA our main objective is to build relationships not only with our residents but also within other organisations and council departments and form a useful bridge linking everyone. It is our quest to ensure our community continues to be a safe and pleasant place to live. We will campaign for changes that will enhance our community and strive to put on events that will promote community involvement.**

Our Tenants and Residents Association had a number of projects in the pipeline when COVID brought everything to a halt. We were delighted when we could finally restart our meetings in February and pick up where we had left off.

The Bucefield area had been earmarked for a very generous grant from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust charity. Members of the TRA were involved in the steering committee formed to identify worthwhile recipients and create an action plan with a vision of how the community could evolve and improve. In collaboration with Coalfields to officially launch our community action plan we will hold a fun day on Saturday 13th August in St Leonards park from 1 till 4pm. As well as having the opportunity to view the action plan and find out how the grant is being spent in the community there will be lots of free activities on offer as well as various stalls and games. We intend to use some funding to place benches around the community.

Another project the TRA is heavily invested in is pushing for the regeneration of St Leonards Park



(known locally as the STUDIES). As the only park in the area this should have been a haven for residents during the pandemic but being poorly lit with dated and broken equipment. The area littered with rubbish, broken glass and surrounding grassland prone to flooding meant that it was not. We are holding our fun day in the park to highlight it's potential and gather community support for the project.

So far this year the TRA has held a children's Easter party and a family picnic to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and hope to hold more events throughout the year including our community fun day, Children's Halloween party & Children's Christmas party.

**"The Children's parties are such good value and so enjoyable that both parent and children alike look forward to them. We never miss one"** Chloe Mother of 2

We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of every month in the church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints on St Leonards Place. Why not come along and see what we're all about?

**Facebook: Brucefield Tenants and Residents Association**

*"I have lived my whole life in Bucefield and want to bring back the community spirit of yesteryear, where everyone knew and looked out for one another."* Kathleen - Secretary

*"We do this because we're passionate about our community, which has so much potential but we could do so much more if we could get more members of our community on board."* Christine - Treasurer

*"I would like to take this opportunity in thanking Brucefield TRA for the way they handled "my problem", when I went to their meeting I was listened to and "my problem" was dealt with within a couple of days. I am now encouraging family and friends to go to the meetings."* Mrs B Ferguson

*"My wife and I brought up our family in the Brucefield community 40+ years ago and we believe it's a worthwhile community to look after. That*

*is the reason I joined the committee of the Brucefield TRA, to continue helping to keep it a safer and better place to grow up in."* N Spacey - Committee Member

*"Some time ago I was asked to go to a tra meeting, I saw what they were about then decided to get involved. The TRA need to do a leaflet drop and get more people interested in their own community"* Andy King - Committee Member

# Social Security Scotland

At Social Security Scotland, we want to ensure that everyone gets the payments they are entitled to. We do that by offering a variety of ways people can apply for benefits – including online, by phone or face-to-face and have colleagues available to help in all local authority areas across Scotland. We currently deliver twelve benefits for people on low incomes, carers, families and disabled people. Our newest benefit is Adult Disability Payment – which has been introduced as a pilot in Dundee, Perth & Kinross and the Western Isles. The payment will be delivered in Fife from 25 July ahead of national rollout on 29 August. Adult Disability Payment replaces Personal Independence Payment in Scotland, previously delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

We also support families on low incomes with a series of family payments. Scottish Child Payment provides financial support to families with children under six. The payment is £20 per week per child and will be extended by the end of 2022 to all eligible children under the age of 16. It will also increase to £25 per child per week at the end of the 2022.

More information on our benefits including eligibility can be found on [mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot). You can also contact our advisers on 0800 182 2222 or via web chat on [mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot). If you need further assistance, you can request a local delivery appointment which will allow you to speak to an adviser based in Fife, either at home, in a local venue or by phone or video call. To arrange an appointment, please contact us on 0800 182 2222.



