

DOWN YOUR

Tenants' Magazine

Considered
owning your
own home?

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Tenant
approved



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champion success

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Get in touch

Edited by: The Tenant Participation Team/
Tenant Editorial Team

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



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



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



Fife Council Tenant Participation



Welcome!

Summertime for many of you is less of a worry for paying for heating and other household bills than the Winter.

I recognise that the cost-of-living crisis is far from over for our tenants. That's why we continue to offer rent and fuel poverty support for eligible tenants and our Housing Officers are ready to help you if you need assistance from the Council.

On top of the cost-of-living crisis, we have the Housing Emergency in Fife and nationally. The Council and our partners are working hard to keep building new homes, buy former council and other properties to boost the housing stock we have available for rent to people in need in Fife. Tenants in housing need are the main beneficiaries of this approach as we seek to offer new housing to existing council tenants first. Most of you can

readily see a local new build housing scheme near to you and it is important that this becomes the norm for many communities in Fife. Thanks for your continued support for this effort.

So, enjoy the summer with its mix of good and bad weather days.

John

John Mills

Head of Housing Services



Big congratulations to our Tenant Participation Officer Ross Cameron and his new wife Louise who tied the knot on Saturday the 12th of July.

Wishing Mr & Mrs Cameron a lifetime of happiness.

Dreaming of owning your own home but worried about the cost?

For many across Scotland, the Open Market Shared Equity (OMSE) scheme could be the answer. Designed to support people on low to moderate incomes, this initiative helps make homeownership more accessible, especially for those who might otherwise struggle to afford a property on the open market.

What Is the OMSE Scheme?

The OMSE scheme is a Scottish Government initiative that helps eligible buyers buy a home by contributing between 10% and 40% of the property price. In return, the government retains the same percentage of equity in the home. When the property is eventually sold, that same share is repaid.

For example, if the government contributes 40% towards your home, you'll only need to fund the remaining 60%. Later, when you sell, 40% of the sale price goes back to the government. You can also choose to increase your share over time.

Who Can Apply?

The scheme is open to buyers across Scotland, with priority access given to:

- People aged 60 and over
- Social renters (those renting from a council or housing association)
- Disabled individuals
- Members of the armed forces
- Veterans (within two years of leaving service)

- Bereaved partners of service personnel (within two years of their partner's death in service)

This makes the OMSE scheme especially valuable for those in social housing looking to take the next step toward homeownership.

How to Get Started

If you think you might be eligible, the process is straightforward:

1. **Check your eligibility on the official Scottish Government website.**
2. **Choose a property on the open market that fits within the scheme's criteria.**
3. **Apply through Link Homes, the administering agent for the scheme.**

Find Out More

To learn more about how the scheme works and how to apply, visit:

www.mygov.scot/open-market-shared-equity-scheme

Or get in touch directly with Link Homes:

Email: lift@linksharedequity.co.uk

Phone: 0330 303 0125



North East Fife TRA's

Within the last few months and weeks, we have been able to support, resurrect and create new Tenant and Resident's Association (TRA's) in the North East Fife Area. Here's a small update of where we are.

Bathgate Court and Mountcabra TRA held their first AGM as a new committee and this was really successful. The TRA are now looking to make positive changes to the garden area in both complexes. The TRA members have also been attending the sheltered forum and are beginning to gain a real interest on things that impact them directly and want to have their say on future projects within Sheltered Housing! Well done Bathgate and Mountcabra TRA!

Kinloss Park TRA are a TRA we have managed to resurrect in the last few months through the original committee and leaflet drops. A public meeting was held at the end of May, and it was agreed we would give this a go! The TRA are keen to improve their community and work alongside Fife Council and Local Councillors to make positive steps in the right direction. It was decided at the last meeting that the TRA would request that an Estate Action plan was implemented in the area to meet with head of services to tackle

ongoing issues. The TRA are keen and driven to do this and are looking for other members of the community to support them with taking this forward!

Eden Woods TRA is the most recent TRA in Fife to be created. The Eden Woods TRA is based up at the new build scheme in Guardbridge and is a mixture of Fife Council tenancies and Privately owner properties. The TRA are looking to provide support with any issues that have been raised and looking at ways to improve the outlook of the scheme. The last meeting the TRA had, they invited the Guardbridge Community Council along and this was a really good chance to speak about sharing best practice. The Guardbridge Community Council gave the TRA a lot of useful information moving forward and have offered support to the TRA for future endeavours!

Well done to all the TRA's and Board members, exciting times ahead in the North East Fife Area! If a Tenants and Residents Association is something you think you would like to know more about, please contact the Tenant Participation team email at **tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk** and we will get back to you as soon as we can!



Exercise Classes

Tenants at School Grove Retirement Housing in Oakley have been participating in exercise classes to help with their mobility, balance and strength. These classes are chair based and are planned so that everyone with all different abilities can join in and gain something from them.

The classes are run by Natalia Kucharczyk who is a Health and Wellbeing Instructor from Fife Sports and Leisure Trust and she has had amazing feedback from the tenants who feel improvements with their day to day activities as a result. Other feedback from tenants includes;

'It eases my pain caused by spondylosis'

'I enjoy the social side'

The 45 minute classes are held in the hub at the complex on Wednesdays at 11.00am. All equipment is provided by Natalia and the classes are completely free of charge.

Some photos of the tenants enjoying the classes.



'It helps build up my leg muscles after previous strokes'

'It helps with my Multiple Sclerosis'



Headwell Avenue – Lockup Site

As part of our ongoing commitment to estate improvement, a series of long-overdue upgrades have recently been completed at the Lockup site in Headwell Avenue in Dunfermline. Once marked by peeling paint, weather damage, and general wear and tear, these lockups had become tired and uninviting features in the area.

For years, these lock-ups served residents reliably but were more recently looking in need of some improvement. Faded paintwork, surface cracks, and visible signs of neglect had diminished their appearance and, in some cases, deterred use.

Recognising the need for action and after being made aware that there was still funding available for Lockup repair works to be carried out HMO Kieran McCord made contact with the estate management team and made them aware about the works needing to be carried out and that involved repairing surface damage, addressing structural deterioration, and applying a fresh, modern paint finish each lock up.

