

DOWN YOUR

Street

Tenants' Magazine



Rent
support
P4



#DYSFife

www.fife.gov.uk/housing



**Name the latest member of
our team! page 25**

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
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Alternative Formats line:
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British Sign Language
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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
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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, Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre, Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW



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



@fifecounciltp

Meeting the Housing, Homelessness and Cost of Living Challenges in Fife

Tenants, housing applicants and homeless people are facing significant delays in receiving offers of housing from the Council and local Housing Associations. We are also coming into the Winter period, still facing high inflation and a cost-of-living crisis.

The Council is doing its best to respond.

We are doing this by focussing on reducing the number of empty houses we have. Working closely with Building Services, Housing will seek to reduce the time it takes to let an empty property to another tenant. The transfer-led housing allocations approach is still in place, but we need to let an increasing number of our empty properties to homeless people as the numbers grow significantly in temporary accommodation. The recently published homelessness statistics by the Scottish Government confirm a 7% increase in Fife on homelessness applications.

We are responding to the current housing pressures by continuing to build 250 council properties per year and our Housing Association partners are building 500 new houses per year. The Council is purchasing properties to bring them into the council stock for letting.

As we come into the winter months and as energy prices remain high, the Council will again provide fuel poverty support through the national Fuel Bank and targeted support for the most vulnerable tenants and homeless people. Look out for more details on the Council's website and in this edition of



Down Your Street. I recognise that these are tough times for many of our tenants and help should be provided when you need it.

On a positive note, the Annual Return on the Charter results for 2022/23 have been published by the Scottish Housing Regulator. We are currently working with the Fife Tenants' Forum to publish the Tenants Report by 31st October. Across a range of areas of housing services, performance is improving following the impact of the pandemic. I am determined that the improvements will continue with your support to tell us when we are not doing so well.

John

John Mills

Head of Housing Services

Help with your rent - Rent Support Fund

With the ongoing cost of living crisis, we are aware of the financial stresses that many of our tenants may be feeling. In order to help and support you, we have launched a new rent support fund. This rent support fund was agreed by Fife Council alongside the rental increase for 2023/24.

The fund will give tenants who qualify a one-off payment of £75, which will be paid into your rent account.

We are in the process of writing to all tenants, who we believe may qualify for our fund, so you may have recently or will shortly receive a letter regarding this.

To be eligible for the fund you need to be paying your own rent and not be in receipt of full housing benefit or full universal credit housing costs.

Your monthly household income must also be below a specific qualifying limit.

To support your claim you will be asked to upload three months' worth of bank statements detailing your income.

This application process will be online, if you are struggling, an appointment can be made at one of our Customer Service Centres. To find out more and apply please visit: www.fife.gov.uk/rentsupport.



Community Drop-in

Every Wednesday
2pm-4pm

Penumbra
Not. Jerry. Not. Way.

@ 89 New Row, Dunfermline.
KY12 7DZ

Come along to Penumbra's Community Drop-in for some advice and support with any tenancy needs.

Monthly information from local support agencies in Fife.

For further information contact us on: 07876258721

Fuel poverty update

Home energy price increases are a worry for many of us. The best way to pay less right now is to use less. There are plenty of practical actions you can take to help save energy around your home, reduce your energy bills and your carbon emissions too.

The following will all help:

- Reducing your thermostat by 1C. Using your thermostatic valves to shut off heat if the room is being used, or to turn the heat down if the room is not used all the time.
- Keeping curtains and doors closed between rooms.
- Switching appliances and devices off at the plug rather than leaving them on standby.
- Using a slow cooker or pressure cooker rather than an oven.
- Using LED Lighting and switching lights off when that room isn't being used.

The Home Heating Advice Fund is now available, anyone who is struggling to meet their fuel costs can apply to the fund. You will also need to have had money or energy advice from an accredited agency, this helps to make sure any money awarded will be as effective as possible for your situation. The team at moneyadvice.scot, can offer money advice and support with debt. You can also contact one of our trusted referral partners.



We take individual circumstances into consideration when making a decision about funding, including:

- Level of fuel poverty
- Remote/Rural Locations and the impacts of this on energy bills / Off-grid energy supplies
- Age and situation

The fund can only be applied for once in the current financial year. Applications can be made at www.homeheatingadvice.scot

Please get in touch with our partner Cosy Kingdom or the Fife Council's Fuel Poverty team for help and advice.

**Fuel.poverty@fife.gov.uk
Phone-01592-807930 Text- text "COSY" and your name to 88440.**

Email: info@cosykingdom.org.uk For further support with the cost of living please visit Cost of Living Support(fife.scot)

The Government announced the next round of cost-of-living support. Up to £900 will be paid to eligible customers receiving means-tested benefits, including Tax Credits, in three instalments throughout 2023-2024.

Eligibility criteria are separate for each Cost of Living Payment. Receiving a previous Cost of Living Payment doesn't guarantee a customer will be eligible for the next payment. Information about the payments can be found at - www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment

Whilst we enjoy the summer months, please be mindful that although you may not be using Gas in your property, if you are on a pre-payment meter, you will still be charged a standing charge per day. Failing to top up your meter regularly to cover this will result in a build up in debt owed.

Daily Standing Charges for Gas range from 28p-32p and 50p-60p for Electric.

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Inverness exchange visit

After a successful exchange visit in the Summer of 2019, between South Kessock Residents Association (SKRA) and selected Fife Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) to share best practices, information and ideas. We were delighted to be invited back up to Inverness, to see the improvements that had been achieved, following on from our previous exchange visits.

We set off on the 24th June arriving at Croy, just after lunchtime to experience the CroyFest in the local primary School grounds. CroyFest is an annual fun day to bring the whole community together and help to build and develop community spirit.

