

DOWN YOUR

Street

Tenants' Magazine



EATS
Rosyth
p18

Winter
wishes

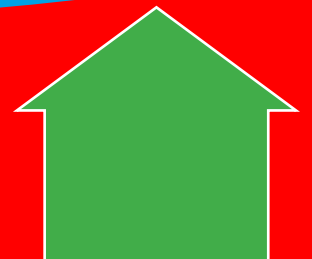


www.fife.gov.uk/housing



#DYSFife

Rent Consultation p4-p6
Have your say - voting card enclosed



Useful Numbers

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



Alternative Formats

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

Alternative Formats line:

03451 55 55 00



British Sign Language

please text (SMS) 07781 480 185

BT Text Direct:

18001 01592 55 11 91

Language lines

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

Contents

Welcome	3
Rent Consultation	4
Rent increase and service provision	6
SGN Newsletter	7
Fuel Poverty	8
Safer Communities	10
Spotlight On FFOTRA	11
Ravenscraig Tenants Association - Bus Trip	12
Cowdenbeath Area	13
Spotlight on Eats Rosyth	14
Fire Safety	16
Fife Council jobs	17
Cryenians	18
Spotlight on Central Burntisland TRA	19
NEFTRF Bus Tour	20
NEFTRF Open Day	21
SWF Area - Article	22
Dunfermline Area - Golfdrum Street TRA	23
Spotlight On – Canon Lynch Community	24
Competitions	25
Phoebe Says – TP Bulletin	26
Mrs Doyles Kitchen	27
Advert	28



Get in touch

Edited by: The Tenant Participation Team

If you need to get in touch about this issue, or 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



01383 602220



tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk

www.fife.gov.uk/housing



@fifecounciltp

Welcome!

As we head into Winter, I know that heating your home and putting food on the table for many of our tenants is harder than it was last year. The Council has pulled together a package of support to help you get through this difficult time. Details are on the Council's website and information is available from your Local Services Centre and through your local Housing Management Officer.

Due to the current economic conditions that Housing Services operate in, we are experiencing high rates of inflation, particularly in construction materials and replacement housing components, such as kitchens, bathrooms and adaptations. We have staff shortages across the Council, which means that we are taking longer to deliver key services for you.

Councillor Hamilton's article in this edition of Down Your Street outlines the Council's rent increase options for 2023/4 for your consideration. Your views are very important to the Council, as it tries to balance your needs as tenants, to cope with the Cost-of-Living increase and the need to increase rents, to cope with inflation hitting the Housing Revenue Account. Remember, the Housing Revenue Account receives no subsidy to help it with higher costs. The Council depends on the rent that is paid by our tenants. Please take time to complete the Rent survey in this edition.

All the rent options for your consideration will not



fully plug the financial gap within the Housing Revenue Account, so some level of service reductions and efficiencies will be required. These reductions will be less severe if we have a higher rent increase for next year. Let us know what your top priorities are to deliver housing services and building new council houses to tackle housing need in Fife. Elected Members and Officers will take account of this, when service reductions need to be discussed.

John

John Mills

Head of Housing Services

Rent options



Cllr Judy Hamilton
Convener for
Community &
Housing Services
Committee

Please complete and return the enclosed prepaid survey form.

Alternatively, if you would like to complete the online survey, you can do so by visiting
<https://www.fife.gov.uk/rent>

It's that time of year again ...

As you will know, every Winter, we consult with you through Down Your Street and ask your views on potential rent options for the following year. My message is a difficult one this year.

We find ourselves in a time where inflation is above 10% with interest rates still rising. I am fully aware of the financial pressures that you are all under. Prices are rising, heating your home is more expensive and all the services you require cost more. Most importantly the cost of the food we need to buy to feed our families has increased.

With the increased financial burdens being faced this year, it is more important than ever that you use your vote and tell us how you feel about the rent you pay. Your votes will help the decision that is made by Councillors at the Council budget setting meeting in February.

This year, we are going to consult on four options for rent rises for 2023/4 - 0% (a rent-freeze), 1%, 2% and 3%. All of these options are significantly below the inflation rate; although higher inflation will affect the cost of services that we provide to you. There are going to be some challenges and pressures to the Housing Service in continuing to deliver services in the same way.

A rent freeze (0%) means there will have to be cuts to services.

In order to continue to operate at current service levels, £6.627m will have to be found to catch up with inflation. Based on the rent options proposed for 2023-24, there are going to be pressures on services, which will be greater with lower percentage rent increases.

A 0% increase or rent freeze will mean difficult choices and I would not like to have to make cuts. There

are other options to consider, and we can support tenants with rent increases. One of the things we are consulting you on, is your priorities. Rent support is one option.

This is why we are asking you to tell us about your service priorities, as well as your preferred rent option. I will be meeting with our Tenants Federations to ensure that you have your views heard.

Regardless of the option that you choose, I know the importance of the services that you receive, and I know what is most important to you. I will ensure we continue to keep a clear focus on how we meet your priorities of building new Council houses, improving energy efficiency within your home and supporting you with rent and fuel poverty.

Once again, can I please ask you to take 10 minutes out of your day to vote, so that your views and vote is considered.

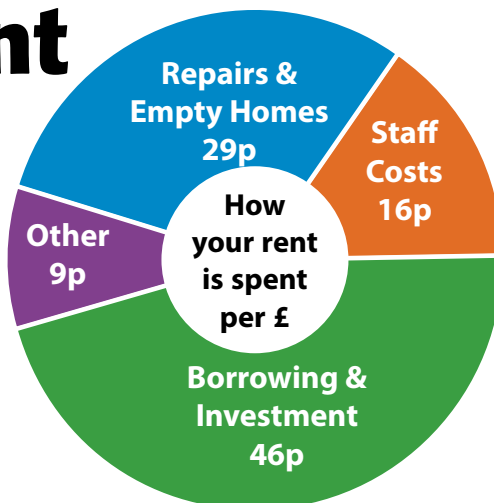
Times are very difficult for many people, so please look out for each other; please check on your elderly neighbours during these Winter days that can be long and lonely. And remember the Council has put in place a wide range of support for you and your family through these difficult times, from heating your home to accessing benefits. Visit: [our.fife.scot/gethelp](https://www.fife.scot/gethelp) – or phone our Community Support Line FREE on 0800 952 0330.

I wish you all a very peaceful and Happy Christmas; and I look forward to working with you all again in 2023.

Judy

What your rent pays for...

