

DOWN YOUR

Street

Tenants' Magazine

Kirkland
care
village
p14

Burst into Spring

www.fife.gov.uk/housing



#DYSFife

Rent increase p4



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	اُردو زبان کے لیے ٹیلیفون نمبر 03451 55 55 66

Contents

Welcome	3
Rent Increase	4
Spotlight on - Walter Hay Court TRA	5
Ask the Council	6
Zetland Place and Main Street	7
Broomhead TRA Community Litter Pick	8
Dunfermline Area – Broomhead TRA Community Litter Pick	9
NEF Area – Makeover at Melville Court	10
Fife Cares	10
Spotlight On – Glen Sheltered TRA	11
Kirkcaldy Area – Katrine Crescent Retirement Community Garden	12
Kirkcaldy Area – Turriff Place TA – Love Thy Neighbour – Being Me Poem	13
Levenmouth Area – Kirklands going Old School	14
Safer Communities – Operation Twilight	16
Test Of Change – Blair Street, Kelty	18
Fife Registration Services – Civil Ceremonies	19
Independent Living Advice Hub	20
Spotlight On – Highlands and Islands Take Action	21
SWF Area – Forth Gardens – Garage Site Competitions	22
TP Bulletin	24
Garys Gang	25
Mrs Doyle's Kitchen	26
Fife Council Jobs	27
	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



tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk

www.fife.gov.uk/housing



@fifecounciltp

Welcome!

As you will all know by now, the Council met to discuss and agree the rent increase for 2024/25.

The Council agreed to a 5% rent increase for council tenants. This was the 69% majority view of the over 1200 tenants, who responded to the rent consultation, through the Winter Edition of Down Your Street. The Councillors were acutely aware of the cost pressures on everyone right now with the cost-of-living crisis but were also aware of the significant financial pressures on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and did not wish to go down the road of significant cuts to Housing Services.

I also noted the top 3 priorities for council tenants, for the Council to keep building council houses, improving the energy efficiency of council housing and improving the overall condition of properties. As we now review the capital plan for the HRA, we will take on board these proprieties, to ensure we meet your priorities for 2024/25.

Turning to the housing and homelessness pressures the Council is currently facing, this is having a negative impact on tenants, applicants and

homeless people looking to move house at the present time. Put simply, we do not have enough to go round and we are experiencing a big gap between demands and the supply of council houses. Our housing staff are doing their best to try and help as many people as possible but we can't help everyone. Please bear this in mind when discussing your own housing needs with our staff. They simply can't always help if we don't have enough houses to go round.

John

John Mills

Head of Housing Services



I would like to thank everyone for taking part in the rent consultation and for your willingness to engage with Fife Council. I also want to thank everyone, who is involved with their Tenants and Residents Associations and who work with us, to highlight the areas of concern and priorities, within your communities. This allows us to prioritise resources, where they are required most, on issues that matter to you, as it is paramount, in this current economic climate, that we deliver best value for money to you, our tenants.

Now more than ever, it is even more important that you do engage with us and that your voice is heard, due to the cost-of-living crisis and that you tell us what your priorities are. We will have tough decisions to make, due to the financial pressures

on the Housing Service and we will have to make savings. **You told us through the Fife Tenant Forum, that that you want us to save money on Down Your Street magazine and as a result, we will no longer be producing a summer edition of this magazine.**

Judy

Cllr Judy Hamilton

Convener of the Community and Housing Services Committee



Rent increase from April 2024

Council decision

In February 2024 Fife Council voted to approve a 5% increase for rents and associated service charges. This increase will apply from 1st April 2024. This increase is in line with the views of the majority of tenants who responded to our annual rent consultation survey.

The Council depends on rent income to fund housing services and we always aim to strike a balance between rent affordability and delivering your priorities for better housing. This increase allows us to continue to deliver services to tenants and maintains our commitment to investing in ambitious home improvement, new build and home energy efficiency programmes – you told us these are your top 3 priorities for investment.