## Looking for a New Job?

Last year, we officially opened our new head office, Agnes Husband House in Dundee, just a short distance from the Kingdom of Fife. As we continue to grow our organisation through the introduction of new benefits, we are recruiting new people to join Social Security Scotland. We are recruiting 2,000 new colleagues so that we can deliver the high quality of service the people of Scotland deserve while providing new opportunities for secure, long-term employment across the country. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our workforce to better reflect the people we are here to serve and are actively seeking applicants from groups currently underrepresented in our organisation.

We are recruiting a team of in-house health and social care professionals to help us deliver our Adult Disability Payment; a range of roles in our Digital team, Finance roles as well as customer service roles to assist our clients.

We offer hybrid and flexible working with an attractive salary and pension package.

We are looking for people from all walks of life who can deliver an excellent level of service. We also offer assistance during the job application process by holding workshops or ensuring specialist support is offered if people need it.

We provide comprehensive training to ensure everyone has the skills and support they need to do their jobs effectively and are open to flexible working. If you are interested in joining our team, check [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/jobs](https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/jobs) for the latest vacancies.



Social Security Scotland currently administers 12 benefits:

Carer's Allowance Supplement  
Pregnancy and Baby Payment  
Early Learning Payment  
School Age Payment  
Best Start Foods  
Funeral Support Payment  
Young Carer Grant  
Job Start Payment  
Scottish Child Payment  
Child Winter Heating Assistance  
Child Disability Payment  
Adult Disability Payment



# Meet Up, Clean Up

**Communities, local groups and businesses play a vital role in keeping our towns, villages and countryside clean and tidy. It makes them a pleasant place for people to live, work and visit.**

A local clean-up is a great way to improve your neighbourhood and get everyone in your community together. Everybody can make a contribution, whatever their age or ability.

“Meet Up, Clean Up” is a campaign that brings the Council, residents and neighbourhoods together in a joint effort to eliminate litter on our streets and parks and help restore pride in our towns and villages. If you are planning a community clean-up in your area, fill out our community clean-up request form using the link below

and we will provide you with all the equipment you need for a successful event including:

- o waste bags
- o litter pickers
- o disposable gloves
- o a skip (only in certain circumstances)

For any further information please email: [safercommunities.team@fife.gov.uk](mailto:safercommunities.team@fife.gov.uk) or please go online at [www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/community-life2/safer-communities](http://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/community-life2/safer-communities)





# Walter Hay Court TRA – Walkabout

**After nearly three years, due to Coronavirus restrictions, the TRA had their first walkabout, which was really well attended.**

A walkabout is where a Tenants and Residents Association invites staff from various council departments and partner organisations to meet on-site and “walkabout” the estate to see first-hand the issues or problems that residents are experiencing. Everyone then works together to identify solutions and have these topics addressed successfully.

Some of the issues identified in Walter Hay Court were potholes, additional fencing, uneven pavements, missing ridge tile on a roof and gutters needing cleaned out. Liza Shearer, Housing Management Officer took notes of the issues and produced the walkabout action plan, which gets shared with the TRA and updated at the monthly TRA meetings, to see who the main contact person is for a particular issue, costs, timescales etc.

Hopefully we will see these issues addressed soon and might even do a follow-up article to update you on the progress.



If you would like to find out how to get involved in, set up a Tenants and Residents group, or find out more about walkabouts, for the area you live in, please contact:

**North East Fife - Colin Whyte –**  
**colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk – 07525 392728**

**Levenmouth - Colin Whyte –**  
**colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk – 07525 392728**

**Glenrothes – Colin Whyte –**  
**colin.whyte@fife.gov.uk – 07525 392728**

**Kirkcaldy – John Houston –**  
**johnd.houston@fife.gov.uk – 07446 917466**

**Cowdenbeath – Rab Clark –**  
**rab.clark@fife.gov.uk – 07525 392637**

**Dunfermline - Rab Clark –**  
**rab.clark@fife.gov.uk – 07525 392637**

**South West Fife - Rab Clark –**  
**rab.clark@fife.gov.uk – 07525 392637**



**Tam Livingstone – TRA**  
*“Chair Some of these issues were reported years ago but hopefully now they will be sorted, as the Coronavirus is over and we have Liza to help us.”*