We then went to the community garden and enjoyed a tour and chat with local residents on how the garden began, what it takes to keep it running successfully, as well as gaining information and ideas on what tenants and residents' groups can achieve. This was very interesting and paved the way for great conversations on how our groups can support their local communities in different ways.

The community garden is open to all ages, helping people gain experience and knowledge of what it takes to grow your own fruit and veg. Trying to encourage and promote health and wellbeing, helping bring back a sense of community, by either meeting at the garden on a regular basis, to carry out the necessary duties. Organising fundraisers and other community events.

In the evening the Inverness group hosted a barbeque get together to welcome our group. We then met SKRA members at their community garden, where they grow vegetables for the local community (the garden was developed after their visit to Fife in 2019) It was lovely to see how proud and excited everyone was to show off the garden and tell us their new ideas for future projects.

Sunday was the annual Kessock Fun Day and Ferry Swim, run in partnership with the local community in Merkinch. This is a historic non-competitive, fundraising event known locally as "The Big Swim" with all proceeds going to local charities. The tradition dating back to 1946, is a 1200m swim across the old ferry route between South and North Kessock and is very well attended.

It was a great weekend, lots of information and knowledge shared and gained.

We look forward to welcoming the Inverness Group to Fife in the near future.

Alex Platt – Treasurer - Merkinch Community Council
I would like to thank everyone who travelled up from Fife to Inverness it was a pleasure. It was an enjoyable weekend for all with the big South Kessock swim event and also meeting and greeting different organisations in and around Inverness. -

James Green – Croy Community Garden
It was a pleasure and an experience to meet a bunch of lovely people, who wanted to know all about our community garden.

Lizzy Halstead New Linktown TRA - *Good to meet up with old faces and share ideas and story's, about our areas and what we are doing to make them a better place for everyone. It was great to see South Kessock Residents Association's new community garden.*

Shane Halstead New Linktown TRA - *Very informative visit, good to see the new housing project near Inverness. Hopefully our bond with the Inverness group goes from strength to strength.*

Kate and Joyce – Steelworks Brae TRA
We were both very impressed with the allotment area and the work that has gone into it. Also, the community garden, they gave us a lot of ideas and how to go about getting grants which was really helpful

Alan Dalby – Walter Hay Court TRA – Vice Chair of FFOTRA
At the end of June a group from various TRA's in Fife paid a return visit to our counterparts in Inverness, where on the Saturday we went to a community Funday, also to their community garden and later visited a new build complex which had sheltered housing mixed in and a BBQ in the evening.

On the Sunday we attended the annual charity swim across the river, also there were various children's rides and local businesses in attendance, overall, a great weekend was had by all.



Oakley Retirement Housing

I wanted to share with you some of the excellent estate work taking place within the village which was undertaken by the Grounds Maintenance (Rapid Response Team).

Several residents had approached the Housing Officer regarding the communal areas which had become messy & unkempt within the Retirement Housing complex. When the estate had initially been built, these areas were planted with small bushes & shrubs; to break up the newness of the buildings & add some greenery to the estate.

Unfortunately, within a few years these areas had deteriorated, with overgrown shrubs, bushes & weeds. These proved not only unsightly, but also a health & safety hazard for residents – as the branches were sharp & protruding over residents' driveways, entrances & the main public footpaths. Given the age & health needs of the residents, they were unable to maintain these, so a more permanent solution was required to tackle this problem & further enhance the appearance of the area.

It was decided that the affected areas would be cleared of shrubs & bushes, then be levelled & laid with grass to complement the existing estate. These could then be

maintained within the summer cutting programme by the Grounds Maintenance Team.

Before the grass could be laid in each of the affected areas, there was a substantial amount of groundwork to be done. The RRT comprised of seasonal employees within Grounds Maintenance team who can carry out horticultural & estate improvement works during the winter months in conjunction with the area Housing teams.

By utilising this team, the Retirement Housing complex were able to get their communal areas transformed. The team started by digging out the bushes & trees, levelling & carrying out necessary soil work & finally laying turf to each of the affected areas. The grass has now had sufficient time to settle in & it has made a huge difference to the appearance of the estate by enhancing the overall outlook for both residents & passer-by's.

I appreciate all the input & patience from residents & the Retirement Housing Officer during this project. Thanks must also be given to Grounds Maintenance & everyone in the Rapid Response Team for their hard work in transforming the areas for the benefit of the community & residents.



Collydean's Fantastic Funday!

Collydean community centre held the annual fun day at magnus drive park. The event was a host to all sorts of attractions including.

- Massive bouncy castles
- A display from ENIGMA gymnastics
- Dog competitions
- Meet the alpacas!
- A gaming van
- Food and drink vans
- Raffle and tombola stalls
- Free information stalls about what's going on in the community
- Free packed lunches for the kids

The event was designed by the Collydean Community centre to allow families to have an affordable fun day on their doorstep and the park at Magnus Drive was the perfect place to have this. On the day the event was very well attended with everyone having a great day! The smile on the kids' faces was the icing on the cake and Collydean Community centre would like to thank everyone for coming along to help organise on the day.

Shelle at Collydean Community centre added.

"All of us at Collydean Community Centre would like to say a massive thank you to Glen Housing staff for their support on the day, Fife Council for supplying the Cafe Inc packed lunches and let's not forget all the wonderful people who joined us at Magnus Drive, it was a fantastic turn out and the weather was on our side.

It's an absolute privilege for us to be able to put on an affordable family event for the community in the community. There was something for everyone.

We are already planning the next community event and we cannot wait to see you all again!"



Highlands and Islands TRA Clean Up

The Highlands and Islands Tenants & Residents Association recently took the initiative to clean up their area after a recent walkabout highlighted the area was very unkept and badly littered.

In an attempt to make the area safer and look much more welcoming the tenants and residents teamed up with their local elected members, Safer Communities and their Tenant Participation Team. On the 21st of July everyone came together and collected over 15 bags of rubbish cleaning up the walkways, grassed areas as-well as the children's play park.