2024/25 Annual Rent Survey Responses

Responses
1,237

1,237 tenants responded to our Rent Increase Survey within our December newsletter – thank you to all who took the time to vote.



Option 1 - 5%
849
69%



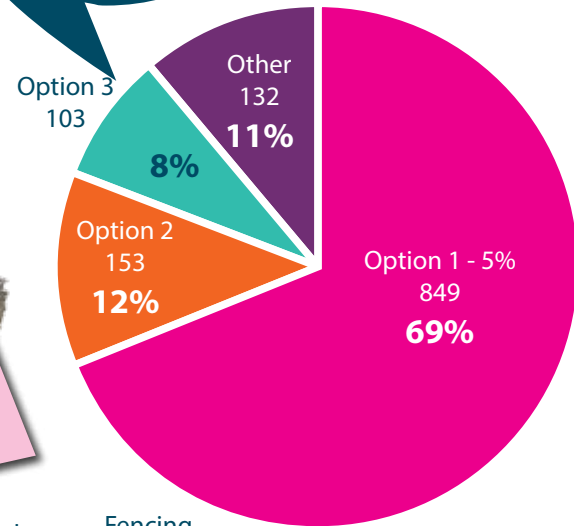
Option 2 - 6%
153
12%



Option 3 - 7%
103
8%

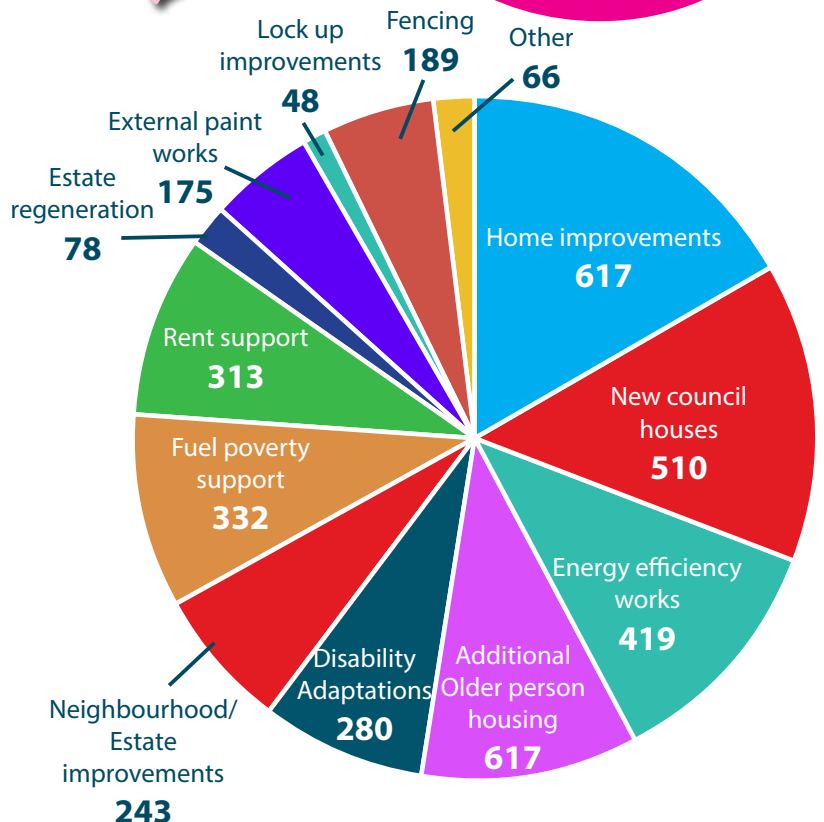


Other
132
11%



Tenant top 3 housing priorities

1. Home Improvements
2. New Council Houses
3. Home Energy Efficiency



Tenant Participation

If you would like to take part in Tenant Participation events or surveys please contact the Tenant Participation Team:

Post: Kirkcaldy Customer Service Centre,
Town House, 2 Weymssfield, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XW
Email: TenantParticipation@fife.gov.uk

Walter Hay Court Tenants Association - Steps Ahead

Walter Hay Court – Retirement Housing Complex has several tenants with mobility issues. We were concerned over the safety of some of the more vulnerable tenants, as the paths were in a poor state, they were cracking, uneven and sinking in places, leaving drain covers protruding, which was dangerous for the tenants tripping over them and catching their walking rollators on them.