The estimated income for 2022/23 is just over £131 million. The majority of which comes from the rent you pay. This can only be used to fund services for tenants and improve homes.



How your rent compares ...



What this covers...

Repairs & Empty Homes

- Repairs and maintenance
- Annual gas safety checks
- Caretaking and concierge services
- Estate improvements

Staff Costs

- Employee salaries and training
- Local Offices and Contact Centre services
- Office accommodation and equipment
- Employee communication methods

Borrowing & Investment

- New council housing
- Energy efficiency
- Home improvements
- Home safety and security

Other Expenditure

- Disability adaptations in council homes
- Ground maintenance
- Retirement housing
- High-rise housing
- Hostels
- Tenant participation

Improvements being delivered in 2022/23

Home Improvements



448

Kitchen Replacements



863

Bathroom Upgrades

Energy Efficiency



614

Replacement Windows & Doors



1,231

Boiler replacements

Safe & Secure Homes



1059

Electrical rewiring

83%

of tenants are satisfied with opportunities to participate

82%

of tenants are satisfied with the overall services provided

81%

of tenants feel their rent provides good value for money

80%

of tenants feel we are good at keeping them informed

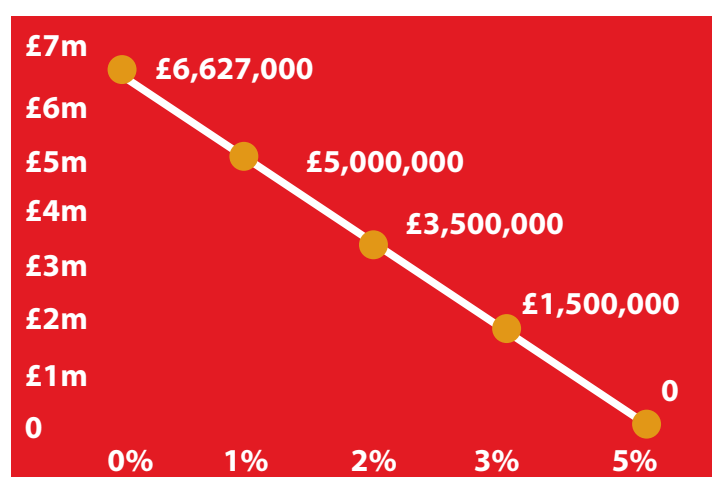
Rent increase and service pressures

The services that we provide to you are at the heart of our role as your landlord. Due to the cost-of-living crisis and the high inflation rate, we are under more financial pressure than ever to fund these services.

The rent options that we are asking you to consider this year 0%, 1%, 2% and 3% are all significantly below the current rate of inflation which is around 11%. Inflation is running now at a 40 year high.

Inflation not only affects us as individuals, but also affects the costs the Housing Service have to pay to fund all of our services. As a result of these pressures there is an estimated £6.62 million gap in our budget for 2023/4. We know this gap cannot be met fully by increasing rents. To do this we would need to increase rents by around 5%, and we recognise that this is unaffordable for tenants in the current climate. So with all options, some savings and efficiencies will be required.

To address the budget gap the HRA must increase rents or generate recurring savings – or do a mixture of both. The graph below shows how much of a budget gap there will be against the rent options we are consulting you on. We hope this will help you to make your decision when voting.



We will always provide statutory services, that is services such as repairing your homes, meeting energy efficiency and Scottish Housing Quality standards. The rent you pay should only pay for services that benefit our tenants directly. All other Fife Council services should be funded by Council Tax and Government.

Regardless of the rent option that is chosen from April, you will see that cuts and efficiencies will have to be made. We need to know your views to help us to shape the final decisions taken by Members at the Budget meeting in February and the future decision we have to make as a service.

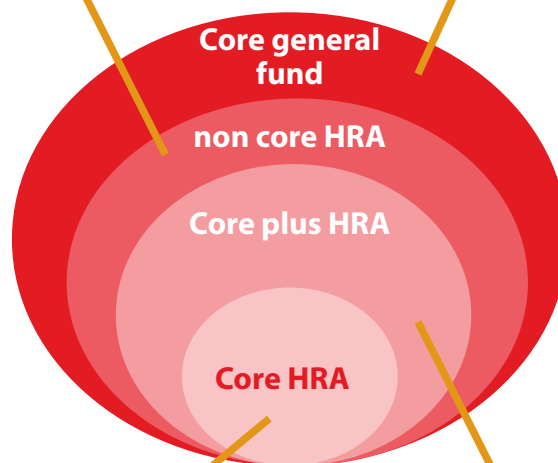
The decisions you make, genuinely influence the decisions we take. Therefore it has never been more important for you to use your vote and tell us how you feel.

HRA should generally not pay

Do not exclusively benefit tenants, eg., Street Lighting, homelessness administration, debt advice services and dog wardens.

HRA should not pay

Non housing services paid for by Council Tax, eg., roads, education, social work



HRA should pay
Repairs and maintenance of our stock, allocation costs to properties, rent collection costs

HRA should pay a contribution

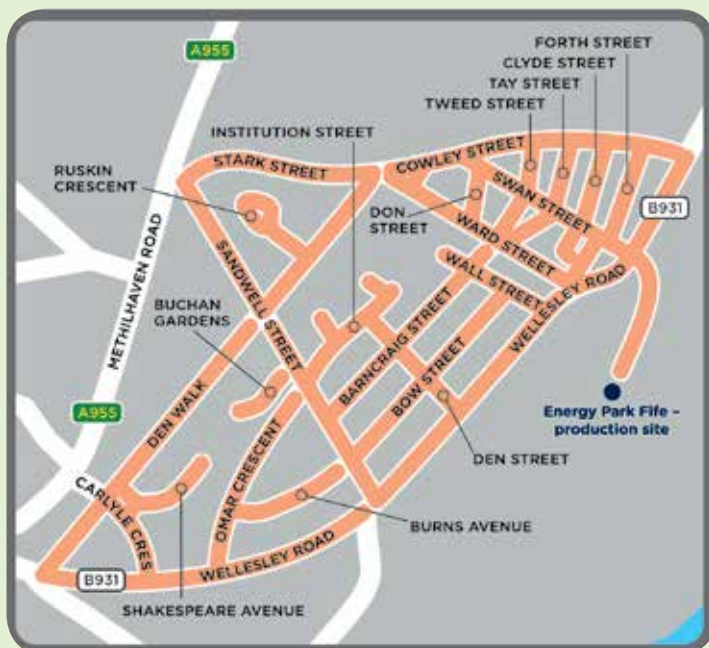
Benefit tenants and others, eg., Corporate anti-social behaviour, tenancy sustainment support, Older People's Housing

H100 Fife is heating up in Levenmouth

Levenmouth will become home to the world's first 100% green hydrogen gas network – H100 Fife. This project is being run by our national gas distribution and emergency network, SGN (Scottish Gas Network). Up to 300 homes in the Buckhaven and Denbeath areas can opt-in to H100 Fife to play a key role in the battle against climate change.