Overall, it was a great day with residents of all ages taking part to help make a difference to their community.

The Highlands and Island Tenants and Residents Association meet on the second Monday of the month at the Kirkcaldy Free Church St Clair Street

at 6pm and welcome along any residents from the Highlands and Islands area.

Please come along and have your say on your area and what matters to you.



Dunfermline

BASICSIM TRA Dunfermline

BASICSIM Tenants and Residents Association, based in Abbeyview, Dunfermline covers Bute Crescent, Allan Crescent, Shields Road, Iona Road, Clunie Road, Skye Road, Islay Road and Macbeth Road. The TRA meet the first Wednesday of every month at 1pm in Abbeyview Community Centre and new members are encouraged and will be made welcome. Coming along is a great opportunity to play your part within your community, to voice and discuss local concerns and gather ideas to better the area you live in to make it a safe and better place for all.

The TRA requested a walkabout of their local area in May, so Fife Council could listen to ideas or concerns from residents first hand. HMO Susan McDonald, along with Tenant Participation Officer Rab Clark, sent invites to teams and Services to attend. This year already, the TRA Committee have a working action plan for the area following this walkabout. We were joined by local Councillors and staff from the Safer Communities Team and actions have been fed back to the community caretaker and Transportation Services. This has resulted in road surfacing works

being completed and the local buses servicing most streets again. This has been a concern for tenants due to shops being at the top of the hill and was a great achievement for the TRA.

With winter around the corner, another walkabout is in the plans with concerns about grit bins and street lighting along with ideas for future events in the community of Abbeyview.



Housing Area Walkabouts Near You

The summer months have involved many local area walkabouts across Fife. Housing area teams have been partnering up with various services such as safer communities, parks streets an open spaces, local elected members and tenants and residents associations to help make a difference and highlight issues in areas that need to be focused on. It was important to get the views of Tenants and Residents to support the area teams in targeting the correct areas within local communities.

Most areas in Fife are looking at a 3-year plan for individual areas and a local action plan that will be worked towards. As part of the walkabouts it was important for the area teams to understand what matters most to our tenants and residents and find out what they think are the main housing and neighbourhood issues along with understanding how and what we can do to help resolve these.

During the walkabouts our tenant participation team were in attendance to support our Tenants and Residents Groups and highlight areas that had been raised at TRA meetings if Residents couldn't make the walkabouts. Some of the issues highlighted in many

communities included potholes, rusty railings, green space areas, repairs, bin store issues, ideas for projects that may improve communities and more.

Fife Council Safer Community Officer's were also in attendance at many walkabouts speaking with the local community in each area and acting on any signs of illegal dumping along with discussing concerns of anti-social behaviour with the public.

After each walkabout the Housing Management Officer created an action plan of issues highlighted and timescales for work being completed or areas being investigated. From here they determined what department would be responsible for the work and where necessary raised repairs and discussed with other services within Fife Council. This action plan was then shared with Tenants and Resident Groups for each area and issues highlighted could be tracked with further updates of work scheduled, any delays or problems as well as when work is complete.

Work is now underway in many areas to help improve communities and act on what matters most to you and your area.

Valley Gardens



Lindores and Katrine

Lochgelly Area



Buckhaven



Blairadam Court & Strathyre Place



Cardenden Area walkabout



Turriff Place walkabout



Cowdenbeath Area walkabout



Linktown walkabout

Lets Hear it for the pupils of Milesmark Primary School, Dunfermline!

Dog Fouling Initiative

Staff at Milesmark Primary School, Dunfermline told the Safer Communities Team that dog fouling in an around their school grounds was a problem and needed sorted!

Investigation by our SCO's (Jim McHardie, Kenny Shepherd and Brian Dougal) revealed that irresponsible dog owners were allowing their dogs to defecate on pavements to and from the school as well as within the school grounds itself.

In tandem with regular SCO patrols, Jim, Kenny and Brian sought to work with the enthusiastic pupils at the school to promote awareness.

Supported by the Headteacher, it was agreed that our officers would give educational talks to the pupils around environmental issues and run a poster competition. The pupils were tasked to design a poster that could be utilised to promote awareness. It was hoped that exposure of their work (via word of mouth and social media) would spread the word of the issue to parents and the wider community. The winning designs to be used by the SCT for signage and a media campaign.

As expected, the buy-in from the pupils was excellent. Their enthusiasm for the task at hand was amazing. The children listened intently and interacted with the officers delivering the educational package and they

subsequently went to work (armed with litter picking equipment and signage) to assist with cleaning up litter in the local area. They assisted with the erecting of warning signs to encourage the public to pick up their dog's mess or risk facing a fine.

Whilst it was hoped that the campaign would spread the word to the local community, it was also intended that the educational input would have a long-lasting effect on the psyche of the children around environmental issues for years to come and positively impact their own future behaviour.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that due to the children's enthusiasm for the task at hand, the reason behind the campaign was indeed fed back to parents and the wider community because the problem significantly improved.

Proactive patrols by our SCO's continue at Milesmark Primary School and there has been a noticeable improvement in the area. Here are some photographs of children engaged in the initiative with our SCO's and the winning designs.



90th birthday

A huge happy 90th birthday to Betty Fyfe who celebrated her special day with tenants in Sunnyside Court Cowdenbeath. Betty has been resident in Sunnyside Court Retirement Housing since 1997, over 26 years. Congratulations we hope you had a great day!



Cowdenbeath area

A Day in the life of a Housing Management Officer

Being a Housing Management Officer in the Cowdenbeath area is a rewarding and varied job where no two days are the same. As a Housing Officer there are many day-to-day jobs that are overseen. This work includes signing up new tenants for their properties, dealing with change of tenancies and mutual exchanges as well as discussing rent accounts, dealing with repairs and all other aspects of tenancy management. We coordinate area walkabouts working alongside other services such as the Safer Communities' Team, Building Services, Local elected members and our tenants to try and make improvements to the local area.