Unfortunately, the paths were within acceptable tolerance levels, so Transportation Services could not resurface the paths, however, Walter Hay Court Tenants Association (WHCTA) were undeterred and asked their Housing Management Officer for assistance and they managed to get Opportunity Fund money, to renew all the pathways, the tenants state that the new paths have made a huge difference to their confidence in walking along them, without the fear of tripping or falling.



From left to right:

Bill said that he can feel it underfoot, it's comfortable with no holes.

Janette stated you're not tripping up. You're not getting stuck in the grooves. The guys that did it did a marvellous job. They were polite and helpful if you needed past.

Tam replied it's a vast difference in every way. It's even to walk on and I get a good grip with my shoes. Never been so good walking up and down.

Finally, **Christine** expressed that she felt a lot safer and steadier on the new paths, but she was unable to be here today for her photo.

WHCTA meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the lounge at 10:30am and everyone is invited to come along and have their say.



Ask the Council - Fife College Events



Fife College Student Association (FCSA) partnered with the Fife Council, Housing Services to deliver the 5th annual 'Ask the Council' events at Fife College.

The event is designed to allow students and staff to speak face-to-face with housing support and cost-of-living support organisations within Fife. They provide information related to housing (council and private), tenants' rights, energy efficiency information and free products that keep your home warm. The housing officers share information on low-cost and nutritious meals, local keep-warm cafes and community initiatives providing support.

The event occurred over three days within three Fife College Campuses. The Fife Council Housing Team, Fife Federation of Tenants & Residents Association, Cosy Kingdom, Greener Kirkcaldy, Citizens Advice and the FCSA attended. Students and staff could send their queries digitally and speak face-to-face with relevant organisations. This year the event had 285 face-to-face enquiries.

The event grows yearly, and student feedback is always positive regarding the help and support this event provides. While the event was initially focused on Fife

Council Services, it has transformed into an event focusing on all aspects of housing support and raising awareness regarding tenants' rights within private accommodation and council housing.

Feedback Quotes...

'This was so helpful. I have been having trouble with my landlord for the past couple of months, and I wasn't sure what my rights were or what to say to make them fix the issues.'

'My boyfriend and I are both 16, but we want to get our own home as we share rooms with younger siblings. There are five of us in a two-bed house; my mum sleeps in the living room. Speaking with the housing team has given me lots of advice and a plan to get our names on the housing list.'



Main Street, Lochgelly

Main Street Lochgelly has a new look after recent fires in the stairwell of the block.

Housing Management Officer, Steve McOuan initiated a project to try and make the area more secure and more importantly safe for residents.

After the second of deliberate fires in the bin area at the bottom of the communal stairs, the area housing team decided to take action. The individual bins were removed from the communal stairwells and replaced with industrial bins in the outside area of the block. The space at the rear of the flats has been utilised, removing the old chain fencing which has been replaced with wooden fencing with bin spaces created to house the bins. By carrying out this work it is hoped it discourages the reoccurrence of fires within the blocks and allows residents to feel safe.



Goodbye to Fly Tipping!

For years the area on Zetland Place and Main Street Lochgelly has been known for fly tipping. The Cowdenbeath area housing team decided to take action in an attempt to make the place better.

The project has now been completed with the hope it will discourage reoccurrence. Gates have been erected at each end of the courtyard in the block to prevent it

being used as a walkway for littering.