The improvements have resulted in clean, secure, and visually appealing lockups that now blend better with the surrounding environment. The striking new brown paintwork gives them a uniform, tidy appearance, and will encourage use in the neighbourhood.

Housing Services aim to ensure that our estates remain well-kept, safe, and positive places to live. The response from local residents and lockup owners has been overwhelmingly positive, with many welcoming the much-needed facelift. This is an example of how targeted improvements can boost pride and make a real difference to the look and feel of the neighbourhood.

“It’s a nice spruce up being painted and appreciated it being done”

- Lockup Owner

“The new colour is a nice bold colour and looks better when driving into car park”

- Local Resident

“It was a nice surprise coming to my lock up to find it had been painted and given a new look”

- Lockup Owner





DROP IN

DRAMA

CLASS

Free drama classes for those ages 18 and over
who identify as Disabled, Learning Disabled
and/or Autistic



THURSDAYS



2PM-4PM



ADAM SMITH THEATRE,
KIRKCALDY



WEEKLY FROM
4TH SEPTEMBER 2025

For more information contact:
cuttingedge21@btinternet.com

Registered charity SC032252
7/3 Tower Place Edinburgh EH6 7BZ



Cuttingedgetheatre.co.uk



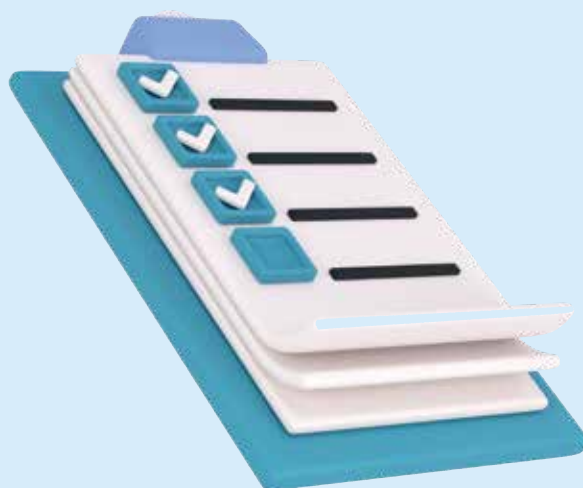
Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey is underway

From Monday 21st of July until the end of September, Knowledge Partnership, a company working on behalf of the council, will be out and about in Fife conducting the survey.

Participants have been randomly selected and will receive a letter in the post explaining how the survey is conducted and what they can expect. We'd really appreciate your feedback as it helps us plan and improve our services, so please take part if you're invited though we understand if you decide not to.

All interviewers will have ID badges showing their photo. They'll let you see it if before they begin. As always, please don't engage with anyone without the appropriate ID.

Everyone who takes part will be entered into a prize draw as a thank you for taking part.



Has your home had an electrical safety check yet?

Did you know that you have a duty as a tenant to let us (your landlord) into your property to carry out regular electrical safety checks?

Electrical safety checks - where your electrical circuits, lights, switches and sockets are checked along with your smoke and heat alarms – are vitally important to keep you and your neighbours safe.

It's important you allow us access to carry out these necessary checks.

You may have already had a recent safety check and, if so, you can relax knowing that your home is quite safe. For those properties we still haven't managed to get access to, we'll be contacting you soon to arrange a time for our engineers to carry out a check.

Look out for a letter coming through your door and make sure you respond.

We'll try to arrange a time that suits you but you need to get in touch. If the suggested date isn't suitable we'll arrange another time within the next seven days. Details of who to call to arrange this will be on the letter or postcard.

Remember, if we can't get access to the property at the arranged time we might need to break in and no-one wants that because it costs you and us money. That's money that could be spent on better things.

So, please, don't ignore our letters and postcards, we are trying to keep everyone safe.

CCTV Hub

There is a new CCTV Hub operating at Halbeath Depot and this will cover all the high-rise flats across Fife. This will enhance the service that we already provide to our tenants and residents. We are now able to deliver a 24/7 service to you through using this technology and staff will be working shifts to provide cover into the evening, at weekends and through the night. Staff will monitor the CCTV in your block from the centralised Hub and carry out regular foot patrols out of hours so issues can be dealt with on the spot. We are now able to respond more quickly and will continue to work closely with other services to address issues in the blocks. The CCTV footage will help us investigate reports of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and fly tipping.

The new CCTV hub will be in place from 23rd June.



Jane monitoring the screens at the CCTV Hub

During the day you will continue to see the regular caretaking staff out and about and carrying out their duties in the same blocks.

We know this is something that tenants have been asking for and hope the new service helps make you feel more safe and secure in your home.

- 7am to 3pm - Staff onsite
- 3pm to 7am - CCTV hub in operation
- 7pm to 7am - Blocks supported onsite as required

Support can be contacted at CCTV.Hub@fife.gov.uk

A day in the life of a Housing Estate Management Officer (HEMO)

When a member of the Housing Estate Management Team starts their day, they normally check the building security systems and patrol the whole area to make sure nobody unauthorised has been trying to get in and cause damage or worse. It is the team's duty to keep all members of the public and tenants safe from danger and hazards.



The team monitor the buildings, keep communal areas and public areas surrounding the buildings clean. They keep all stairwells free from obstacles and rubbish as this can be a fire hazard, stopping people getting out safely in an emergency. From mopping all the floors, stairs and lifts to wiping down all surfaces with disinfectant, plus much more, there's a lot for the team to do. So, if you can, help them out by keeping the stairwells clear and not dropping litter - it's really appreciated.

If you see them out and about come and speak to them about any concerns, and they'll point you in the right direction. They really are a friendly bunch!



Smeaton Gardens TRA Community Litter Pick

Smeaton Gardens Tenants and Residents Association are a newly established group who are working hard in partnership with various services to make a difference in their community. Initially set up to tackle various issues within the community the group continue to grow and work in partnership with Housing, Police, Local elected members and other services to make a difference in their area and make it a welcoming place to stay and visit.