Sometimes we take on additional tasks to assist our tenants when it matters the most. This could be making a referral to another service such as housing support or an occupational therapist or providing support in the way of tenancy assistance.

Tenancy Assistance is a 12-week service provided by your Housing Management Officer to assist our tenants to sustain their tenancies. This support can be accessed by tenants at any time during their tenancy.

On occasions there can be situations where we go above and beyond to help our tenants feel valued and offer support with additional tasks as you will see from the picture attached.

Housing Management Officers Lyn Sweeney and Nicola McNally have recently been involved with helping an existing tenant to move into sheltered housing, arranging the removal of furniture and cleaning his windows so they were all ready for the new blinds being fitted.

All in a day's work!



Fife International Forum: Building Bridges

Fife International Forum makes a positive impact on the lives of migrants and refugees by creating a more inclusive and supportive society.

Fife International Forum provides a range of support services across Fife. They have launched a new project, Building Bridges, funded by Fife Council Housing Services.

Building Bridges supports individuals experiencing housing issues who may experience difficulties accessing mainstream services due to language barriers.

Fife International Forum understands the challenges faced by individuals and aims to bridge the gap by

providing help where it is needed the most.

Scan the QR code to access information in your native language. For more information, please contact Monica Amujo-Akomolafe (Project Coordinator):



Phone:
07852225826

Email: Monica.
Amujo-Akomolafe@
fifeinternational.uk



Spotlight on Celebrations for Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association Champion of the year Group runner up award!

The Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) have been running successfully for 5 years helping to support their local community, and developing a great working relationship with Police Scotland, Fife Council-led organisations as well as local businesses and charities. They always have their local community at the heart of everything they do from holding family fun days, tackling anti-social behaviour, delivering a food parcel service over the festive period to help support families in need. Most recently planning and pushing forward a litter campaign working alongside the local schools and Fife Council Safer Community Team. Overall, they strive to make the town of Burntisland a better place to live and visit.

In June the Tenant Participation team attended the annual Tenant Participation Advisory Service conference and awards taking along representatives from the Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association. The tenant participation team had nominated the Central Burntisland TRA for the awards. The Association consistently support their community and encourage community spirit, enhancing physical, mental health and wellbeing, creating support systems to ensure everyone is included and the local town of Burntisland is safe and welcoming for all.

The efforts of The TRA were recognised and they were deservedly nominated for the National Good Practice Awards at the TPAS conference held in June 2023. The awards event is a big part of the 2-day conference to celebrate the great work and community involvement groups and individuals achieve.

CBTRA were recognised for the consistent hard work they commit to their community and were awarded runner up for the 'Champion of the Year Group Category' and Iain Ralph, Chair of the TRA was awarded the runner up for the Alan Ferguson Award. An individual award for his contribution and involvement within the community, always going above and beyond to meet the needs of residents within the Burntisland community.

Over the course of the conference the Tenant Participation team and TRA's attended many workshops gaining advice from other organisations and learning new skills. Rab Clark (Fife Council TP Officer) held a very

well attended seminar on setting up and supporting Tenants and Resident Groups sharing best practice with other local authorities and housing associations as well as tenants and residents from across Scotland.

Julie McDougall, Colin Whyte, and Ross Cameron (Fife Council, Tenant Participation Officers) were also awarded with their certificates after successfully completing the course in Tenant Participation and community development.

If you are interested in hearing more about setting up a Tenants and Resident Association for your community then please contact the Tenant participation team at TenantParticipation@fife.gov.uk





The central Burntisland TRA was recently recognised at the Scottish TPAS conference for our work carried out in the community. The award came as a great surprise to us all and was a great honour to be nominated and recognised at the National Annual Conference and Good Practice awards. Our heartfelt thanks go out to not only the residents of central Burntisland but also the Fife Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations and for the support given to us by our Tenant Participation Officers within Fife Council.

So what was it like being summoned up to the stage to receive the awards? Daunting to say the least, the wonderful Michell McManus quickly put all nominees at ease with her wit and fine singing voice.

The Conference itself was very enlightening and the keynote speakers certainly approached their presentations from very different directions, but it certainly kept me wanting to be further involved in the local voluntary sector. The topics of discussion ranged from affordable Housing shortages across Scotland, both in the public and private sector to properties suffering with damp and mould issues.

A number of workshops were also held for delegates over the three days, and these ranged from understanding what a Tenants and Residents Association can do to enrich the lives of residents and communities. I certainly came away brimming with ideas for proposal to my own TRA.

Would I do it again - try and hold me back!

Iain Ralph

Chairman, Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association



Supporting tenants into fair, sustainable jobs

Fife Council Housing Service is working with Fife's employability support service to help tenants into fair, sustainable jobs. The right job for you can provide a firm financial foundation to a more secure tenancy and a better quality of life. There are incalculable social, emotional, physical, and mental health benefits for individuals [and their families] who progress into work.

Our employability programmes include those for –

- young people 16 to 24 years of age
- all those aged over 24 years
- people with disabilities or health conditions aged 25 and over
- people with complex mental health conditions
- lone parent families through a whole family approach to employability

We are now asking our Housing Management Officers - Cowdenbeath and North east Fife initially to have a conversation with working age tenants about job challenges and aspirations. After an initial test period we will roll out across Fife. Where tenants express an interest,

a simple referral can be made on your behalf to our employability service who will be able to suggest and arrange for appropriate support. Until then, especially if you are in a different part of Fife, you can make a direct referral yourself – contact sw.ses@fife.gov.uk and ask for a referral form. It will take only a few minutes.