**Alan Dalby – TRA Secretary & Vice Chairman of FFOTRA**  
*“Walkabouts are the perfect way to involve all of your community, not just the ones who attend your meetings. The extra people at your walkabout, may know or have problems you didn’t even think about, and having Fife Council*

*representatives with you, allows the problems to be highlighted there and then without having to wait for a TRA meeting.”*

*“We as a TRA have had many of our requests rectified quickly, but some may take longer, because of things like planning, require budget allowances or just lack of building materials or labour but mostly these are done over time so it make these walkabout worth it and productive in the end, just don’t expect everything to happen overnight.”*

**Liza Shearer – Housing Management Officer (HMO)**  
*“Having previously worked at Walter Hay Court as the Retirement Housing Officer, I was delighted to be given Walter Hay Court as part of my area, in my new role as HMO. I enjoy attending the TRA meetings and working with and on behalf of the tenants. I’m passionate about my job, providing a good service to the tenants and looking forward to see what difference the improvements will make to the area and to the tenants’ lives.”*

# CLEAR's Community Gardens & Community Workshop

Local charity CLEAR runs green and vibrant community gardens in both Buckhaven and Methil. The Buckhaven Garden is in Omar Crescent (entrance between nos. 14-16) and the Methil Garden at Kirkland Drive (at the end of the cul de sac nearest Methil Brae entrance between nos. 24-26). They are open every Wednesday and Thursday from 9.30-3.30 with a number of local residents joining in the activities.

Look out for lively open days held at both gardens. The next is planned at Methil Garden on Sat 25th June from 11-2 with free food, music, kids games, plants sales and other activities.

Elsewhere, CLEAR runs a community workshop at 47 Sandwell Street, Buckhaven recycling and repairing bikes, carrying out woodwork as well as a food kitchen producing jams, juices and similar. The workshop is also open Wednesday and Thursdays and there are volunteering opportunities too.

We hope the free £50 bike repair scheme will be resuming by the end of June and the bike workshop will be open Thursdays to Saturday each week

CLEAR was created and is led by local people seeking to improve their neglected area. Getting involved, even for only a couple of hours is a practical and constructive way to improve your own health and that of your wider community. Contact us at [clearlife@gmail.com](mailto:clearlife@gmail.com), tel 07903366529 or 01592-715021 (Tues-Thurs) or check our facebook pages.

## Buckhaven's Dinosaur Murals

The second phase of Buckhaven's striking dinosaur mural has been belatedly completed at the Shore St/Anderson Lane site. Flying pteradons, triceratops and a Jurassic landscape have been added to the scary T-rex and is already drawing visitors

The mural has turned two depressing concrete walls, the remains of demolished flats built in the late 1960s, into an asset as part of a wider programme to enhance the Buckhaven's neglected Foreshore led by CLEAR with Council support. The spring bulbs, archways and soon, additional heritage panels will add to the trim trail, benches and picnic tables recently installed along with the improved path and selective tree planting and totems to enhance the location's appeal of this fabulous coastal location.

The Jurassic theme can educate as well as fire the imagination of a younger audience.

*"The site looks out over the Forth 'ring of fire', the circle of extinct volcanoes (Bass Rock, Berwick Law, Arthurs Seat, Largo Law etc) clearly visible so the landscape in earlier times can be easily imagined. The dystopian menace conveyed can prompt awareness of the impending risks of climate change which, if not controlled, could return our planet to a state before humans destroyed it."*

CLEAR Chair, Bob Taylor.



Artist Ian Tayac (known professionally as Paco Graff)





**Sign up  
at [hub@  
clearfife.org](mailto:hub@clearfife.org)**

CLEAR is active out and about town, planting spring bulbs trees and shrubs to brighten the urban area and help make it a more pleasant place to live.