On the 10th of April the Tenants and Residents held a litter pick to help tidy up their area and make a difference in their community. With help from local community Police Officers, elected members and the Tenant Participation Team they set to work collecting over 14 bags of rubbish.

This was a great event helped by the weather that allowed for lots of participation from all ages and a lovely visit from Sandy the TP mascot, who gave a helping hand collecting litter.

The Smeaton Gardens TRA meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (excluding August) at the Alex Penman Park Football Club, Denfield Place Kirkcaldy and would welcome all Tenants and Residents living in the Smeaton Garden area to come along.

We hope to see you soon.



Sharing best practice in North Lanarkshire

Earlier this year, when Fife Council's Tenant Participation Team reached out to North Lanarkshire Council asking if they would host tenant reps from Fife in Motherwell, they happily accepted and North Lanarkshire Federation of Tenants & Residents (NLF) kindly allowed their office to be used to host for the day.

Tracy Lennon, Tenant Participation Manager for North Lanarkshire said:

"This relationship was first forged when we visited the team in Fife 6 months prior to find out more about their services in Fife. During the visit it was great to share best practices, and it became apparent that we shared many similarities when it comes to Tenant Participation & supporting/involving tenants to improve housing services. Due to the success of our Fife visit, we offered to reciprocate the warm welcome we received.

A bus load of visitors arrived & was welcomed by staff from the tenant participation team & executive committee members of NLF; a very informative, enjoyable day was spent hearing about the history of Tenant Participation & North Lanarkshire Federation of Tenants & Residents. Many positive discussions were generated all with tenants at the forefront of what we do. We could have spent all day deep in conversation with like-minded colleagues.

Opportunities like this to share best practice not only foster innovation and collaboration but also reaffirms the commitment of both North Lanarkshire Council and Fife Council, alongside our dedicated tenant representatives, to being leaders in tenant participation."



We look forward to continuing to strengthen this valuable partnership.

- Tracy Lennon

Tenant Participation Manager (North Lanarkshire Council)



Jim Leonard, Chair of North Lanarkshire Federation of Tenants & Residents, went on to say:

“Earlier this year we were delighted to welcome Fife’s amazing TP team & tenant reps to our Motherwell office; it was great to be able to return the favour as they gave us such a warm welcome when we visited their Kirkcaldy office.

All parties agreed that both visits were so enjoyable, and it was great to share experiences, ideas, practices, challenges and aspirations with like-minded individuals. We feel more councils should do this as it really is a positive way of championing Tenant Participation and ultimately improving services for our tenants. We as a committee were thoroughly impressed by the work of both Fife & North Lanarkshire Council and to quote a member of our executive committee- Peter “Thoroughly enjoyed the interaction between both Federations. Sharing information is Sharing Power to the wider audience and therefore benefiting all Tenants and Residents”

On behalf of North Lanarkshire Federation, thanks to all responsible for arranging both excellent visits....keep up the great work.”



Thanks to Fife Council TP Team, for organising this return visit to North Lanarkshire TP Team and Tenants Federation. I believe a lot was learned today for all parties concerned.

- Alan Dalby (Chair – FFOTRA)



Be Part of the UK's First Green Hydrogen Home Heating Project!

Fife Council is encouraging tenants in the Levenmouth area to take part in the groundbreaking H100 Fife project – a first-of-its-kind trial using green hydrogen to heat homes instead of natural gas. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of the transition to clean, zero-carbon energy – and there's still time to sign up.

What is H100 Fife?

H100 Fife is replacing natural gas with green hydrogen, produced using renewable electricity and water. It's part of Scotland's commitment to tackling climate change – and Fife Council tenants can lead the way.

What does it mean for tenants?

If you choose to take part:

- You'll receive a free hydrogen boiler and other hydrogen-ready appliances installed in your home.
- All work is carried out by approved engineers at no cost to you
- You will receive £1,000 for participating
- You'll continue to receive support, free maintenance and safety checks throughout the trial.
- There is no impact on your rent or tenancy.



Why get involved?

This is a chance to heat your home using, green energy – and help shape the future of heating in Scotland and the UK. Tenants who've already joined the project are reporting positive experiences, and you can still join them.

You can try out Hydrogen at the H100 Fife Demo Homes in the energy park to see what its like before you decide!

Still time to sign up

If your home is in the eligible area and you haven't yet signed up, we'd love to hear from you. Don't miss the chance to take part in this historic project. To find out if your property is in the network area or to register your interest, visit www.h100fife.co.uk or call the team directly on 0800 044 3880



SGNA

H100 Fife

Visit us

 **Hydrogen Demonstration Facility**
Fife Energy Park, Links Drive, Methil,
Buckhaven, Leven KY8 3PFA
What3Words: Loud.Paid.Expert

 **Accessing the site**
Please park at the blue gates and
call 07721 262 917, a member of
the team will open the gates.

 **Parking** is available on site,
guests must reverse park.

 **Bathroom facilities** are available
on-site and the site is accessible.

 **No smoking on site**



Aerial view of H100 Fife




Access via blue gates

Your Voice Matters: Why Tenant Participation Makes a Difference

Down your street caught up with Greig Henderson, Service Manager for Area Housing Operations and Regeneration, who told us why tenant participation is such an important part of the housing service:

“Tenant participation is all about giving tenants a real say in decisions that affect their homes and communities. It’s not just a one-way conversation — it’s about working together. We share information with tenants, and in turn, we want to hear their views and ideas.”

Greig explained that when tenants get involved, they can help shape housing policies, improve conditions, and influence the quality of the services they receive.

“At a local level, it’s really important that our Housing Management Officers build good relationships with tenants and local representatives,” he said. “That means going along to local meetings, speaking to residents, and organising things like estate walkabouts.”

These walkabouts give tenants and housing officers a chance to walk around the area together, spotting any issues and agreeing on what needs to be done. The officer takes notes and creates an action plan, so everyone knows what’s happening and when.

Greig highlighted that: “Working together like this means we can better understand what tenants need and what matters most to them. It helps us provide services that are more responsive and effective.