That support would begin with you being given a one-to-one keyworker who will help you plan an employability journey that suits your circumstances, abilities, and work goals. They can provide advice and support to help you overcome barriers, access training and work opportunities, give guidance on the impact of paid employment on welfare benefits, contact local employers on your behalf and provide on-going in-work support.

If you feel you don't need this kind of support but are ready for a job, or a new job challenge if you already working, and would like to work for Fife Council, there are lots of opportunities available (some of these are in our housing service!). Check the Fife Council jobs advert in this publication to find out more and check our current vacancies at www.fife.gov.uk/jobs

Are you experiencing challenges or barriers that are holding you back from looking for work?

Are you struggling to stay in work due to family, financial, personal or health challenges?

Would you like to learn more about services that can help you prepare for, and find, a job?

Would you like to find out more about services that can you stay and thrive at work?

Cupar lads pipe up a storm!

Two young lads from Cupar are going above and beyond to offer a free piping service to residents around Fife.

Both boys play the pipes to a very high standard and are part of the Black Watch Cadets in Glenrothes. They have been playing the pipes for over 4 years and have enjoyed playing at many different events and celebrations, recently playing for the Royal family.

They enjoy offering their service free of charge throughout Fife and have been playing for nursing homes and other community events for some time now. They are particularly interested in playing for elderly

residents, surprising people in sheltered housing complexes or care homes as well as any other events.

The young men hope these kind gestures will make people feel special and brighten their day. We think they are fabulous!



ADAPT

What does ADAPT do?

We are the main drug and alcohol triage assessment provider for Fife Residents. We provide a person-centered approach and assessment to help people choose a recovery pathway tailored to their needs.

We host a variety of Recovery Drop-In Clinics at various locations and times across Fife. These are non-committal and informal clinics whereby you can simply drop in without an appointment to speak to our team to discuss your concerns and decide if you want to take the next step in your recovery journey.

We also actively work with families, friends and other people with addiction related issues so anyone can join us at one of our Recovery Drop-In Clinics. If you are concerned about your loved ones substance misuse issues and need someone to talk to. The clinics are 1-2-1 and are offered on a first come first served basis. The assessment takes no longer than 45 minutes, at the end of this you will be armed with the knowledge of a person-centered support, recovery, and referral plan.

In the last financial year FASS/ADAPT have supported 12,187 people around Fife with varying degrees of addiction related issues. This included community-based case management in long-term and short-term support settings, group work and 1-2-1 sessions.

Along with all other Fife 3rd Sector organisations, we work in partnership to support the statute sectors due to the ever-increasing demands made on these services at our disposal. We work very closely with NHS Fife and NHS Fife Addiction Services, Scottish Ambulance Service,

Police Scotland, Social Work, Housing, Education, Scottish Prison Service.



We offer a Drop-In Community Group in the Methil area of Fife on a Friday morning from 11 am – 1pm, Methil Community Centre, Bowling Green Street. We fondly refer to this group as our KY8 Club, everyone is welcome! In 2021 and 3 years preceding this, Methil and Levenmouth had the highest recorded Drug related Deaths (DRD) and Near Fatal Overdoses (NFO) on record. Alongside our partners and organisations we offer services in the Methil and Levenmouth area, we help support other services to help reduce the DRD and NFO rates. KY8 Club has been running for around 18 months now and we have seen 5000 people walk through our doors. The club isn't just addiction focused, the aim of the club is to integrate the entire community, reduce loneliness and isolation, reduce social stigma, break down barriers and raise awareness of the issues the community is facing. Popping in for a cuppa and a blether often leads to someone getting the kind of help that they otherwise may not have known where to look for.

Near Fatal Overdose Team

Our award winning NFO Team works in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service. Anyone who has had a suspected NFO and has been administered the life saving medicine Naloxone by the Scottish Ambulance Service, is automatically referred to our NFO Team for support and engagement with services.

Fife Council Mutual Owners and Factoring Services Team

We are a team which includes 12 Housing Management Officers, 8 who deal with mutual repairs and 4 dealing with all our factored developments across Fife.

In Fife we have estates containing a mixture of council and privately owned properties, these mixed tenure blocks share responsibility for common areas such as roofs, rhones and downpipes, door entry systems, stairwells and gardens. Fife Council has an active interest in blocks where it continues to own one or more properties and we are keen to work with other owners to have repairs and maintenance carried out to these blocks to improve local estates.

The Mutual Owners Team are a designated point of contact for owners, carrying out inspections from repairs reported to Fife Council and liaise with other owners, partner services, contractors and Area Housing staff to ensure mutual repairs are carried out.

The Factoring Services Team provide a service to blocks where Fife Council has been appointed as the Property Factor through an official consultation process.

Fife Councils main function as a Property Factor is to manage the repair and maintenance of the common parts of the block.

The Factoring Services Team manage the delivery of

services, are pro-active at inspecting all factored blocks, a designated point of contact for owners and liaise with partner services, contractors and Area housing staff to ensure the smooth running of the service.

Examples of Factoring Services provided by Fife Council are:-

- Grounds maintenance
- Stairwell & Laundrette cleaning
- Caretaking Services
- Cleaning & Maintenance of the bin chutes
- Routine and emergency repairs