# A new chapter begins for the North East Fife Tenants and Residents

**North East Fife Tenants and Residents Federation recently moved into their new high street shop at number 19 Crossgate, Cupar. The new community shop 'Community Voice' offers a range of services to support tenants and residents across North East Fife. Raymon Gray, the federation chairperson, said: "We are delighted to take our services into the high street, making it even easier for tenants and residents of north east Fife to bring us their issues and get practical help and advice."**

John Mills, Head of Housing Services, said:

***"I was very privileged to be asked to open the new Community Voice in Cupar. This is a great example of community action by tenants for tenants, to help those struggling with sustaining their housing, fuel bills and rent payments in particular. I wish the federation every success for the future."***

The shop has been set up as a drop-in centre where tenants and residents of North East Fife can seek advice to tackle their concerns, from tenancy issues, anti-social behaviour complaints, and budgeting concerns with the cost-of-living crisis.

In addition to the welcoming front shop, there is also a general meeting room with an office workspace and a private committee room situated at the back.

Sustainable Cupar has been most supportive of the shop, and they will be available to offer energy advice to cut bills and reduce carbon emissions in North East Fife. The Federation would like the premises to be utilised by other like-minded community groups, so please contact the federation to discuss this opportunity.

North East Fife Tenants and Residents federation has

worked to maintain and improve housing, public amenities and the environment for 20 years, working closely with the Fife Council's Tenant Participation Team and advocating for Council tenants across a wide range of issues.

Should you require any further information or guidance please contact North East Fife Tenants and Residents federation by telephone on 07484 075316. Or email [info@neftrf.org.uk](mailto:info@neftrf.org.uk). The Community Voice shop address is 19 Crossgate, Cupar, KY15 5HA. The Federation website address is [www.eastfifefederation.org.uk](http://www.eastfifefederation.org.uk).



## North East Fife's Outreach Bus



After opening their new "Community Voice" shop in Cupar high street, the Tenants and Residents Federation for North East Fife are taking their "Outreach Bus" around some of the towns and villages to let folks meet their Housing Officer and to take up any issues they want brought to the Council.

Come and make YOUR views known face to face, or ask the Federation to represent YOUR interests, tackling your issues, whatever your circumstances.

Watch out for the leaflet coming through your door saying where and when the bus will be in North East Fife.



# Homes worth the wait in Inverkeithing!

**The 6th May 2022 saw the first year anniversary of the handover of the first 11 Fife Council new build properties on the Spencer Fields site in Inverkeithing. So far a total of 36 properties have now been completed out of the total of 74.**

These new properties are a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bed houses, 4 in a block flats and amenity bungalows and will provide new homes for many households in housing need.

Maryann had lived in Fraser Avenue for 19 years. She raised 3 children in various flats throughout the street, moving because of fires, overcrowding and demolition. She had previously been offered a property on the old Fraser Avenue site by Kingdom Housing when Fife Council took the decision to demolish the street but decided to wait for a Fife Council property. In 2021 Maryann and her family moved to a Fife Council new

build at Gorse Wynd, Inverkeithing, built by Taylor Wimpey.

Maryanne was allocated a 4 bedroom house due to the size of her family and she still can't believe the amount of space she has in her new home. She said that because her children all have their own rooms now after years of sharing, they fight less and get on better. They also now have room for a dining table in the kitchen so they eat together rather than eating whilst watching TV.

Maryann now has her own garden that she enjoys looking after and relaxing in during the summer months and she notices how quiet it is compared to the noise of Fraser Avenue in its heyday. She does say it was a long time coming but well worth the wait as she loves her new home.



# Allocations Focus

## Thinking of leaving us?

Fife Council  
Contact Centre  
03451 550033

www.  
fifehousingregister.  
org.uk

### Thinking of leaving us?

**When you provide notice that you wish to terminate your Fife Council tenancy, we will contact you to arrange a suitable date and time we can visit and carry out an exit check at your property. We will also provide you with a copy of the expected 'Termination Standards' and a 'Useful Guide' summarising important information to assist when ending your tenancy.**

It is important that you provide access for an 'exit check' as this is an opportunity for you and your Housing Options Officer to discuss any repairs or decoration requiring attention. This provides you the opportunity to repair or replace any damaged or missing items.