They will all get brand-new, state-of-the-art hydrogen appliances including a hydrogen boiler to replace their existing natural gas appliances all free of charge. These appliances will be installed, maintained, and serviced until the project ends in 2027 and every participant will receive £1,000 for taking part.

Anyone who lives in the streets in the map below can register to take part in H100 Fife:



DID YOU KNOW?

There's more hydrogen than anything else in our universe. Hydrogen gas is great as a fuel because it doesn't make any carbon when it burns. Hydrogen can be used to fuel cars, trains and buses, but it could also heat our homes and businesses.

DID YOU KNOW?

Home heating creates about 30% of carbon emissions in the UK. This is a lot. This is why we want to swap natural gas with hydrogen gas. Hydrogen energy can cook our food and keep us just as warm as natural gas – without any bad gases being released.

The 7MW wind turbine in Buckhaven that's providing the renewable electricity to create the green hydrogen for the H100 Fife project. Credit: ORE Catapult

In early October SGN hosted its first open events for the project. Eligible residents and the wider community met with our project team at Buckhaven Community Education Centre to find out more about joining the project.



A couple interested in joining H100 Fife to transition to clean hydrogen gas and be among the first in the world to heat their home with hydrogen.

To find out more about H100 Fife, visit www.h100fife.co.uk

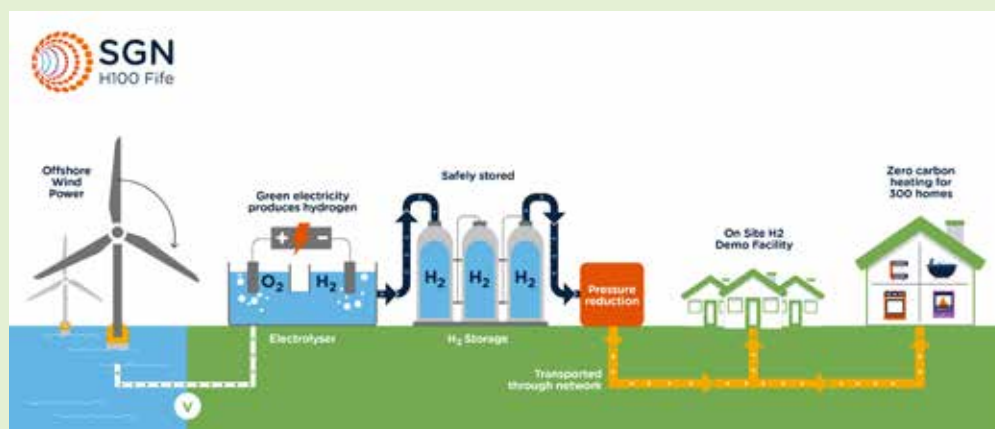


Diagram showing the end-to-end system for the H100 Fife project – 100% green hydrogen, produced by electrolysis using green electricity from an offshore wind turbine, will be stored and transported to provide zero carbon heating for the project.

Cost of Living and Fuel Support Payments

Please note that these are available at time of issuing this information, these payments/ discounts may be subject to change, given the fluidity of the current energy crisis.

£400 Energy Bill Support Scheme

The Energy Bill Support Scheme is a £400 rebate on electricity bills for every household in Great Britain. You do not need to do anything to receive this rebate. It will be paid automatically from your supplier into your electricity account.

It will either be paid as a lump sum, or possibly in 6 separate monthly instalments starting in October 2022. If you are a prepayment customer, then you may be sent vouchers to use to top up your meter with.

Energy Bills Support Scheme explainer - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

£150 Disability Cost of Living award

The Disability benefit award is a payment to help those in receipt of non-means tested disability benefits, eg DLA.

This is in addition to the Low -Income benefits award if you also receive one of those benefits.

You must have been in receipt of DLA on 25th May in order to be eligible for the payment.

The payment will be made automatically from September 2022.

Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

£150 Warm Home Discount

If you're eligible for the Warm Home Discount, you'll get £150 (previously £140) off your bills in winter 2022-23. The money won't be paid to you directly – it'll be added as credit to your electricity account. This usually happens between September and March. You need to apply for the discount through your energy supplier.

Warm Home Discount Scheme: If you're on a low income - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

£50 Low Income Winter Heating Assistance payment (LIWHA)

This is a new benefit from the Scottish government to



help those on a low income keep their homes warm in winter. It has replaced the Cold Weather Payment of £25 whenever the temperature dropped below 0 degrees Celsius for 7 consecutive days. The LIWHA payment is paid automatically in February to everyone eligible.

Low Income Winter Heating Assistance Confirmed by Scottish Government (chap.org.uk)

£100 - £300 Winter Fuel Payment

Winter Fuel Payment is an annual tax-free payment for households that include someone born on or before 25 September 1956. It's designed to help you cover your heating costs in winter. You could get between £100 and £300 to help with your bills.

If you've received it before, you should get your Winter Fuel Payment automatically this year.

If you claim State Pension or another social security benefit (not including Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit, Universal Credit or a deferred State Pension), you should also be paid automatically.

If you don't receive these benefits and you're eligible for Winter Fuel Payment, you might need to make a claim directly to receive your payment.

Winter Fuel Payment: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Home Heating Advice Fund

Homeheatingadvice.scot are working in partnership with the Scottish Government to deliver the Home Heating Support Fund for Scottish households struggling with energy costs.

The fund seeks to provide financial relief to energy consumers who are experiencing significant financial hardship and strives to provide this support to households regardless of the fuel or payment method used. That is, the project is inclusive of: users of prepayment meters, district heating networks and unregulated fuels.

How to Apply for Funding – Household Application – homeheatingadvice.scot

Household Registration – homeheatingadvice.scot

Contact us – homeheatingadvice.scot

Fuel Poverty financial assistance support fund
The Council recently agreed to provide £0.5 million funding in 2022- 23 to help Fife Council tenants meet escalating energy costs. This will provide financial and other supports to tenants struggling with energy payments or unable to afford to heat their property. Get in touch with your local office if you need help to stay warm.