A new fence has been installed due to the old one sitting two meters from the wall, which meant people were littering and fly tipping within that space. The new fence has been erected directly at the wall, giving it a neater finish and hopefully a nicer tidier looking area for all.



Broomhead Drive – Community Litter Pick

After covid and lockdown, we were excited to get the Broomhead Drive Tenants and Residents Association up and running again. Sadly, there was a burst pipe in the community flat, which caused a lengthy delay in us being able to meet, until the pipe was repaired.

Since September 2023, when we reformed Broomhead Drive Tenants and Residents Association (BDTRA), we have been very busy. We did a walkabout around the area, with several tenants, Elected Members and Fife Council, to identify issues that required attention, it was very well attended and some of the things we identified, have been fixed or will be getting fixed. We will be looking for volunteers to paint the bollards outside the blocks, please contact us if you can help.

The newly elected BDTRA committee all agreed that we needed to do more to get the community spirit back into our local community. We thought about different ideas but decided a litter pick around the area was a great way to bring people together, to build community spirit and tidy up the area because we are proud of where we stay and want people to take pride in their area. We had tenants of all ages, from the 3 blocks on the litter pick. We also had Safer Communities come and help, this was a huge success, so we are planning on doing regular litter picks, to keep the area clean and tidy and bring the community together.

We are planning a big summer event to promote the Tenants Association, with food, stalls and hopefully music, to get everyone out and mixing with neighbours and friends and hopefully any tenants who stay in Broomhead Drive, who haven't joined in yet, will attend to support their Broomhead Drive Tenants and Residents Association and help to make the event a huge success and grow the community spirit in the area.

Many residents love and feel the community spirit and we hope it inspires others to also take pride in the flats, as not just a place to live but as a community that builds great memories and shared laughter and fun.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, at 1:30pm in the community flat, at 49 Broomhead Drive and everyone is invited.

Please come to our meetings and help us, to make Broomhead a better place to live.

You can also find us on Facebook "dbroomheadtra" or email us at broomheadtra@gmail.com

I really enjoyed it, I thought it helped lift spirits and brought people together. It's a good feeling seeing the end result! - Kayleigh O'Brien

Building strong community benefits everyone and I love the community spirit at Broomhead.
Sid Akbar



Makeover at Melville Court

The tenants are so happy with their new lounge, as previously they only had a Communal Lounge joined to a small toilet and tenants could not access the facilities, if they had mobility issues.

This major upgrade will encourage all tenants at Melville Court, to spend more time in their new lounge, chatting, arranging activities and feeling much less isolated.

“The works took longer than we expected but was worth the wait, and hopefully we’ll see

more tenants in the lounge taking part in our activities”. W.Thomson.



Child Safety Made Simple



Safe From Burns
Keep Hot drinks away from babies.
When running a bath run the cold water first and then heat up and check temperature.

Prevent Poisoning
Store cleaning materials, medicines or any poisons in a locked cupboard or up high out of reach





Free From Falls
Use highchair and buggy straps and use safety gates until child reaches 2 years old.

Breathe Easy
Cut up and supervise eating food including grapes, tomatoes, and blackberries
Tie up blind cords with a safety device and keep cables secure and out of reach to prevent strangulation.





Watch Out In Water
Keep children at arms reach whilst in the bath. Be aware of the dangers of pools, ponds and hot tubs.

Safe Around Roads
Children should walk with an adult they know and always hold hands near the road. Teach your child to stay safe.





For more info go to
www.capt.org.uk







Glen Sheltered TRA visit to Contact Centre

*“What happens when I pull the Pull chords?”
“What department am I actually talking to?”*

These questions have been raised numerous times from multiple tenants at Glen Sheltered TRA meetings, so the decision was made to find out why!

In November last year, Glen sheltered Tenants and residents’ association visited the Contact Centre at Bankhead in their mission to try and understand how the pull chord system works in their sheltered accommodation. This topic had been coming up in the TRA’s meetings for quite some time and by bringing this issue to the Sheltered Forum, this allowed a connection to be made.