If not, this work may be carried out by Fife Council and recharged to you when you leave your tenancy.

### Benefits for the customer:

- **Outgoing customers are made aware of any repairs/decoration requiring their attention rather than face a recharge bill which will include an admin charge and VAT.**
- **Opportunity to ask any questions relating to the termination process and to be reminded of the date/time keys are to be in.**
- **Agree if any blinds/floorcoverings, white goods etc that are in good condition can be left which may benefit the future tenant.**

### Benefits for Fife Council:

- **Checking for adaptations, property layout etc for the next allocation.**
- **Opportunity to reinforce the exit standards, highlight any repairs requiring attention and address any queries relating to the termination process.**

### HomeSwap

The Fife Housing Register's online mutual exchange match up service. We have a new HomeSwap site to make it easier to find matches and improve your chances of finding a swap. Anyone that had an advert

on our original HomeSwap is encouraged to set up a new advert to make the most of this housing option.

If you only recently decided that you wish to move and you haven't thought about a mutual exchange, we encourage you to consider this now.

Visit our Fife Housing Register website to find out more information about mutual exchange, and to join our HomeSwap service.

**www.fifehousingregister.org.uk**

**Please also be aware that if you are transferring from your Council property to another (including Fife Housing Register partners) and are having difficulty with meeting the costs of moving, we may be able to provide some assistance to you. Please speak with your Housing Options Officer if you are unable to move home because of the costs involved.**



### Transfer Incentive Scheme

We recently updated our Transfer Incentive Scheme policy to make it more attractive to you.

The scheme is aimed towards tenants living in large properties who have spare bedrooms, and who could move to a smaller, more suitable property.

We are offering an enhanced financial package to encourage downsizing, allowing much-needed larger homes to be allocated to families who need them or if you have a property that is in high demand that is rarely available. For example, one which has been adapted

If you wish to 'downsize', we can assist you with your removals, help with new furnishings, help to clear any tenancy related debt you may have.

**Fife Council Contact Centre - 03451 550033.**

**www.fifehousingregister.org.uk**



# Staying Safe and Keeping Well



**Fife Adult Support & Protection**  
[www.fife.gov.uk/adultprotection](http://www.fife.gov.uk/adultprotection)

The **Staying Safe and Keeping Well** booklet contains useful tips and information which anyone in Fife can use when trying to cope with difficult times.

The booklet is another step by the Adult Support and Protection Committee in their continuing effort to raise awareness of support available in the Kingdom and ensure people stay safe and well, now and throughout the year.

Remember you are not on your own. There are many reasons some people need just a bit more of a helping hand, and we want you to know that in these uncertain times it's ok to reach out for support.

To view the booklet online visit  
**[www.fife.gov.uk/stayingsafekeepingwell](http://www.fife.gov.uk/stayingsafekeepingwell)**



## Smart life in Fife

Fife's self-assessment tool to help people live independently for longer

Fife has an online self assessment tool called 'Smart Life in Fife'. The website can enable people to access advice, services, recommendations, and equipment available on loan from Fife Community Equipment Store. These vital services can make everyday activities easier and enable people to live more independently at home for longer.