Electric Heating

To meet Fife Council's commitment to a net carbon zero future, when upgrading our existing electric heating systems, we will now be installing High Heat Retention Electric Radiators. These heating systems are fully controllable and easily programmed.

The new heating is "on demand" heating meaning you can turn each radiator on/off or up/down when required.

This is more relevant with today's energy costs increasing significantly. The new heating will be controlled by yourself meaning you have full control over when heating is required and in which rooms, resulting in lower energy bills.

No Access Officers

There is now a team of no access officers in place to assist with access for the capital investment programmes. This involves assisting our partners in Building Services where they are having difficulties in obtaining access to addresses where we are looking to install new heating systems, new kitchens/ bathrooms/windows and doors and assisting with access for electrical installations and testing to ensure our properties are safe for residents.

You may meet some of these new officers over the coming weeks and we wanted to ensure that all tenants are aware that this is not a "cold calling" exercise. The team will work with the Housing Management Officer's and tenants to increase access, resolve issues and to assist tenants where additional help is required to enable us to improve their home

It is extremely important that access is given by tenants for these works to be carried out.

Do you have these items in your house?...

...they could harm or even kill your child!
What do they all have in common?

They all contain...
...button batteries.

Fife Council, Safer Communities through Fife Cares are working in partnership with RoSPA and the Child Accident Prevention Trust, to raise awareness of the dangers of button batteries.

Last Christmas a 19-month-old child from Motherwell, swallowed a button battery, apparently from a toy and tragically died as a result. Please don't let this be your family!

If your child swallows a button battery it can badly harm or even kill them and this can happen quickly. Children aged six months to four and a half years are most at risk.



If you suspect your child has swallowed a button Battery Unfortunately, it is not always obvious when a battery is stuck in a child's food pipe. There are no specific symptoms associated with this.

If you suspect your child has swallowed a button battery act fast!

1. Take your child straight to A&E
2. Tell the doctor you think your child has swallowed a button battery
3. Take any packaging to hospital with you
4. Don't let your child eat or drink
5. Do not make your child sick

For more information on button batteries go to www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries



Top Tips

1. Search around your home for button batteries – if you can find them so can your child
2. Keep button battery compartments secure
3. Keep spare or loose batteries secure away from children – even discharged batteries can cause harm.
4. Check anything you buy for Christmas before giving it to a child, to ensure batteries are secure in their compartments and compartments are safe and cannot be opened by young children
5. Beware of bargains online or in shops. The batteries may be loose in the packaging, or battery compartments may not be secure.



REMEMBER
Button cell batteries can cause severe injuries if swallowed. take your child to hospital if you suspect one has been swallowed.

FFOTRA Free Community Halloween Party.

On the back of a recent successful Fun Day in Kirkcaldy on July 1st this year, FFOTRA Board agreed to hold a similar event in the West of Fife, which was held in the Dell Farquharson Centre on the 21st October. To help make this possible we appealed to local businesses and supermarkets for any support they could offer. Our members and the local community were notified via Tenants and Residents Associations, social media, and local Primary Schools. The immediate response was fantastic, all 150 tickets were snapped up before the event and we were still receiving calls on the day!

The main event was held in the large hall which featured; face painting, coconut shy, bouncy castle, sand art, target shooting and an opportunity for kids to interact and win prizes. Everything was free of charge including refreshments! As we like to do our bit and support the community whenever possible, we offered local small businesses, the opportunity to have a stall at the event, and they kindly donated a prize for our free raffle. This pop-up market took place in the smaller hall, giving the community the opportunity to buy an early Christmas present or two.

Having days such as these, is the ideal opportunity for FFOTRA to re-introduce themselves to the community, and explain what advice and support

they can provide for people living in social housing. Furthermore, Fife Council Tenant Participation Officers & Safer Community Officers, were on hand to answer any questions and offer advice.

It was wonderful to see so many people attending this family event, interacting with each other and having fun. A big thank you to Asda St Leonard's for their food donation and to be able to help us out on the day was truly amazing!

Our Fun Days really make a hugely positive impact for many families and our community, and we hope that we can continue to run these events for years to come. This is only made possible with the continued support and generosity of all our volunteers, colleagues, partners, friends, and local small businesses to whom we are extremely grateful.

Who is FFOTRA?

FFOTRA is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation, set up to represent Tenants views on all issues, relating to Social Housing and Neighbourhood Development. Our aim is to bring tenants and residents together, to form Tenant and Resident Associations, to work on issues of collective interests. We provide free independent advice and support. Contact us on 01592 641968.



Ravenscraig Residents Association – Bus Trip

Ravenscraig Residents Association enjoyed a bus trip in September. This was funded by money granted by the National Lottery fund in 2019, but due to Covid restrictions we had not had the opportunity to use until now.

After discussions it was decided that we would have a trip to Stirling with a stop at Sterling Mills.

Everyone was ready to go for 10am, even the initial rain didn't dampen our spirits!

After arriving at Stirling everyone had the opportunity to explore the town, shops and enjoy some lunch as they pleased. Even better that the rain had stopped.

Everyone met back at the bus to head for home and we had a lucky dip for little parcels, even the driver received one.

We all had a great time and look forward to doing something similar again next year.




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

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

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

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



Gas Safety Reminder

Do you have home contents insurance?

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

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

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

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



The Cowdenbeath team

There have been a few changes to the Cowdenbeath Area Team, here is an updated list of the team and the areas they work in if you require to contact anyone:

THE COWDENBEATH TEAM

Housing Team Manager **Amanda Cathrew**

Lead Officers

Janet Scade, Lochs Area

Craig Brown Cowdenbeath Area

Lyn Murray Cardenden/Lochgelly Area,

Also meet the team

Housing option officers

Fiona Herd, Melanie Sharp, Lisa Boyce

The Lochs

Brenda Bain, Nicole Fleetham, Victoria Connolly



Amanda Cathrew



Craig Brown



Janet Scade



Michelle Crichton



Paula Finlayson

Cardenden Area

Katrina Stein, Fiona Dunwoody, Pauline Duncan

Cowdenbeath Area

HMOs The Lochs

Lynn Sweeney, Daniel Brown, Nicola McNally, Elaine Lynch, Liam Napier,

Scott MacCoinneach, Lisa Lymburn, Gillian Davidson, Paula Finlayson

HMOs Cardenden/Lochgelly Area

Tracy Burke, Scot Harvey, Steve McOuan, Julie Olusoga, Claire Galloway, Carrie Kinnell,

Kerry Gilfillan

HMOs Cowdenbeath Area

Michelle Crichton, Kim MacDonald, Robert Little, Lyn Muir, Olufemi Fasoro, Amy Kirkpatrick, Lorna Park

Are you or someone you know over 67?