The TRA invited lead officers Gael Syme from the MECS team, Alan Reid from the Contact Centre and Jillian Rodgers, Business change manager for Sheltered Housing. During discussions, it was raised that a visit to the contact centre would be beneficial to gain a better understanding of how these departments work on a day-to-day business. This allowed the tenants to understand the difference between what the MECS team can offer in terms of support and what the contact centre do when the pull chords are initiated. The TRA were under the impression that when the pull chords were used, they

were speaking directly to the MECS team rather than the contact centre. After seeing a demonstration of a practice phone call, the tenants were able to see what details are available to the contact centre and how the process of referring the call is made.

The visit was a great success and the tenants felt like they got some long-awaited answers they had been looking for. Plans on how to improve the understanding of the pull chord system for tenants across Fife are now underway.



Katrine Crescent Retirement Community Garden

The old garden space at the Retirement Housing bungalow was completely empty and lacked fencing and furniture and was in a general sorry state. There was a step into the garden and an old, slabbed path which made it difficult for tenants with mobility needs to access the space. The Retirement Housing tenants rarely used the garden for these reasons and missed out on opportunities to socialise and enjoy their retirement community.

Looking to improve the garden space for our Retirement Housing tenants, an application was made for a community grant, with the hope that a successful bid could re-design the space completely to make the garden secure, accessible to wheelchair users and an enjoyable place to meet with others.

I was delighted when I learned that our application had been approved and believe that this new space is going to bring our tenants in Retirement Housing together in new ways and have a positive impact on their community. There is a growing community spirit amongst our Retirement Housing tenants it is hoped that this new garden will support this and act as a welcoming and safe place to meet with friends and neighbours.

I know this will make a big difference for our tenants

and I'm delighted with the quality of work and service and support given by my colleagues within building services. Thank you to everyone who has shown their support for the project.

Lara Smith Retirement Housing Officer

Quotes

"I'm over the moon for everybody involved, it's going to be such a pleasurable place to sit and I think it's going to bring everybody together. It's been badly needed and we can't thank our warden Lara enough for everything she's done for the residents and the area." **Susan Paul**

"Nice to see the garden being renovated, joining this community has brought me out of my shell and I look forward to spending more time together in the garden over summer." **Tam Ogilvie**

"It's lovely to have this facility now for our tenants who use wheelchairs and scooters to now be able to sit in the garden space." **Graeme Stuart**

"It's lovely, I am really looking forward to enjoying the garden together in the summer." **Karen Christie**



Love thy neighbour!

The Turriff Place Tenants Association enjoyed a special event on the most romantic day of the year, with a love thy neighbour celebration.

The tenants gathered in the lounge, enjoying a fun filled afternoon with bingo, draw the heart on the tin man and a valentines quiz, organised by their Retirement Housing Officer, Ghislaine.

The lounge was decorated in a love theme with the tenants enjoying a high tea, a red rose and some fizz to celebrate the friendship they have and share.

There were prizes and neighbour themed gifts

throughout the afternoon, with everyone commenting on how much they enjoyed the celebrations. Safer Community officers Tommy and Lauren even popped in to show their support for the group and enjoyed taking part in a few games.

Big thanks to the everyone for making sure a wonderful afternoon was had by all.

Quote:

Ghislaine (Retirement Housing Officer) – “Such a good wee community at Turriff Place so it was nice to celebrate on the loveliest day of the year.”