“Getting involved can also help people feel more connected to where they live. When tenants take part, it creates a stronger sense of pride and community — and that leads to better places to live.”

Greig also wanted to say a big thank-you to all the tenants who take the time to get involved and work with the housing service. “Your input really does make a difference — and we’d love to see even more tenants getting involved. Every voice matters.”



South Ayrshire Communities Fun Day 2025

Fife Council's Tenant Participation team were very fortunate to be invited to South Ayrshire's award-winning Community Fun Day on Saturday 17th May 2025 by Gordon Campbell, a Policy Officer in South Ayrshire Councils Tenant Participation Team. The Fife Team got to see first hand how the South Ayrshire team work in partnership with their tenants.

The fun day was a huge free event for the tenants to enjoy and there were over 5,000 attendees who enjoyed the event and the weather which could not have been better!

14 tenants from 8 different TRAs across Fife were invited along with 2 board members from Fife Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations, to learn how South Ayrshire manage to hold such an event and how the tenants feel valued and get involved. Stuart and Derek took charge of the Tenant Participation Stall to promote opportunities for Tenants of the Housing Service in South Ayrshire alongside Eveline from the Tenant Participation Advisory Service Scotland. (TPAS) Lynn and Liz were looking after the

staff and volunteer room making sure it was a safe space for staff and volunteers to leave belongings and ensure the lunch and refreshments were stocked up.

Frances assisted with the Shuttle Bus Service supporting attendees waiting for or coming off the service while Gordon provided support within the Catering Zone cleaning tables after use and assisting attendees with any questions or support required.

Attendees enjoyed the impressive lineup of free activities and attractions that were on offer with feedback revealing it was difficult for attendees to pick their favourite activity or attraction.

This year there were more funfair rides for both adults and children to enjoy along with the addition of the Nerf Battle Area, Trishaw experience and more food options. Improvements had been made to the shuttle bus stop, blue badge parking and included a free refresh station, which were all based on attendee feedback from the previous year's event in 2024.

The information and advice stalls within the Information Zone were bustling with attendees able to chat with a range of Council

services, partner organisations and charities accessing support and information from services operating across South Ayrshire.

The vehicle display was the largest Communities Fun Day Vehicle Display to date with a vast array of different vehicles from vintage vehicles right through to the modern day with the South Ayrshire Council Bin Lorry and Tractor being very popular!

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive with 96% rating the event overall as excellent/very good along with all the tickets, activities, attractions, information & advice stalls, parking and shuttle bus service being completely free.

Although the event was completely free, attendees were asked if they could bring donations for the South Ayrshire Foodbank on the day. This was the largest ever donation at a Communities Fun Day to date.

A huge Thank you to Gordon and the South Ayrshire TP Team and their Involved Tenants for sharing best practice with us, showing what can be achieved when thinking outside the box and working together.



Forth View TRA – It was a lovely day out. Many thanks to Jules, Rab and Ross.

-Tony

Ore Valley TA - A great day was had by one and all.

- Betty



FFOTRA – Thank You for a fabulous day. I enjoyed being part of it.

- Patricia

The day was really fun. I really liked the zip line it was really high up and I was a bit nervous but it was so much fun. There were so many fun things to do I liked the inflatables but really liked the wipeout inflatable the best. I went on all the rides and played the football challenge. I really wanted to do the canoeing but it was fully booked. I had such a good time I didn't want to leave.

- Lewis aged 10

"Just keep doing what you do, it was a fantastic day and lots of memories made"

"A brilliant day, well organised with super activities. That it was free still blows my mind! You'd don't get much for nothing these days. We went early which was perfect because it wasn't too busy. I've told everyone about it. I can't believe we hadn't been before, it's right on our doorstep. Keep up the good work and thanks to everyone who made it happen"

"Overall, this was an amazing day and we all loved it. There was so much to do and see and the weather made it even better! Having the free refreshments was extremely beneficial with the heat as well! Everyone was extremely friendly and helpful at all the stalls as well"

Napier TA – Fabulous day. Thanks for invite.

-Brian



High Oswald TA – Thank you for inviting us we had a great day.

- Michelle

"All the stalls inside were excellent with lots of informative staff and great free stuff! The free rides were great for the kids too"

"Event was great for families and even better that rides and activities were all free!

My first time coming, but will be looking forward to hopefully many more visits over the years"

"My 8 year old loved the climbing wall and my 3 year old loved the bouncy castle. As an adult my favourite part was how happy everyone was, there were activities for each individual person. For all ages and even for those with disabilities"

Fife sports champion success

An amazing 2025 for local Halbeath Village TRA member and resident, Anna McBride as she wins third Grand Slam at the Australian Open and the Virtus Global Games representing GB in Kazakstan.

Dunfermline tennis star Anna McBride won two titles in a four-medal haul to help Great Britain's pwii tennis team create history at a global competition.

She also teamed-up with fellow Scot Dominic Iannotti, who won the men's singles, doubles and team event, to claim the mixed doubles, and collected bronze medals in the women's doubles and team event with Lily Mills.

21-year old Anna is a rising star in the sport. She is currently studying for a BSc (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Stirling, where she is a tennis scholar.

She has been world number one in her PWii category and has represented GB since the age of 14 in Paris and was nominated for the Sports Person of the Year award for the Dunfermline and West Fife Sports Council and attended a presentation in February at Queen Anne High School.

Her success is closely followed by the Dunfermline Press and she has appeared on visit Scotland pages and is very keen to support

sport in her local area and town of Dunfermline.

As well as attending University Anna coaches at Fife Sports and Leisure and Dunfermline Tennis club and has been coaching in local schools to help to promote the sport.

She attends the local Halbeath Village Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) meetings and is particularly interested in promoting sports and activities in the local community. Her younger brother Jack, was well known in the community and in his honour, She is passionate to promote local sport and activities for young people with a disability and will be



helping and supporting the Halbeath Village TRA Summer Gala on Sunday 17th August.

The Halbeath TRA has held lots of events for young people and we would like to welcome any new members so that we can continue to provide support for our local community of Halbeath!



Halbeath Village Tenants and Residents Association



WHAT IS A T.R.A.?