You might be entitled to Pension Credit on top of your state pension

even if you have some savings

There's an estimated **£10m** of unclaimed Pension Credits in Fife. Make sure you're getting all you're entitled to.

It's easy to check online at: **our.fife.scot/gethelp/pensioncredit** or call our Community Support Helpline and an advisor will be happy to help 0800 952 0330 - Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

If you apply by **19 December** you could also get an **extra £324** cost of living payment. Check today.



Help with...
benefit and income support



EATS Rosyth

Trees laden with fruit, garden beds filled with produce, and a lovely shop front with a pay-as-you-feel ethos where you're always welcome for a wee blether - that's EATS Rosyth in a nutshell!

EATS was created in 2016 by a keen group of local volunteers, interested in making use of some derelict and unloved land in the corners and pockets of Rosyth. First came the Community Garden, at which our volunteers grow fruit and veg all year round - in raised beds, the poly tunnel and the greenhouse. Locals gather at the tea-shed for a bite and blether, plan and organise, and most importantly, enjoy each other's company.

After the Community Garden was established, the board of EATS moved forward with acquiring an additional plot of land, just across the road, from which they dreamed of establishing an orchard. Fast forward to today and the Centenary Orchard is a bustling hub of activity - the trees are heavy with fruit - apples, plum and pears, there are bees in the hive, and our chickens lay eggs every day! We are busy all through the week in our outdoor classroom - running art classes, toddler groups, gardening clubs, gardening courses and varied volunteering opportunities for the whole community. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for information about our events - most are completely free, suitable for the whole family, and we always serve up a tasty meal!

EATS Rosyth doesn't end at the greenspaces, though - we have a Community Hub, too! This is currently a shop front, from which we share the produce from our garden and orchard, as well as collect excess food from local supermarkets and businesses to share out to the entire community. We also offer cooking classes, Friday Night takeaways - and someone's always available even if you just fancy a chat and a friendly face.

Excitingly, our Hub is set to expand - and in a major way! With funding from generous organisations, we've acquired the old Clydesdale Bank on Queensferry Rd, just across from the Parish Church, which we are currently renovating to turn into our new, comprehensive Community Hub,

complete with a community-run cafe, which will open early 2023. We are so excited, and hope you are, too - it will be a real benefit to the people of Rosyth, providing increased access to nutritious food, offering more and varied volunteering opportunities, and being a real hub for community driven events, classes and courses. A true Hub for the people of Rosyth!

Who can be involved? Anyone! We want everyone in Rosyth to feel ownership of the organisation, but we also have participants from all over Fife, with many folk joining us from Dunfermline especially. Please don't hesitate to get in touch via our Facebook page, website or via email (info@eatsrosyth.org.uk) if you have any questions or queries about us. We look forward to hearing from you!





Please don't hesitate
to get in touch via our
Facebook page, website
or via email

info@eatsrosyth.org.uk

Fire safety in flats

Flat entrance doors

In flat blocks you will find fire doors on stairwells, corridors and front doors. You will also see them protecting areas where there's a risk of combustion, for example, bin storage or mains electricity service cupboards. Occasionally you will also see them inside flats, although this depends on the specific design and layout of the individual property.

What about my front door?

Your front door is required to be a fire door if it faces onto a common area in the building. Fire doors create a barrier from fire and toxic smoke, preventing it from travelling around the building during a fire. It is vital the door must be fit for purpose, regularly inspected, maintained and working properly should a fire break out.

This helps ensure the damage can be kept to a small area, allowing for evacuation and safe access for the emergency services.

Checking your fire door

If you suspect a fire door is faulty, there are checks you can make. Please report any faults as soon as possible.

Check the gaps around the top and sides of the door are less than 4mm when the door's closed. The gap under the door can be larger (up to 8mm), but it does depend on the door.

- Look for any seals around the door or frame. Check they're intact with no sign of damage
- Check all hinges are firmly fixed (three or more of them), with no missing or broken screws
- Check the door closes firmly onto the latch without sticking on the floor or the frame. A fire door only works when it's closed. Never wedge open a fire door.

Don't alter or carry out any repairs to your fire door. This can damage it and make it less likely to work properly in an emergency. Always have repairs carried out by a qualified individual.

E-scooters and E-bikes

Fire Services across the UK attended over 100 fires involving e-scooters and e-bikes in 2021.

The majority of e-bike or e-scooter fires happened in the home, usually when charging batteries.

Charging batteries

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when charging and always unplug your charger when it's finished charging.
- Never leave it charging unattended or charge it while you are asleep.
- Do not overcharge your battery – check the manufacturer's instructions for charge times.
- Do not cover chargers or battery packs when charging as this could lead to overheating or even a fire.
- Do not charge batteries or store your e-bike or e-scooter near combustible or flammable materials.
- Always use the correct charger for your batteries and buy any replacements from a reputable seller.
- If you suspect it is damaged it should be replaced and should not be used or charged
- Batteries should never be exposed to extremes of temperature.

Where to charge your batteries

- Never block your escape route with e-bikes or e-scooters
- Store and charge them somewhere away from a main through route or exit
- Always call 999, never try to fight a fire yourself

For more information check the Fire Service website: - <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/at-home/>

Fife Council jobs

Looking for a job or thinking of switching career?

We advertise all our vacancies online at www.fife.gov.uk/jobs and currently have over 200 job opportunities available.

Whether you're looking for full time, part time or casual/supply work, we will have something suitable and would love to hear from you.

We are always looking for dedicated people to join the team to help us create a more successful, confident and fairer Fife. There are job opportunities in schools, nurseries, residential care homes, community facilities, offices and even within our housing service!

There are lots of reasons to choose to work for Fife Council.

We offer: at least £10.90 per hour for all roles, 26 days annual leave (or part time equivalent) plus 8 fixed public holidays each year, an occupational pension scheme, learning and development opportunities plus a range of other employee benefits, including local and national discounts.

Some jobs involve a lot of travel as part of the work, but we pay travel expenses to cover that. Some roles can be done partly working from home and partly in the office - we call this blended working - and the advert will say if it's relevant for the job you're looking at.