Being Me

*Being me and looking back on all
my yesterdays of yore*

Nostalgia fills me with an ache

*For all those days that's gone
before*

Oh how I miss those happy days

*When we explored the hills with
glee*

Sunny Days and holidays

Were packed wi fun you see

We paddled in the burn

*We played on the swings and
chute*

Catching Tiddlers wi oor haunds

But never could wi catch a troot

The sun it always seemed to shine

From morning until dark

Playing pauldies, skipping, cricket

And rounders in the park

My pals and me were never bored

*We never found it dull, we packed
each day*

Wi fun and games when we

weren't at the skale

Even in the dark nights

Tho we never had much money

Wed sneak oot in our sandshoes

And hae a game o chappie runny

Alas although those days are past

I like to sit awhile

*And think back to these happy
times and raise a wistful smile*

*They say that getting maudlin
means you're getting auld*

*But all those memories to me are
more precious than pure gold*

*Getting Auld? Away! No-me, inside
I feel the same*

*It's on the outside I admit to being
a wee bit lame*

But aw I really have tae dae

To gies a wee bit cheer

*Its close my een and drift richt
back*

*To my days of
yesteryear.*

By Beth Varney



Kirkland's going Old School

After a lot of hard work from all involved, Kirkland's care village is now up and running. There have been a few hiccups along the way but we now have over 30 tenants settled in and enjoying the new experience.

There is a range of bungalows available from independent living to social work adapted properties. The biggest feature however is the new care home which now houses the residents of the old Methilhaven home.

On the 28th of August 2018 there was a community consultation event which let people have their say about what they thought about a new development at the old Kirkland High School site. Presentations were held and the final plan was to have a care home to replace the Methilhaven Road home in Buckhaven, plus independent living bungalows with community cords. It was also agreed that a nursery would be joined on to the side of the care home which has been a great thing for all parties.

Construction started in summer 2019, and it really did not feel like long before the build took shape, being completed in Summer 2023 with tenants signing up and getting their keys in September.

There was an open day on the 19th of September in the care home, where all services involved and tenants, were invited to share stories over a cuppa and a cake.

The tenants of Kirkland Care Village have now decided to create a Tenants Association within the Very Sheltered complex. This will be known as Kirkland Village Tenants Association. On the day there was a terrific turn out with 17 tenants coming along to the opening meeting. This was a great opportunity for everyone to meet, some for the first time since moving into their new properties. Some of the Tenants have already been very active in their new community and have made Christmas cards and Easter cards, for the residents in the care home, within Kirkland Parade. By having the Nursery and Care home so close, it will give the Tenants Association a fantastic opportunity to work closely with them in future projects.

A couple of the tenants have already been involved in further Tenant Participation by attending the Sheltered Forum, held at the Rothes Halls. This includes tenants from all over Fife, contributing to

and discussing the strategic issues and ideas of how to improve Retirement and Very Sheltered living.

The Tenants Association will allow tenants to have their say, let them know that they are being listened to and that they can contribute to make a huge difference, to improve their community.

John Mills, Head of Housing Services welcomed the new Tenants Association for the Methil Care Village. He said, *"While the new care village is a fantastic new housing development for older people who need that little bit more care and support, it is important that council tenants have a strong voice to influence the local provision of housing management services as well as other matters of concern or interest to the residents. Fife Council will work closely with you to ensure that you are heard."*





Project twilight arrived in Kirkcaldy

Project Twilight launched on Monday 5th February on the Promenade in Kirkcaldy.

The Promenade was highlighted as an area of concern to the team, with regards to the amount of dog fouling, being left by irresponsible dog owners. As part of the project, Safer Communities Officers, carried out patrols in the area during sunrise and sunset, with the aim of educating dog owners, who do not clean up after their pet and to speak with the general public, about their feelings, when it comes to the promenade and dog fouling.

As part of the promotion, special posters and banners were placed along the prom, highlighting to dog owners, to pick up after their pet. Whilst Officers carried out their patrols, they spoke with several people, including responsible dog owners and general promenade users, about why they were there

and the importance of picking up all dog fouling.

The Team also held a 'day of action' on Wednesday 7th February on the promenade to help raise awareness. Members of the public also had the opportunity to speak to the team regarding a variety of community concerns such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Housing and littering. The day was a success and Sandy the mascot proved a big hit as he walked down parts of the promenade and many approached him for a photo or a hand shake.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all dog owners to please carry bags with them, and to pick up after their pet, and that dog fouling can be disposed of in most litter bins.