Please contact us at:

mutual.owners@fife.gov.uk

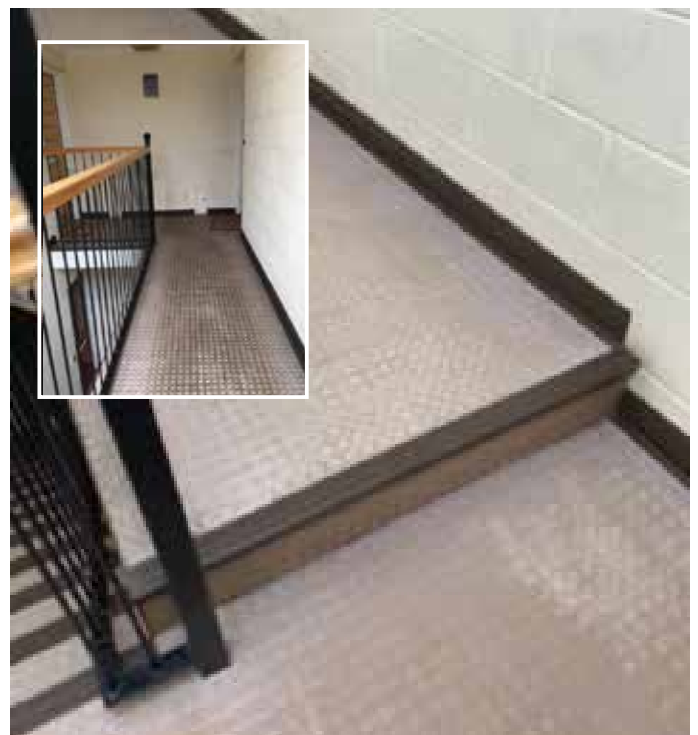
factoring@fife.gov.uk

Telephone Number: 03451 555 555 Ext 444504

For further advice & information see our website-

Factoring services and mutual repairs | Fife Council

Below are some pictures showing the improvement that a recent deep clean to a stairwell has made to a Factored block.



Levenmouth Housing Team Schiehallion Challenge

The Levenmouth Housing Team are passionate about providing an excellent service to the local community. We rely on local charities to assist us in helping those most in need and decided to raise money to help 2 charities to continue to provide the great service they do.

On Saturday 17th June, the team climbed Schiehallion, to raise money for 2 local charities, Levenmouth Foodbank & Clear. Also tagging along was our team mascot Russ. Russ tags along on most of the team's endeavours and holidays. He has a wee tin in the office where people can give him "holiday money" which will be donated to charity at the end of the year.

The total raised was £2279. £1000 was donated to Clear, £1000 to the Foodbank and £279 to the Tayside Mountain Rescue (which we may or may not have had to use ha ha)

Clear - Working in a former mining community, the conjoined towns of Buckhaven and Methil (population 16,000) in need of revival, CLEAR stands for Community-Led Environmental Action for Regeneration. The group has two aims – 1. to improve the neglected local environment and 2. to re-engage local people and build civic pride in the process. CLEAR carries out extensive planting and growing (community orchards, woodland, growing spaces, bulbs and flowers) year-round, which includes two vibrant community gardens, as well as landscape and greenspace site improvements (parks, paths, heritage and community art) seeking small scale transformative impact. It relies mainly on local volunteers and works with schools, college and other local groups.

Levenmouth Foodbank

THE FOODBANK SERVICE

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in a crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of Foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. Our Foodbank is a project founded and supported by local churches, community groups, supermarkets and local people working together towards stopping hunger in our local area.

The Foodbank is open every Monday and Friday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Café Connect is open every Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon, serving hot rolls, cereals, coffee and tea to anyone coming along. The aim of the Café is to provide a safe space for those in our community who are looking for social engagement. The Café helps us to get to know our clients better.

THE SCHOOLS PROJECT

We operate a Schools Project aimed at pupils in P5 to P7, with workshops which are 2 hours long held on the Foodbank premises. The workshops, as well as teaching the children how the Foodbank operates, cover topics such as numeracy, budgeting, and citizenship.



Eats Rosyth

Eats Rosyth Community Hub and Living Room Cafe is situated in the newly refurbished old Clydesdale Bank building at 115a Queensferry Road, Rosyth .

We officially opened our doors on 30th May and we have been blown away with the community support.

We are ideally placed for family visits with a step free entrance via Queensferry road, if your looking for lovely surroundings ,with a great selection of coffees and teas and delicious home baking then a warm welcome awaits you.

At Eats Rosyth we are really passionate about local food,we will ,when possible use nutritious fruit and vegetables grown in our Community Garden and Centenary Orchard. We would love to keep encouraging others to eat locally and we will endeavour to use all homegrown or whatever is in season whilst keeping our prices very reasonable in our Living Room Cafe

The Livingroom Cafe is predominantly volunteer run which is overseen by staff. There is lots of different volunteering opportunities within our hub from being a meet and greeter,a table runner or gaining experience as a barista or perhaps a role in the background if that's your preference , if this interests you and you can spare a few hours a week then please contact us .

Eats Rosyth also continues to offer a smaller scaled down surplus pantry. We also run on a Thursday our Bite and Bletcher from 5pm with a 2 course meal and bingo , this is a minimum donation of £2 but book early as this event is extremely popular along with our Friday night sit in/ takeaway ,again £2 minimum donation for 2 courses and off course kids eat free .

Within the hub we have two small meeting rooms ,a large cafe seating area with a social space for events and a beautiful hand painted mural on our cafe wall incorporating the garden and orchard in the artwork with the foilage theme ,a kids corner ,accessible toilets ,a commercial kitchen ,board room and staff kitchen.

Feedback from all who have visited us has been very humbling and it's so apparent that this hub is so important to all walks of life , there is certainly a great buzz in the cafe and it's lovely to see so many people support us. Eats Rosyth really is a great asset to all who use our facilities and off course our lovely neighbours in surrounding areas .

Feel free to pop into the community hub and cafe we are open Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm and if you would like to contact us our Tel no is 01383 414856 or email info@eatsrosyth.org.uk

Article and pictures by Edith Lumsden/Kasia Dubiel



Fire safety

Within Fife, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service attended 236 dwelling fires over the past year and sadly two people lost their lives with another 36 people injured. Many of these fires were avoidable.

The most common cause of fires in our homes is cooking appliances with electrical appliances and smoking materials two of the other common causes. Some groups can be at higher risk of coming to harm

in a fire such as the elderly who live alone, smokers or people with impaired mobility.