Until 5 March 2023, you may also be eligible to have your fees waived if you join the social care sector for the first time and need PVG scheme membership. And the Scottish Government pays our employees' fees if the role needs Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) registration.

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.

If you're not ready to apply, you can set up a job alert and get emails when suitable vacancies come up. Don't miss out in the future!

If you have queries about a specific post, including hours of work or duties, contact the hiring manager named on the advert directly - an email address will be provided.

Check out our vacancies when you have a minute and hopefully you'll find something up your street. Everything's on the website and we also promote some vacancies on Facebook. Join our 14,000 followers @fifecounciljobs.

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



Follow us at:



FifeCouncilJobs



FCJobsOfficial



Cyrenians Scottish Centre for Conflict Resolution (SCCR)

The SCCR facilitates online and in-person events – training to staff working with families with young people, parents & carers and young people – in order to provide participants with a better understanding of relationships, emotions and interpersonal conflict. On our website you can find free digital psychoeducational resources, accessible to all who have an internet connection, to explore conflict responses, mind and body connections, and emotions.

- Monkey v Lizard
- Keep The Heid
- Cranial Cocktail
- Three Brains

The SCCR is funded by the Scottish Government as a national early intervention initiative. Key

objectives include: contributing to reducing youth homelessness, improving relationships, and supporting health and wellbeing.

The SCCR's website and digital resources are there for you to use, explore and learn from. Accessible, user-friendly and adaptable, the resources are for personal and / or group activity. Explore and let us know how you get on.

Visit <https://www.scottishconflictresolution.org.uk/> (Brainy stuff tab)

Email: sccr@cyrenians.scot



**KEEP CALM
AND
GET ADVICE**

For General Enquiries contact 0345 1400 095

For Debt enquiries contact 0345 1400 094

Or visit www.CABfife.org.uk



Citizens Advice and Rights Fife is a registered charity in Scotland and is a company limited by guarantee. No. 178060

Winter Wellness Social Café

FREE spaces

We're partnering with Fife Council to provide warm spaces to help you get active and stay social during the cold winter months.

We know many people are struggling with rising energy bills this winter, and that's why our Health & Wellbeing Team are holding free weekly Winter Wellness Café sessions to give you extra support during the cold months.

Enjoy a hot drink and biscuit during our two-hour sessions. Meet other participants while enjoying optional, informal, social activities like table tennis, indoor curling, board games and short exercise activities.

These free Warm Spaces are available at 7 locations in Fife

fifeleisure.org.uk

Location	Day	Time
Cupar Sports Centre	Monday	10.30am - 12.30pm
Carnegie Leisure Centre	Monday	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Levenmouth Swimming Pool & Sports Centre	Tuesday	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Michael Woods Sports & Leisure Centre	Wednesday	12.00pm - 2.00pm
Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre	Thursday	10.00am - 12.00pm
East Sands Leisure Centre	Thursday	2.30pm - 4.30pm
Kirkcaldy Leisure Centre	Friday	10.00am - 12.00pm

@FifeLeisure

Spotlight on Central Burntisland TRA

The Central Burntisland Tenants and Residents Association has been around now for slightly over 4 and a half years, in that time we have developed a good working relationship with a number of Fife Council-led organisations and our community police officers, which has allowed us as the residents in the area, to influence positive changes, which has made the area a better place to live.

We have listened to the community, responding to enquiries made by residents about activities in the town and have created a road map, detailing what your future projects are for the TRA, whilst continuing our slow march towards creating a town centre, that not only meets the needs of shopper's but is also a pleasant place to sit, relax and enjoy the surroundings.

We, like many other voluntary organisations, struggled through COVID 19, we are now slowly coming back as a joined-up group working for the community. Like everything else, this takes time; as the saying goes, "Rome was not built in a day". We have more projects in the pipeline for the new year so watch this space.

To date, we have installed a CCTV camera in one area, which has significantly reduced anti-social behaviour, so we are now actively looking to purchase another camera.

We are now also looking at ways of beautifying the town centre a little more by purchasing planters and buddy benches to be located on the streets behind the High Street. The aim being to give residents somewhere peaceful to sit and meet neighbours and friends.

Our long-term aim is to make a sensory garden where people can sit and relax in an area that stimulates and calms the senses. We may even site an outdoor chess board in the garden so that residents can pass the time of day and develop their natural instincts to challenge others to a game that requires planning and forward-thinking.

We were recently successful in securing funding of almost £2000 which will help us make improvements in the local community. Picture shows us receiving our cheque from the Co-op. A huge thankyou to the Co-op and to everyone who made this happen for us!

Come along and help us in our quest to improve the Central Burntisland area, we meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm in the Heritage Centre on the Kirkgate. Our Facebook page is Central Burntisland Tenant's and Residents Association.

Together we can improve our community!



NEFTRF Bus Tour

Back in 2019 Raymon Gray, Chairperson of the North East Fife Tenants and Residents Federation, had the vision to take a bus tour around the whole of North East Fife. The idea was to take Housing Management Officers to these locations so tenants and residents could discuss issues or concerns they may have, and was a great opportunity to let people know the advisory service NEFTRF offers. Due to size of the area in North East Fife, the bus tour allowed us to reach different locations of North East Fife which hadn't been targeted before. However due to Covid, the bus tour had to be postponed until this year.

The Tenant Participation Team and Housing Management Officers delivered leaflets within their patches to tenants of Fife Council in June, July, August and September.

The bus set off on four separate occasions from the Fluthers car park in Cupar covering Tay Bridgehead, East Neuk and Landward, St Andrews, Howe of Fife and Cupar. At each location a gazebo was set up at each location so that people could easily see us. The bus tour consisted of NEFTRF Committee, Tenant Participation Team, Safer Communities, Housing Management Officers and Community Police Officers.

Many people came to chat to us with a variety of issues and to find out more about the services that we provide. We were able to explain the importance of setting up new groups and the support they could receive from us. It was a great success as more people got to find out about us and we got a better idea of the concerns that tenants and residents are facing. We would like to thank all the services who attended and the public who came over to have a chat with us.



NEFTRF Shop Open Day



Neftrf Chairperson Raymon Gray, along with the committee decided to organise an open day so the new shop- Community Voice, could show-case what they offer and their aims for the future. The open day corresponded with Fife Councils annual rent setting vote and the Cupar Farmers market which was taking place on Saturday 15th of October.