The Project will continue in different areas of Fife over the coming year and you might be lucky to see Sandy during the Summer holidays also.





Test for Change - Blair Street, Kelty, Fife

Blair Street in Kelty is the fifth and final Test for Change fencing project to be completed. Previous projects have included Herriot Crescent in Methil, Lismore Avenue in Kirkcaldy, Maryfield Crescent in Leslie and Balfargie Crescent in Cupar.

As with previous Projects, the first two phases have been in planning and consultation. Key learning from these projects highlighted the need for additional opportunities for tenants to engage in the early planning stages to ensure proposals met expectations. Therefore, as well as conducting a tenant walkabout, which despite the poor weather was well attended, we then followed this up with additional door-to-door visits. These were carried out alongside further communication by letter and telephone, to ensure there was a clear understanding of the project plans and what gardens would look like when completed.

Billy Elwood, Housing Management Officer, was the Project Lead for this Project:

"This is my final project and from a personal perspective it has been rewarding seeing these projects through to completion, giving the tenants and residents safe and secure areas and seeing the positive impact it has on how their gardens

are now defined". As you can see from some of the quotes we received from the tenants and photographs."

This project has been a great example of collaboration and meaningful engagement between Tenants, Residents and Council Services including Building Services Fencing Team, Mutual Owners' Team, Grounds Maintenance, Area Housing Management Officers, Tenant Participation Team, Councillors and finally the Estates Management Team. Working practices have been streamlined, with communication between services improved which resulted in an improved service delivery for our tenants. Resulting in safe and secure garden spaces for our tenants to enjoy.

Now that all projects are complete, an evaluation report will be submitted to the relevant committee.

Tenants told us:-

"Really happy with my new fence a nice surprise when I came back from holiday to see it" Gina

"Happy with my new fence and gate good for my pet" Caroline Stewart

"Happy with the work and the workmen were really nice" Ms Gonsales



Fife Registration Service

Civil Ceremonies in Fife

Civil ceremonies in Fife are provided by a team of dedicated and experienced Registrars who are always more than willing to help make your ceremony perfect in every way.

We are spoiled for choice of ceremony venues in Fife. Surrounded by stunning countryside with historic towns and villages which are fringed by a spectacular coastline. Our diverse range of venues for your special day range from historic buildings, fairytale castles, local beaches, to stylish and well designed registration venues.

Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies

Prior to their special day couples get the chance to discuss with the Registrar their choice of vows, readings, music etc. to personalise their ceremony. Registrars can include a hand fasting or a quaich ceremony to further enhance ceremonies. A Registrar will run through the day, fully explaining the ceremony. This also gives couples an opportunity to ask the Registrar any questions.

Renewal of Vows Ceremony

These ceremonies are a wonderful way to show or renew the commitment and promises couples have made to one another. Ceremonies are often used to mark a particular anniversary or if you had your ceremony abroad, you can celebrate this on your return and restate your vows before family and friends.

Naming Ceremony

Naming ceremonies are a unique way of welcoming a new baby or child into your family. They give you a chance to celebrate this happy occasion. Naming ceremonies give parents, family and friends the opportunity to make a commitment to the new baby/child by making declarations and promises, although this ceremony has no legal status, each ceremony is a time to be treasured.

If you are thinking about having a ceremony in Fife don't hesitate to contact Fife Registrars to book and plan your special day. We are more than happy to help with any queries.

Please see the link below for more details or email any queries to - fife.registrars@fife.gov.uk
Ceremonies | Fife Council

Fife Registration Venues
County Buildings, Cupar
City Chambers, Dunfermline
Fife House, Glenrothes
Town House, Kirkcaldy



Independent Living Hub

The Housing Plus Team, Housing Services along with partners are developing an Independent Living Advice Hub at 255 and 257 High Street, Kirkcaldy.