A group of volunteers within the local community looking to make positive changes.

WHAT CAN A T.R.A BRING TO THE COMMUNITY?

We will work together with Fife Council to resolve issues and improve the areas within Halbeath. We look to having more community activities that will bring people together and improve the Community spirit.

WHAT HAVE WE ALREADY ACHIEVED AS A T.R.A?

Litter pick/clean up in the Village & a family fun day.
Halloween Event and Santa visited Halbeath.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

HVTRA meet the 3rd Monday of every month (Except July and December) at Halbeath Nursery 6.30pm for approx 1.5hours.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE .



Find us on Facebook or email us
halbeathvillagetra@gmail.com



Fuel Poverty Team

By June 2025 the Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) will start to be phased out as it reaches the end of its operational life and new technologies are available to replace the system.

There will no longer be a mass switch off taking place on 30th June. Instead from this date the RTS system will be phased out by area for a small number of homes at a time. You will be informed directly when the switch-off is taking place in your area.

Radio Teleswitches are a type of electricity meter which receives a radio signal to tell a meter when to switch between on-peak and off-peak rates. In Fife, you are most likely to have a Radio Teleswitch meter if you have or have had electric storage heaters in the past and are or have been supplied by Scottish Power. You may be on a tariff known as Comfortplus or have a meter with 2 or 3 different rates.

The Radio Teleswitch will tell your storage heaters when to begin charging and your immersion

heater when to turn on during off-peak periods. You will need a smart meter to replace the RTS functionality when the service ends.

Energy suppliers will replace all meters with smart meters replicating a similar function as part of the phase out. Your supplier should contact you when your area is affected. You can reach out to them directly anytime to request an upgrade.

How do I know if I have an RTS Meter?

To identify if you have an RTS meter there are a few things you can do:

- There may be a separate teleswitch box near your meter with a "radio teleswitch" or "telemeter" label on it
- Your home has or has in the past had electric storage heating
- You have cheaper energy at different times of the day
- Speak to your energy supplier to confirm if you have an RTS meter

A teleswitch will either be a large, usually black, box near your meter. You may also have a large grey meter with blue and orange buttons. There is likely to be a label saying 'teleswitch meter'



How do I upgrade?

You will need to upgrade to a smart meter to keep the same functionality. Your supplier should have already been in touch, but if not you can contact them to request an upgrade. Your supplier will be able to discuss tariff options with you.

Sometimes your new smart meter may not work identically, but should provide similar functionality. Your supplier can explain the differences to you.

I can't get a smart meter, or don't want one

Some areas or buildings with a poor phone signal may not be suitable for smart meters. You may be able to access a special type of smart meter that operates offline and has pre-set times for switching between on-peak and off-peak rates.

If you do not want a smart meter for other reasons, you should speak to your supplier to see if this is an option. If they cannot provide this option you may end

up paying more for your energy. You could also consider other options such as upgrading your heating system.

What happens if I don't upgrade?

Your heating and hot water provision is likely to be affected if you don't upgrade your meter as part of the phase out.

Some storage heaters are switched on and off by the RTS meter so you may find that your heating is left continually on or off or that charging happens at the wrong time of day. Your electricity costs may be much higher due to the meter not recording on the correct rate. The supplier won't be able to adjust your bills without a meter upgrade.

Get advice

Cosy Kingdom provides free & impartial energy advice to anyone living within Fife. If you'd like to speak to an advisor about your RTS meter get in touch on the details below.

Our energy advisors can be contacted by:

- Calling 01592 807930
- Texting COSY then YOUR NAME to 88440
- Emailing info@cosykingdom.org.uk
- Request advice online
- On our social media pages

COSY KINGDOM

Cosy Kingdom is a free and impartial home energy and utility debt advice service available to anyone living within Fife.

Our Energy Advisors can provide practical, tailored energy advice by telephone or through a home visit. To arrange an appointment with an energy advisor please contact us on the details below.

Some of the things we can help with include:

- Help with bills, tariffs, meters and energy suppliers
- Help to understand your heating controls, get more out of your appliances and to keep warm in the home.
- Advice on energy efficiency measures and funding for home energy efficiency improvements.
- Checking eligibility for any grants and discounts that may be available to help you pay your bills.
- Support to deal with fuel debt and self-disconnection from prepayment meters.

Call: 01592 807930

Text: 'Cosy' and your name to 88440

Email: info@cosykingdom.org.uk

Visit: www.cosykingdom.org.uk

Social Media @CosyKingdom

Closed from 3pm Friday 20 December

Open 10am Monday 3 January 2025



Financial and practical advice if you are struggling with rising energy costs

For advice on benefits, help with bills and support with the cost of living go to:

our.fife.scot/gethelp/bills

Unable to access information online or need more assistance, call our **Community Support Line** **0800 952 0330 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)**



Retirement Housing improvements

Dollar Court and David Millar Place retirement housing in Dunfermline have gone from strength to strength since the tenants decided to form a Tenants Association, to have their voices heard and improve their community.

There have been several improvements made including a new door and screen on the complex, new fencing, repairs to the roughcast, part of the garden has been landscaped by the Tenants Association and they are awaiting delivery of new benches and planters, handrails painted, and new clothes poles have been

introduced to give tenants a drying area for their laundry.

A huge thank you to Jackie McDonald - Retirement Housing Officer and Fiona Stenhouse – Housing Management Officer for always going above and beyond to assist the tenants, to improve the area and the quality of lives for the tenants.

Whilst all these improvements are easy to see, what can't be seen is the sense of community and friendship that has grown and developed but the laughter can certainly be heard at their coffee mornings, when the tenants all get together.

Recently and for the second time, Tesco Community Champions, Roni and Liza came to support the Tenants Association with another coffee morning. They were very generous and brought prizes for the bingo, including bedding, toiletries, books, ladies tote bags, boxes of tea bags and cartons of orange juice. They even served tea, coffee, biscuits, pancakes and sandwiches, which they supplied and were really appreciated. This was lots of fun and there were loads of laughs. Thank you to Roni, Liza and Tesco.

"It's a pleasure to work with such a lovely enthusiastic group of tenant."