SFRS can carry out a free Home Fire Safety Visit for anyone. Details of how to request a Home Fire Safety Visit are shown below and remember, Smoke Alarms Save Lives.



Contact us today to arrange a
FREE Home Fire Safety Visit
We'll help you spot possible fire hazards, sort out a fire escape plan and provide information about smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms.
CALL 0800 0731 999, TEXT 'FIRE' TO 80800 or VISIT [firescotland.gov.uk](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk)



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland



Customer Service Centre

Your Guide to Council Services across Fife

Fife Council's Customer Service Centres are located across Fife, from Inverkeithing to St Andrews, offering a full range of services, support and advice. The Customer Service centres have Customer Service Advisors who provide advice and support, work with other Fife Council Services and agencies to help you get what you need. Our Customer Service Advisors can also help you link with local councillors and work towards making your local community a better place to live and work.

Most of our Customer Service Centres are walk-ins and have a meet and greet to ensure your visit and query is dealt with as efficiently as possible.

We operate an appointment service for the following – Please use one of the “Useful Numbers” to make an

appointment, you will find these on the contents page of the magazine.

- **FHR Applications**
- **Housing Advice Interviews**
- **Council Property Terminations / Change of Tenancy**
- **Debt Management Advice**
- **Housing Benefit / Council Tax Applications**
- **Blue Badge applications**
- **Concessionary Travel/MyFife Registrations**
- **Benefit Check-ups**
- **Registration Services**

Service Centres Near you....

- Cowdenbeath Customer Service Centre
- Dunfermline Customer Service Centre
- Glenrothes Customer Service Centre
- Inverkeithing Customer Service Centre
- Leven Library and Customer Service Point
- Methil Customer Service Centre
- Benarty Customer Service Point
- Burntisland Customer Service Point
- Cupar Customer Service Centre

Kelty Customer Service Point

- Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre
- Lochgelly Customer Service Point
- St Andrews Customer Service Point
- Waid Customer Service Point (Anstruther)
- Windmill Customer Service Point

Please see the link below for full details and opening times for the office near you.

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/facilities/customer-service-centres>



“Test for Change” Balgarvie Crescent, Cupar

Balgarvie Crescent in Cupar is the fourth “Test for Change” fencing project to be undertaken, following on from Herriot Crescent, Methil, Lismore Avenue, Kirkcaldy and Maryfield Crescent in Leslie. This project has not been without its challenges mainly due to the complex and varied layouts of the gardens. This resulted in additional work in the planning and consultation phases of the project with support from the local Housing Management Officer, Mutual Owners Team, and the Tenant Participation Team. In addition to the correspondence sent to residents and walkabout held in the street, a drop-in event was also held in the Cupar YMCA/YWCA. This was to give tenants and residents opportunities to be actively involved and was crucial to ensure successful completion of the project.

Billy Elwood, Project Lead: *“I must say that throughout the projects, the Estates Management Team have developed excellent working relationships with the other Council services. Particularly Building Services Fencing Team, and as a result were able to resolve unforeseen issues on the job to ensure project objectives were met and to a high standard. Everyone involved has worked extremely hard and this has made a positive impact on the tenants’ lives, evidenced from the feedback I’ve received. This project has been successful in giving a clearer more defined and secure*

garden space, which can be seen in the photos below.”

These projects are designed to test out policy principles and to overcome any challenges presented. The first elements of the project are the planning and consultation phases which are crucial to ensure meaningful and positive engagement with the tenants and residents of the street. These projects seek to develop a more streamlined approach, develop standard working practices and to improve communication with other partner services within the Council. Some of these services include the Area Housing Teams, Building Services Fencing Team, Grounds Maintenance, external contractors, Mutual Owners Team, the Tenant Participation Team and Councillors.

The remaining site is still in the initial planning and consultation phases.

Once all projects are completed an Evaluation Report of the findings will be submitted to the relevant Committee.

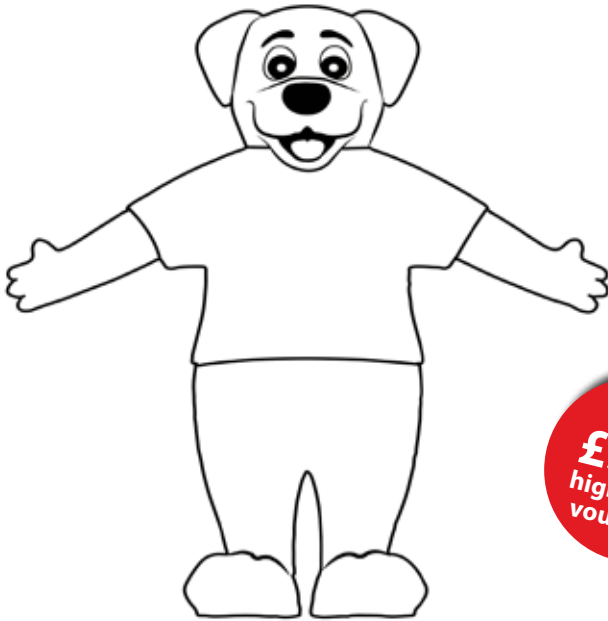
Here are just some quotes from the tenants about the work that was done.

“Staff were friendly and got on with the Job”.

“The workers were Quiet, pleasant, and efficient”.

“Happy with everyone and everything”.





Colouring in
Why not colour
in your new TP
Mascot?

Win
£30 of
 high street
 vouchers!

Autumn Word Search



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@ffe.
gov.uk
 Remember to include your
 name,
 address and contact phone
 number,
 competitions close at **5pm on**
Friday 31st October 2023.