Cupar and District Pipe Band played outside of the shop. This drew a large audience and helped to gather attention to the open day. The Tenant Participation team set up their gazebo outside of the shop engaging with people walking past and Tenant Participation Officer, Rab Clark, filmed the open day both inside and outside of the shop. The committee were kept busy welcoming the public to the shop.

We offered tea, coffee and biscuits that was kindly served by Raymon's wife Janice, which kept the team going and was welcomed by all that popped into the shop to say hello. Steve Penrice www.oldfife.co.uk (Online Museum) very kindly decorated the shop with historical pictures of Cupar and Fife. The Neftrf committee decided that this should be a permanent exhibition, updated on a regular basis.

The Well, who offer a range of advice including financial and mental health support, accompanied the team. A list of other organisations that were coming into the shop on a regular basis were displayed.

We had plenty of support from the TP team, Julie, Colin, and Rab. We were further encouraged by Kirstie Freeman, Head of Housing for North East Fife and Cat Grant from Business Planning who came to cover the rent voting boxes and answered any questions that arose. Councillors Margaret Kennedy, Donald Lothian and Judy Hamilton also came along to support our event and we would like to Thank all for coming along. The shop had been decorated with bunting and balloons with Goody bags that were made up for tenants and residents that came in.

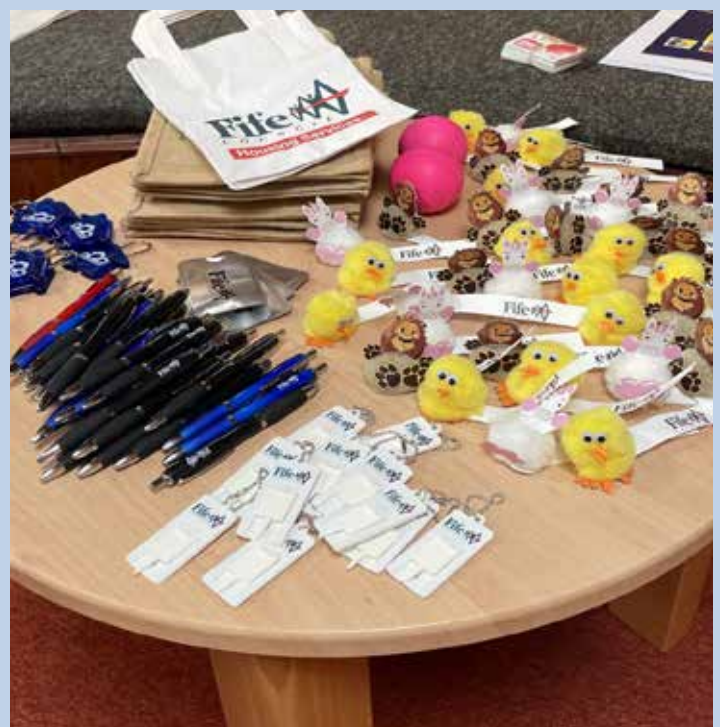
The event was a good opportunity to meet tenants and residents and let them know what NEFTRF can do for them. We engaged many people on how they could make their voices stronger and the advisory service that we offer.

South East Inverkeithing Residents Event

This event was held on 24th August this year at the Wing, within Inverkeithing Community Use School. The aim was to bring together Council, Housing Association tenants and private owners to provide information on what leisure, educational and training opportunities are available in the local area, as well as discussing any issues those attending felt that we needed to focus and give some priority to.

Officers from Kingdom Housing Association, Fife Council, Fife College and local Elected Members were there to give advice and support and take any relevant issues forward. Matters discussed included adult education courses, problems with seagulls, parking, unkempt communal areas and vandalism of plants at the new playpark. Soup, rolls, tea, coffee and other goodies were provided for those in attendance.

There was a preference to continue meetings on a less formal basis, rather than through a traditionally constituted group and so a further event is planned for 7th December from 4.30 – 6.30 at Ballast Bank, Inverkeithing, which will involve residents from the whole of the town. Officers will be available to give advice/support on any issues the residents may have, as well as discussing concerns/worries about the cost of living and providing information on what support is available. Officers from the fuel poverty team and Cosy Kingdom will be on hand to assist with energy advice and queries.



Golfdrum Street Regeneration Project

Tenants at Golfdrum Street in Dunfermline have long campaigned for repair works to address problems with leaking roofs and patchy roughcast. The Tenants and Residents Association, established in 2018, and local elected members have worked with Fife Council Housing Service to make this happen, and agreement was reached in early 2021 to designate the street a Regeneration Area. Security doors and screens were replaced at 6 blocks during 2021 and a major works programme began in spring 2022 and included renewal of 14 roofs, 7 walkways were either repaired/cleaned or renewed, and 28 properties were re-roughcast. This has involved working with owners in the blocks, some of whom have undertaken the work themselves. Other works include the renewal of doors at lock-ups in the street and future plans involve replacing pram store doors throughout the street.

Ayvril Paterson, Chair of the TRA, commented *"As a tenant of the street, the repair works went well and the street is looking much better. I think most of the tenants are happy with the work that has been carried out"*.

As well as the housing improvements to the street, Transportation have undertaken repairs to footpaths and a community garden has been established in the grounds of North Parish Church. Local people

and Church members have combined to brighten up an unused and unloved patch of ground, including flower beds and veggie patches, providing produce for local residents. This work has been funded by Fife Council's Adult Learning Budget and North Parish Church and has allowed the group to have regular sessions with a horticulturalist, providing them with huge amounts of knowledge that can be put into practice in the garden. The "Golfdrum Street Growing Together" project also encourages those not able or not interested in gardening to come along and have a cup of tea and a chat in the Church hall- many new friendships have already been made as a result. Ayvril commented *"The garden has been great- we have had vegetables and fruit this year and hopefully next year will be even better. However, we could do with some more volunteers on a Saturday morning between 10.00 to 12.00."*



Spotlight on Canon Lynch Community

Canon Lynch Community TRA was formed on 10th August 2022, as a result of an article in Down Your Street, giving the benefits of a TRA. We contacted Rab Clark Tenant Participation Officer (Fife Council) for Dunfermline. We invited him to help organise this for Canon Lynch Court and Spencer House (Very Sheltered Housing Complex)

This came about after a tenant received a planning notice that was submitted for the area. As a result of this 50 people in the Community came together to submit a petition against this application. A joint effort of community voices and contributing factors achieved the application being turned down.

In gathering support for the petition numerous other

concerns were raised, for example, ground maintenance, parking, roads and upkeep of buildings. In coming together, it is hoped that this will be to the benefit of our local community with guidance from Rab.