- Fiona Stenhouse

"We had a lovely time when Tesco visited our complex, they served us tea & biscuits followed by a game of bingo."

- Agnes Berwick

"The Tesco staff who came to visit us were lovely, a great day was had by all."

- Betty Simpsons

"Enjoyed the Tesco girls visiting and playing bingo. All the lovely prizes were donated by Tesco."

- Isobel Bernard

North East Fife Community Hub

In 2019/2020 North East Fife Community Hub bought St. David's Centre from Fife Council for the sum of £100,000 under the Community Asset Transfer provision. The hub was previously located at St. Andrews Episcopal Church Hall in Queens Terrace. The Hub was opened by famous Fifer and author Val McDermid.

The building itself was valued at £775,000 but a spokesperson from Fife Council stated that the value to the community far outweighed the loss of income and that the level of discount was justified. It has certainly proved its worth since!!

The main objectives of the Hub are to provide a wide variety of community activities which would help to relieve loneliness and provide mental and physical stimulation to anyone who would benefit from a little extra help, care and company no matter their age or ability.

At the time of moving the Hub was also home to Fife Credit Union, Fife Gingerbread group and Citizens Advice. There is also a lovely cafe and "Storehouse" [the local foodbank].

"Clothesline" the St. Andrews clothes bank works closely with Transition University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews Environmental Network, Fife Voluntary Action and Fife Council and can be found at the Hub too. The Hub is also host to the Kingdom Vineyard Church and there are conference rooms which can be hired out.

Other activities at the Hub include the cafe. There is a "warm space", community fridge, board games, cards and jigsaws are available. There is a repair and recycle session and other weekly events include a Credit Union, Coffee with a Cop, Fife Law Centre, "Let's chat", Headway, North East Fife School Holiday Crafts and Fife Advocacy Service.

To find out more about the hub:

23 Albany Park, St. Andrews KY16 8BP

Tel: 01334 659360

Email: office@nefch.org





Fae The Links Exhibition

Shane and Lizzy Halstead from Links & Inveriel TRA had been on holiday in New York City and discovered the Strangers Project, where people go to read strangers stories and or share their own, to date the strangers project have collected over 95,000 handwritten stories.

Shane and Lizzy were overwhelmed reading some of these strangers' stories and wanted to bring this in a small way back home to the Links in Kirkcaldy. They discussed it with May Smith and Derek Hall one Friday at the Community Hub in the Philp Hall. They loved the idea and Derek had old photos, maps and information, so it was taken to the Philp Hall Management Committee and the Links and Inveriel TRA for their approval and support.

Some eight weeks later the Fae The Links exhibition was held on Sunday 15th June 2025 in the large hall in the Philp Hall between 10am and 4pm and over 300 people attended.

There were letters, maps, information, stories, poems, books, videos, old photographs and a slideshow presentation of photos for everyone to see. The slideshow can be found YouTube for anyone who wants to see it, it's called – Fae The Links SLIDESHOW. People also recorded their stories for others to hear and this can be seen on YouTube – Fae The Links EVENT.

It took a huge amount of effort to organise but was so worth it and it was amazing to be part of a day full of very special moments, there was tears and sadness and smiles and laughter. People catching up with friends they hadn't seen since their school days and reminiscing about their past.

Baroness – Anne Marie Rafferty was brought up in the Links. Her childhood friend Anne Mulligan who now lives in England contacted Baroness Rafferty and told her about the Fae The Links Exhibition, unfortunately, The Baroness was out of the country on the day of the exhibition but sent her personal account of her memories growing up in the area, which were available for everyone to read on the day. Baroness Rafferty has invited Anne and Lizzy to the House of Lords for a future visit.

Shane, Lizzy, May and Derek said "we would like to thank every single person who contributed to this event in any way from arranging and delivering display boards, tables, stands, photos, maps, books, videos, etc the list goes on and on and there are too many people to name individually. Thank you to all of the volunteers and to everyone who came through the doors on the day and made the event the huge success that it was"

The Links and Inveriel TRA meet on the last Tuesday of the month (excluding July and December) at 7pm in the Philp Hall and we would love to see new faces at our meetings. You will be made most welcome.





"Fantastic and fascinating exhibition about all walks of life through the ages in the Links. The amount of work put in by the volunteers was incredible, and in true style this could have been on show for a numbers of days not just one it was so impressive."

- Alistair Cameron

"Without a doubt some of my greatest and fondest childhood memories were all around the links, invertiel and Leslie street, in my opinion we will never see another community like it."

- Greig Slater

"It was an amazing event. The tears and smiles confirmed how it reached hearts - a day full of nostalgia, pride and love. Well done everyone"

- Judy Hamilton

"What a day you all put on, was great to see everything and everyone, you should all be so proud of yourselves, great memories and catching up with schoolmates and friends."

- Jacqueline Low

"What a fantastic event! It was wonderful to attend and catch up with friends I hadn't seen in ages. The organizers clearly put in a lot of effort, and it showed."

- Archie Melville

"Huge congratulations on such a brilliant exhibition! Seeing and hearing from people who travelled from different parts of the country some who had not been "home" for years and wanted to be there for this special event. It was fantastic and so lovely to feel the emotion in the room sharing the memories and remembering what it means to be "Fae The Links". It brought back memories for so many of us some for myself too from my school days and my own friendships made. Thank you so much for sharing this with us all."

- Julie MacDougall

"It was such a fantastic success, fabulous to catch up with family neighbours auld school pals and teachers I hadn't seen since from my primary school days. I saw firsthand the hard work and effort you each personally put into this exhibition on give yourselves a pat on the back. You could see how much it meant to people. So proud to be Fae the Links with people like you in it."