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

 Postcode _____
 Tel. _____

PUMPKIN
 COOL
 ORANGE
 OCTOBER
 YELLOW
 NOVEMBER

ACORN
 SEASON
 CHESTNUTS
 PINE CONE
 LEAF
 APPLE

SQUIRREL
 HALLOWEEN
 SQUASH
 PEARS
 THANKSGIVING
 CORN

HAYSTACK
 FALL
 RAINCOAT
 HARVEST
 SEPTEMBER
 CHANGE



Tenant Participation News Bulletin

Can you name our new addition?

Please join us in welcoming our newest member to the Tenant participation Team and look out for him at our future events.

A £30 Voucher is up for grabs & the winning name will be announced in the next edition of DYS!

Good luck.

Our furry member needs a name, can your help?

Please send us your great name ideas to tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk or alternatively complete the box below and send to Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 1XW.



Name of mascot _____

Your name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____

Tenants Editorial Panel - We need you!

We are looking to create a tenants panel to assist with the editing of your Down Your Street, Tenants Magazine to help ensure our content is useful and interesting to all our readers.

If this is something you would be interested in, then please drop us an email at tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk

Please be sure to let us know your name, address, contact number and email.

What kind of people are we looking for:

- . Representatives from across Fife
- . People who enjoy writing and reading articles.
- . People who have an eye for detail.
- . People who are creative

If you think you would be interested in this role, we would be delighted to hear from you.



Gary's gang

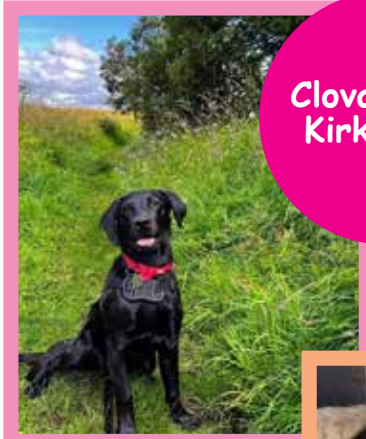
I'm Gary
look at all
my new
furriends!

'If you would like your pet to feature
on 'Gary's Gang',
please email
tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk

Coco
the cat



Fergus from
Dunfermline



Clova from
Kirkcaldy



Loki



Miss Nala



Jet

Maverick
from
Kirkcaldy

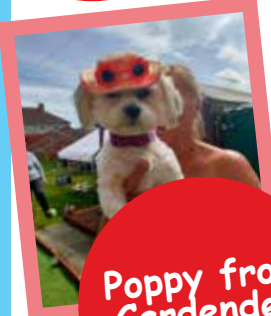
Noodles
the cat



Penny from
Kirkcaldy

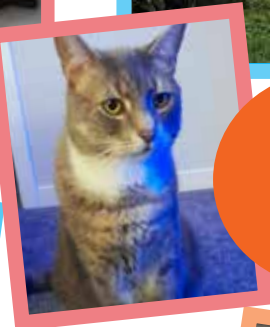


Penny



Poppy from
Cardenden

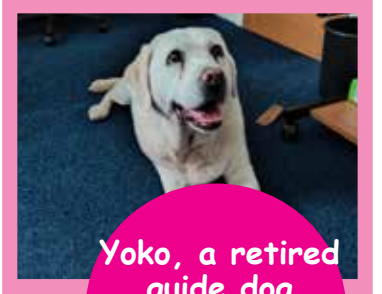
Toby



Sox from
Rosyth



Woody and
Rosie



Yoko, a retired
guide dog
enjoying the
simple life and
treats



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



Spicy tomato soup

You will need:

- 8-10 ripe tomatoes
- 1 onion
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 - 2 chillis
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/3 cup of Basil

Let's make:

- Add 2 tablespoons of oil to a pot and heat to a medium temperature.
- Chop the onion into small pieces.
- Mince the garlic and chilli.
- Chop the tomatoes into small squares.
- Add the garlic and onion to the pot until caramelised then add the tomatoes & chilli to the pot.
- After five minutes mash the ingredients in the pot and add a sprinkle of basil
- Simmer for 15 minutes on a medium heat

Serve and enjoy!

Ghostly flapjacks

You will need:

- 125g butter
- 50g marshmallows
- 75g caster sugar
- 3 tablespoons of golden syrup
- 150g porridge oats
- 50g rice crispy cereal

To decorate:

- 50g unsalted butter
- 1 table spoon golden syrup.
- Vanilla extract
- 175g icing sugar.
- Chocolate drops

Let's make:

- Pre heat oven to 180C (160C fan assisted) or gas mark 4.
- Place the butter, marshmallows caster sugar and golden syrup into a pan. Heating gently until melted.
- Stir in the oats until they are completely covered by the melted mixture.
- Fold in the rice crispy cereal.
- Pour into the tin and press the mixture firmly.
- Bake for 25 minutes (until golden round the edges)
- Remove from the oven and allow to cool for 10 minutes.
- Cut into squares while still warm then allow to cool fully.
- Make the buttercream by beating the icing sugar, vanilla extract, golden syrup, and butter until smooth and creamy.
- Transfer the buttercream to a plastic bag (cutting a small corner of the bag) and pipe little ghosts onto each flapjack, adding 2 small chocolate drops for the eyes.

Preparation time - 30 minutes

Cooking time - 25 minutes

Makes - 25 Flapjacks





Want to make a difference? We're hiring.

There are over 370,000 people living in Fife. And we are responsible for delivering public services to every one of them. It can be challenging. And rewarding. But the best bit about it is seeing your contribution make a difference right here, in communities across Fife.

Our workforce makes a difference in all sorts of ways. They care for our elderly, inspire youngsters in the classroom, keep our parks well maintained, fill potholes, and help secure housing for homeless families. They empty bins, cook school dinners, answer emergency calls on our community alarms line, support businesses to expand and boost the local economy.

We have a variety of contract options including part time, term time and full time and, in some cases, varied and flexible shift patterns too.



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

www.fife.gov.uk/jobs

Follow us at:  FifeCouncilJobs  FCJobsOfficial