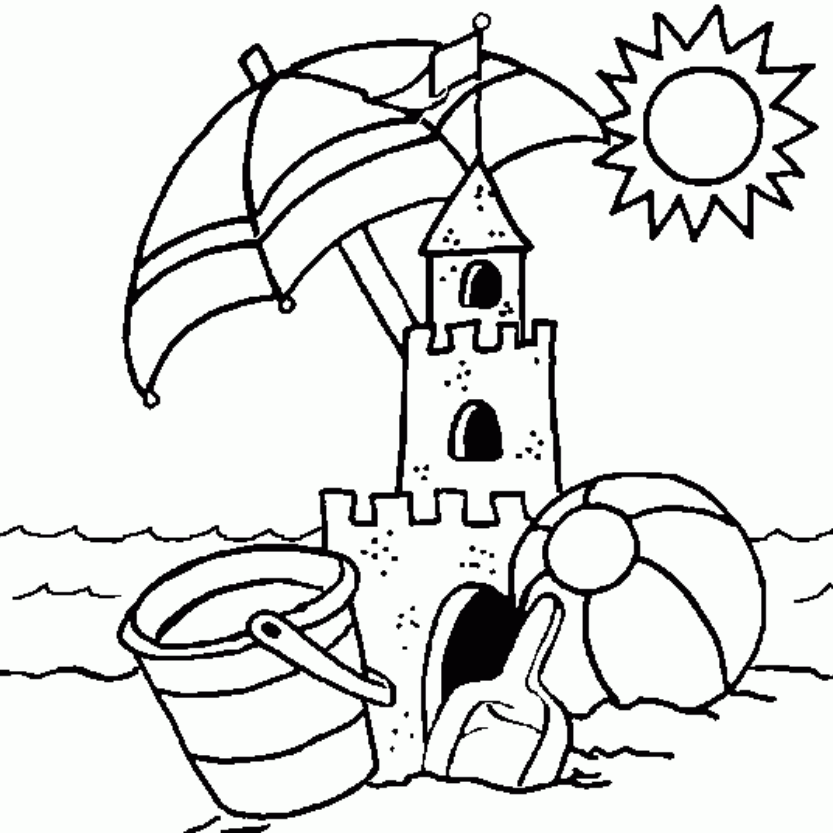
The online system will allow a person to select an area of the home which they, or family members are having difficulties with. Step by step each person is guided through an easy assessment process to identify what solutions may be best for them. Our system can offer quick and easy access to a range of solutions, and advise if a further professional assessment is required.

To start a self-assessment go to [www.smartlifeinfife.org](http://www.smartlifeinfife.org)  
sign up and create an account



## Colouring in

### Why not colour in our Summer scene?



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

## Try our Summer wordsearch

Win  
£30  
of  
high street  
vouchers!

Find the following words for the chance to win a £30 High Street Voucher

BIKINI      SUNGLASSES  
DIVING      BARBECUE  
POOL      BEACH  
PICNIC      CAMPING  
SHORTS      SWIMMING

Post your entries to:

Tenant Participation Team, Methil Local Office,  
Wellesley Road, Methil, KY8 3PA, including your  
name, address and contact number All entries  
should be received no later than 4pm on Friday  
29th July 2022.





# Tenant Participation News Bulletin

## Ask the Coouncil

The Fife College Students Association and Fife Council Tenant Participation Team delivered another successful 'Ask the Coouncil' event for the students' event!

This is the fourth year that Fife Council have attended to answer students' questions about housing, welfare and well-being. The event expanded its partnership and also included Citizens Advice and NHS representatives so the students could come and ask anything about their rights not just as tenants but with finances, health and access to support.

The event ran for three days across the larger Fife College campuses; Dunfermline, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy and reached over 200 students.

*'We just love getting in external partners who can help show our students positive life skills information to help them succeed both in academic study and in their own lives. Having the Tenant Participation Team always draws a crowd as there are always so many questions and the team are always happy to help. We are already planning how we can expand for next year.'*

Jade Burnett, Community Development Coordinator.





# PHOEBE SAYS...

I'm Phoebe, look at all my new furriends!

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

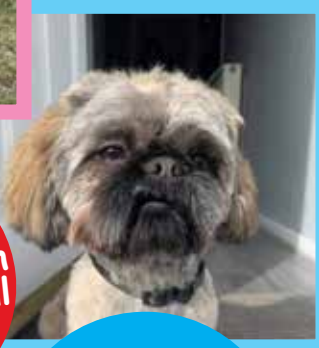


This month, Phoebe has climbed East Lomond

Nala age 1. She loves giving kisses and chewing people's jackets. Her favourite food is chicken



Turbo and Sheldon with the watchful Millie



Chance age 2. Loves to follow his mum and eat cheese



Evie the wee Westie

My name is Shakira and I am 2 years old



Millie, Archie and their puppy Angel

Murphy age 8. Loves to chase his football and eat chicken chews



Frankie climbs West Lomond



Fang the Hamster, winning a prize at the Fife Show





Mrs Doyle's Kitchen features amazingly tasty recipes for the whole family. Check out this seasons delicious and easy ideas...