- Anne Mulligan



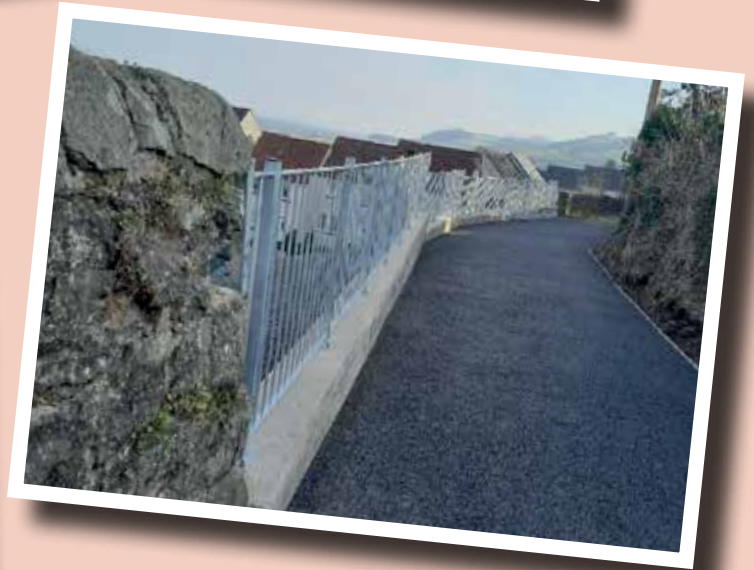
Clatchart Court Newburgh

The retaining wall was constructed on or around 1840's to retain one of the access routes for the railway station that was constructed and opened in 1848. The original railway station is no longer in existence and two houses have been built on the site.

The existing large/high section of the retaining wall made of a mix of stone and red brick and in a poor state of disrepair. The tarred road sitting behind the retaining wall closed to any vehicle traffic with barriers being installed at restrict access.

The Projects & Major Work team created a project for remedial works due to a health & safety point of view, this project was complex due to the situation of the wall.

The existing tarmac around the area needed a new surface as the surface was rough and uneven and wasn't looking in the best condition. This was completed as part of the project.



Autumn is a great time in the garden. Time to sit back, take stock and decide what you are going to do next year. I like to spend an afternoon - while the weather is still warm- designing and planning where I am going to put things.

Buy your bulbs in September/ October for spring flowering. Plant in clumps for the best effect and lots of colour. Try and co-ordinate flowering times so that there is always something in bloom.

My favourites are the small tete-a-tete daffodils, bluebells, snowdrops, hyacinths and crocus. Also easily available are bags of assorted bulbs available on line, and from the larger supermarkets and garden centres.

Other jobs to do are:

- Plant up some cheerful coloured pots to see you over winter. Heathers, cyclamen and winter pansies are all good. Plant evergreen shrubs and
- conifer hedges while the soil is still warm.
- Raise pots up on to feet to prevent waterlogging over winter.
- Reduce the height of shrub roses to prevent wind damage over the winter months.
- Empty summer pots and hanging baskets and compost the contents.
- Give your grass areas an autumn feed and add extra seed if necessary.
- If you can get your hands on any old wooden pallets paint them up in your favourite colour. I prefer neutral colours which won't detract from the lovely colours of the little planters and troughs you can place in them in spring and summer.
- If you don't have a garden shed a pallet is useful for storing long handled garden tools. Just turn it back to front.



Make
it your
way

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

Simple Summer Fruit tart with biscuit crust

You will need:

100g Butter
300g Digestive Biscuits

Filling

200ml Double Cream
250g Mascarpone
100g Icing Sugar

Topping

Strawberries
Blackberries
(or any fruit you like)



Blitz biscuits to a fine crumb adding in the melted butter. Press into flat tin & refrigerate. Add mascarpone, double cream & icing sugar to a bowl & whisk for 2-3 minutes until thickened. Add to tin and refrigerate. Wash and slice fruit. Arrange on top of tart in pattern or pile.

Serve with cream or ice cream

Follow us here



Tenant Participation News Bulletin

TP Bulletin

We've had another exceptionally busy few months, working with the industrious Scrutiny Panel and Tenant Federations.

We provided Tenant Participation training to Housing Staff, supported numerous TRAs and attended lots of TRA meetings, events, fun days, estate walkabouts, community litter picks etc.



We've had exchange visits to share best practice and develop working relationships with North Lanarkshire Council – Tenant Participation Team, North Lanarkshire Scrutiny Panel and North Lanarkshire Tenant Federation (see pages 12/13).

We attended the Tenant Participation Advisory Service Scotland – National Good Practice Awards. We have also been to South Ayrshire to learn how tenants get involved in working with their TP Team to put on a huge Communities Fun Day event, with over 5000 people in attendance (see pages 16/17). We have also been to speak to different tenants about the benefits of setting up a TRA for their community and a set up a new TRA, Eden Woods, in Guardbridge (see page 5).

We were very honoured and lucky to be shortlisted for the Dunfermline Press Community Champion Of The Year Award 2025. We didn't win the category, however, it was fantastic to learn about the other great work that is being carried out. Thank you to Brucefield Tenants and Residents Association for nominating The Tenant Participation Team for this award, it's lovely to feel valued and appreciated for the work that we do.



The TP Team would like to thank previous Down Your Street, Designer – Derek Munn for his hard work and commitment in producing an excellent tenant magazine and making last minute changes, to ensure the magazine always went out on time. We wish Derek a happy long and healthy retirement and good luck in his new role as minister in the Church Of Scotland.



Follow our Tenant Participation Facebook page by scanning the QR code below, to keep up to date with events near you and throughout Fife.