Jenni Cleland

One voice won't make much of a difference but the community working together with a combined voice should.

Jimmy Mullen

TRA is very good and helpful. Things can only get better!

Anne Rocks

Hopefully as a group we will get improvements that have been badly needed for a long time.

Angela Whitehill

The meetings have been very beneficial with healthy discussions. We have had a constructive walkabout with our Local Councillor, Housing and Parks Streets and Open Spaces.

Margaret McLelland

Its going well and hopefully will see results quickly.



Colouring in

Why not colour in our penguin picture?

Win
£20 of
high street
vouchers!



Where's Millie?

Do you know where Millie is?

If so, email the answer to the address opposite for a chance to win a £30 high street voucher, remembering to include your contact details.

Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!



Return postal entries to **Tenant Participation Team, Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre, Town House, 2 Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW** or scan or take a photo and email it to **tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk**. Remember to include your name, address and contact phone number, competitions close at **5pm on Friday 20th January 2023**.

The Autumn winners are:

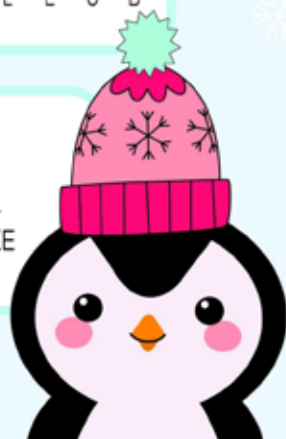
Word Search - Leah Tough, Newburgh
Where's Millie – Lisa Malcolm, Glenrothes
Millie was on East Lomond (Falkland Hill)



WINTER WORD SEARCH

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

BLIZZARD	ICY	SHOVEL
FROSTY	IGLOO	SLED
FROZEN	JACKET	SNOWBALL
HOT COCOA	MITTENS	SNOWFLAKE
ICICLE	SCARF	SNOWMAN



Win
£30 of
high street
vouchers!



Tenant Participation News Bulletin

New team member

My name is Ross Cameron and I am really looking forward to working in the Tenant participation team. I have been working within Housing for around nearly 6 years starting off my career as a Housing Modern Apprentice. Since then, I progressed my career by becoming a Housing Management Officer with the North East Fife Team. I spent most of my working career with the team and will always be grateful for all the support they have given me throughout my time there. I more recently was working with the Housing Estate's team on the fencing "Test of Change Project". I really enjoyed my time with the team and again will always be thankful for the support they have given me.

I joined the Tenant Participation team as I enjoy interacting with people and difference within the community.

In my free time, I enjoy playing football, anything outdoors and more recently Golf... although I am not the best. I am very happy to have been given the opportunity to work with the Tenant Participation Team and looking forward to what the future brings!



making a



PHOEBE SAYS...

have a great Christmas holiday!



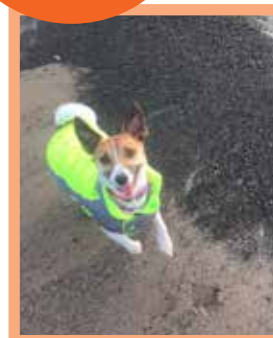
Molly from Scotlandwell

Poppy having a smashing time at the beach

Dave McD



Pepper and Basil walking the wall at Tayport common



Mrs Doyle's KITCHEN

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



Mini Christmas puds

You will need:-

- 1 (800g) bought dark fruit cake
- 6 tablespoons of brandy
- 100g white chocolate, melted
- 4 red snake lollies, chopped into 0.5cm lengths
- 8 green snake lollies, chopped into 0.5cm lengths

Instructions:-

In a large mixing bowl, break fruit cake into crumbs.

Add brandy and mix together.

Roll one tablespoonful of mixture into a ball and set aside on some plastic wrap. Drizzle cooled, melted chocolate on top of each ball.

Press one piece of red snake 'berry' in the centre of the chocolate and add two green snake 'leaves' either side - ta da, holly!



Sweet potato and chilli soup

Cooking time 30 minutes - Makes 6 servings

You will need -

4/5 large, sweet potatoes peeled and cubed

600 ml vegetable stock

1 red chilli (finely chopped)

1 clove garlic (crushed)

1 onion (finely chopped)

1 tsp of dried chilli flakes

400 ml can of coconut milk

1 tbsp vegetable oil

Directions-

1 - Using a large pan. Heat the oil on a low heat.

2 - Add the onion, chilli and garlic then cook until soft (approx. 10 minutes)

3 - pour in the vegetable stock and coconut milk then add the potatoes. Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 minutes until very soft.

4 - Blend and season to taste. Finish with a sprinkle of dried chilli flakes

READY
FOR WINTER



Fife
COUNCIL



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CLOSURES

**Most of Fife Council will be closed 26, 27 & 28
Dec 2022 and 2, 3 & 4 Jan 2023.**

**Out of hours support is still available
when we're closed.** For example, if
you have an emergency social work or
housing repair, or urgent information
relating to a birth, death or marriage call
03451 55 00 99.

Scottish Welfare Fund

Scottish Welfare Fund grant
applications can be applied for online
at: www.fife.gov.uk/welfarefund

Recycling Centres

Recycling Centres are closed 25 & 26
Dec 2022 and 1 & 2 Jan 2023

Bin Collections

There are no bin collections on Monday
26 Dec 2022 and Monday 2 Jan 2023.
Bins due to be emptied on these dates
will be emptied on Saturday 24 Dec
2022 and Saturday 31 Dec 2023 -
**Please ensure your bin is out for 6am
for collection.** You can check your bin

collection information at:
www.fife.gov.uk/bincollections

Commercial waste

Commercial waste bins due to be
emptied on 25 and 26 Dec 2022, will
be emptied over the following 2 days,
Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 Dec
2022. Similarly, commercial bins due
to be emptied on 1 and 2 January
2023, will be emptied on Tuesday 3 and
Wednesday 4 Jan 2023.

Special Uplifts

There are no special uplifts from 19 Dec
2022 until they restart on 9 Jan 2023.
You can recycle your real Christmas
tree for free, by cutting it up and putting
it in your brown bin or placing beside
your brown bin in lengths no longer
than 6 feet.

Information on all council services is
also available on our website at:
www.fife.gov.uk

Stay in touch this winter visit:

www.fife.gov.uk/winter



facebook.com/fifecouncil



Kingdom FM - 95.2 & 96.1
Forth One - 97.3
Tay FM - 96.4 & 102.8



twitter.com/fifecouncil