## Lemon sponge cake

### Ingredients

- 175g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for the tin
- 175g golden caster sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 3 large unwaxed lemons, zested, plus 4-4 ½ tbsp juice
- 250g self-raising flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 100g Greek yoghurt
- 400g icing sugar
- lemon zest or candied peel, to serve (optional)

### METHOD

#### STEP 1

Heat oven to 170C/150C fan/gas 3. Butter a deep, loose-bottomed, 18cm cake tin and line the base with baking parchment.

#### STEP 2

Beat the butter and caster sugar together with an electric whisk until fluffy and pale in colour. Crack the eggs in one at a time, beating well after each addition, then stir in the lemon zest. Fold in the flour, baking powder and ½ tsp salt, then fold in the yoghurt.

#### STEP 3

Spoon the mixture into the lined tin, smoothing the top with a spatula. Bake in the centre of the oven for 50-55 mins, or until golden brown. Cool in the tin for 10 mins before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

#### STEP 4

When you're ready to decorate, sieve the icing sugar into a bowl and beat in enough lemon juice to create a thick icing. Set the cake on a serving plate or cake stand, then spoon over the icing.

## Tasty Mediterranean chicken salad

### Ingredients

#### Marinade/Dressing:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- juice of 1 lemon (1/4 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice)
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 2 teaspoons garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- cracked pepper, to taste
- 1 pound (500 g) skinless, boneless chicken thigh fillets (or chicken breasts)

#### Salad:

- 4 cups Romaine (or Cos) lettuce leaves, washed and dried
- 1 large cucumber diced
- 2 Roma tomatoes diced
- 1 red onion sliced
- 1 avocado sliced
- 1/3 cup pitted olives (or black olives), sliced (optional)
- Lemon wedges to serve

### METHOD

1. Whisk all the marinade/dressing ingredients in a large jug. Pour out half of the marinade into a large, shallow dish. Refrigerate the remaining marinade to use as the dressing later.
2. Add the chicken to the marinade in the bowl; marinade chicken for 15-30 minutes (or up to two hours in the refrigerator if time allows). While waiting for the chicken, prepare all the salad ingredients and mix in a large salad bowl.
3. Once the chicken is ready, heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a grill pan or a grill plate over medium-high heat. Grill chicken on both sides until browned and thoroughly cooked.
4. Allow chicken to rest for 5 minutes; slice and arrange over salad—drizzle salad with the remaining UNTOUCHED dressing. Serve with lemon wedges.



# HELP A CHILD BELONG FOSTER FOR FIFE COUNCIL

Could you give a child stability and security and help them feel they belong?

If you are interested in becoming a Fife Council foster carer go to:

**foster.fife.scot**

or give us a call on **01383 602235**



## Could you provide a home for young asylum seekers aged 16-18?

They have arrived all alone from countries - such as Vietnam, Ethiopia, and Sudan – and have a wide range of cultural and religious backgrounds.

Jenny says: "I was watching a programme about young people in Afghanistan and their struggle to survive and thought I would really like to help. If they were my children, I would want someone to take them in. Ali is no bother, he's hard working and very grateful for being safe."

Ali says: "I left Afghanistan because the Taliban killed my father and it was too dangerous to stay. I had a very long and frightening journey across seven countries often with no food or water and nowhere to sleep. But now I'm so happy to be safe and I'm learning English making friends and hope to become a car mechanic in the future."

Call Ulva Gibson 03451 55 55 55 Ext: 460528 or Patrick Porteous 03451 55 55 55 Ext: 443813 or go to:

**foster.fife.scot/supported-lodgings** to find out more.