Follow us here

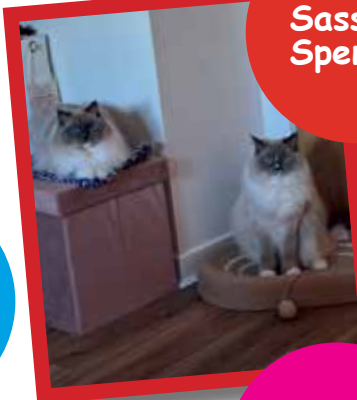


Gary's gang

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

Sassy &
Spencer



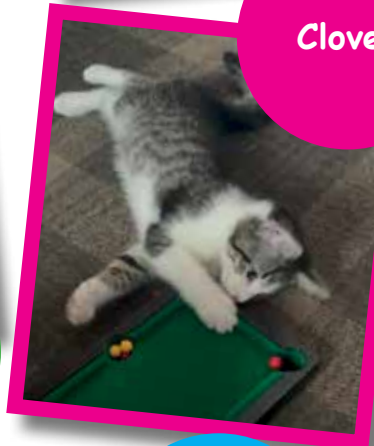
Brodie



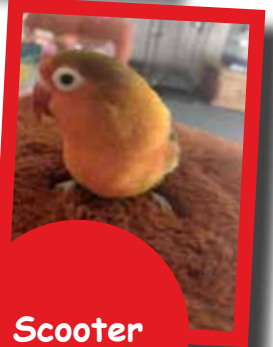
Yoda



Clover



Pippen

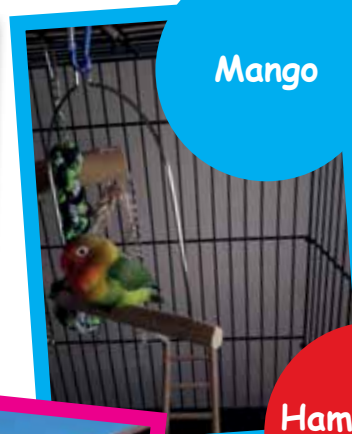


Scooter



Hamish the
parrot

Mango



Paddy



Belle



Raven



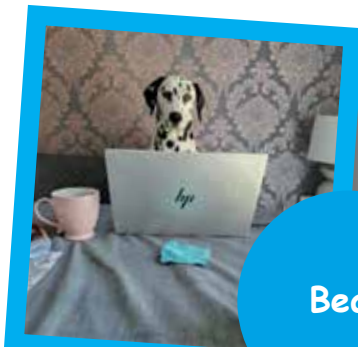
Spatz



Bracken &
Loki



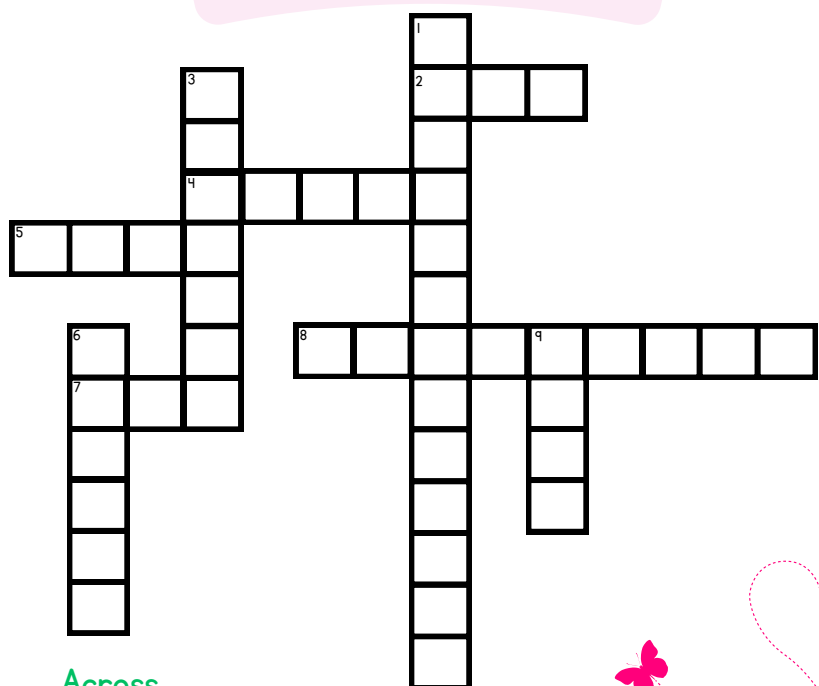
Beau



Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!

Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!

Summer crossword



Across

- 2. A caterpillars job
- 4. The name of the caterpillar stage
- 5. What butterflies use to taste
- 7. The first stage in the butterfly life cycle
- 8. The hanging sack a caterpillar uses to change into a butterfly

Down

- 1. The process of a caterpillar changing into a butterfly
- 3. Shedding the skin is called
- 6. What butterflies mostly eat
- 9. What happens to a caterpillar's skin as it grows



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

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

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

Competitions close at **5pm on Friday 3rd September 2025.**



Previous Competition Winners

Crossword – **Lola Perrie age 12** – Glenrothes (right)

Where's Sandy – **Charlotte Fitzsimmons** - Kinghorn



Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____

Fife Council Job Fair

Fife Council will be holding a job fair on Wednesday 8th October from 10 am to 2 pm at the Glen Pavilion, Dunfermline.

Why not pop along to find out more about our range of job vacancies, ask questions and get support and advice with our online application process?

Our Community Jobs Clubs, Employability Service and Deaf Communication Service will be there to chat about your interests, skills and experience and offer any support. Kingdom Works, Skills Development Scotland, Fife Voluntary Action, Citizens Advice Fife, BRAG, DWP Disability Employer and Childcare representatives, Fife College and Gingerbread will also be available to support applicants, where relevant.

Some of our Fife Council recruiting managers will host short informal presentations to promote various job opportunities and walk through 'A Day in the Life'. This will allow you to find out more about what it's like to work in their teams, get an overview of the application process and find out about the benefits of working for the Council.

There will be reps available from our Childcare Services/Social Care/ Admin/Waste & Street Cleansing, Catering, Cleaning & Janitorial Service, plus many more – come along and find out more on what it's like to work in these teams.

You can view current vacancies and sign up for job alerts at www.fife.gov.uk/jobs

DWP Recruitment Event

DWP will be hosting a recruitment event on Wednesday 17th September from 10 am to 1.30 pm at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes. Come along to meet employers and learn about a range of job opportunities.

Can't make it?

All of our vacancies can be found at www.fife.gov.uk/jobs.

Our website has lots of advice to help you apply. Go to www.fife.gov.uk/jobs/howtoapply and look for the application form and supporting statement helpful guides. There's also information on what to expect at interview.

Your new career is closer than you think!

Fife Council has a wide range of jobs available right now at:

www.fife.gov.uk/jobs



FifeCouncilJobs



FCJobsOfficial



Fife
COUNCIL