The Independent Living Advice Hub will provide access to a range of support and preventative services promoting independent living. The hub will follow a co-ordinated approach where partners, services and voluntary organisations work together to support people in the community.

The hub will be accessible, welcoming, and provide private spaces.

Independent Living Advice Hub: Room Pods

Fife Council Housing Service's and Fife, Health and Social Care room pods will showcase independence and wellbeing in a homely setting.

The pods will provide a safe and accessible space to be assessed for equipment and adaptations.

A joined-up and person-centred approach will offer comprehensive and personalised assessment and advice in the local community.

Website Information

Information on making appointments & service provision including links to all services and organisations connecting with the hub can be found by visiting fife.gov.uk/ILAH.

Open Day

We are aiming to hold an open day in May. Please keep your ears and eyes open for more information on this.



Spotlight on Highlands & Islands Take Action

Highlands and Island Tenants and Residents Association recently participated in an estate action walkabout, alongside other Services to tackle issues in the area and work on plans to make improvements.

Issues were initially highlighted at the Tenants and Residents meeting and from here an action plan was formed to help make improvements for Tenants and Residents.

The walkabout was well attended by Residents and various other Services including representatives from Fife Council Housing Services, Police Scotland, Safer Communities, FFOTRA (Fife Federation of Tenants & Residents), and Local Elected Members.

The aim of the walkabout was to work together as a community, highlighting the issues currently being faced and work together to tackle and ultimately make improvements.

Following on from the walkabout, the Tenants and Residents have held their first estate action meeting, to discuss the issues highlighted on the walkabout and create a plan of action on what the main focuses should be for the area.

The Tenants and Residents Association will be working together with the Tenant Participation Team to create a newsletter, that will go out to all Residents in the area, with information on the improvements, along with useful information.

Highlands and Islands Tenants and Residents meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Kirkcaldy Free Church, St Clair Street, Kirkcaldy at 6.30pm. The TRA would welcome new members from Orkney, Shetland, Sutherland, and Caithness Place.



Forth Gardens (garage site), Oakley

This article highlights the positive improvements that can be made within housing estates – where there is engagement from residents & good working relations between Council departments to achieve neighbourhood projects.

The Forth Gardens (garage site) walkabout took place in September 2022 & this has been a long process which involved a variety of services & work, to complete each of the tasks identified by residents during the meeting.

Residents, Councillors, Transportation & Housing Services met at the garage site to discuss improvements – as the site had been neglected for several years & very little garages were being used in this site. Parking was highlighted as an issue during the walkabout – due to the number of vehicles within the street; so, it was felt that this site would

work well as a small car park, to enable residents safe off-street parking spaces. This was also important to help free up space on the Forth Gardens narrow road to keep the road clear for pedestrian safety & emergency vehicle access.

Transportation liaised with Housing to achieve a proposal & designed the site to maximise vehicle spaces (14 in total). One garage was re-sited within the garage area, another garage demolished & this enabled the garage area to be fully opened up. Groundworks & drainage were completed, installation of appropriate fencing & street lighting columns & tarmac of the entire site. This enabled designated parking bays to be marked & the site work was completed in July 2023. Funding was provided via the Fife Council Opportunity Fund – money that is earmarked for neighbourhood improvements.



Residents were then able to use the site for vehicles, however the front boundary wall at the site required work to minimise water ingress & brick erosion. This work has just been completed & further compliments the site.

Following on from the walkabout – thanks must be given to several Fife Council departments; the Rapid Response Team (within Grounds Maintenance), Tree Team, Environmental Services & Transportation. All services worked in conjunction with Housing Services to transform the site & improve the area.

Thanks, must also be given to everyone who attended the walkabout (residents, Councillors, Transportation Services) & who provided input & suggestions. This proved instrumental in achieving the changes & I would also like to convey my thanks to those individuals who continued to engage,

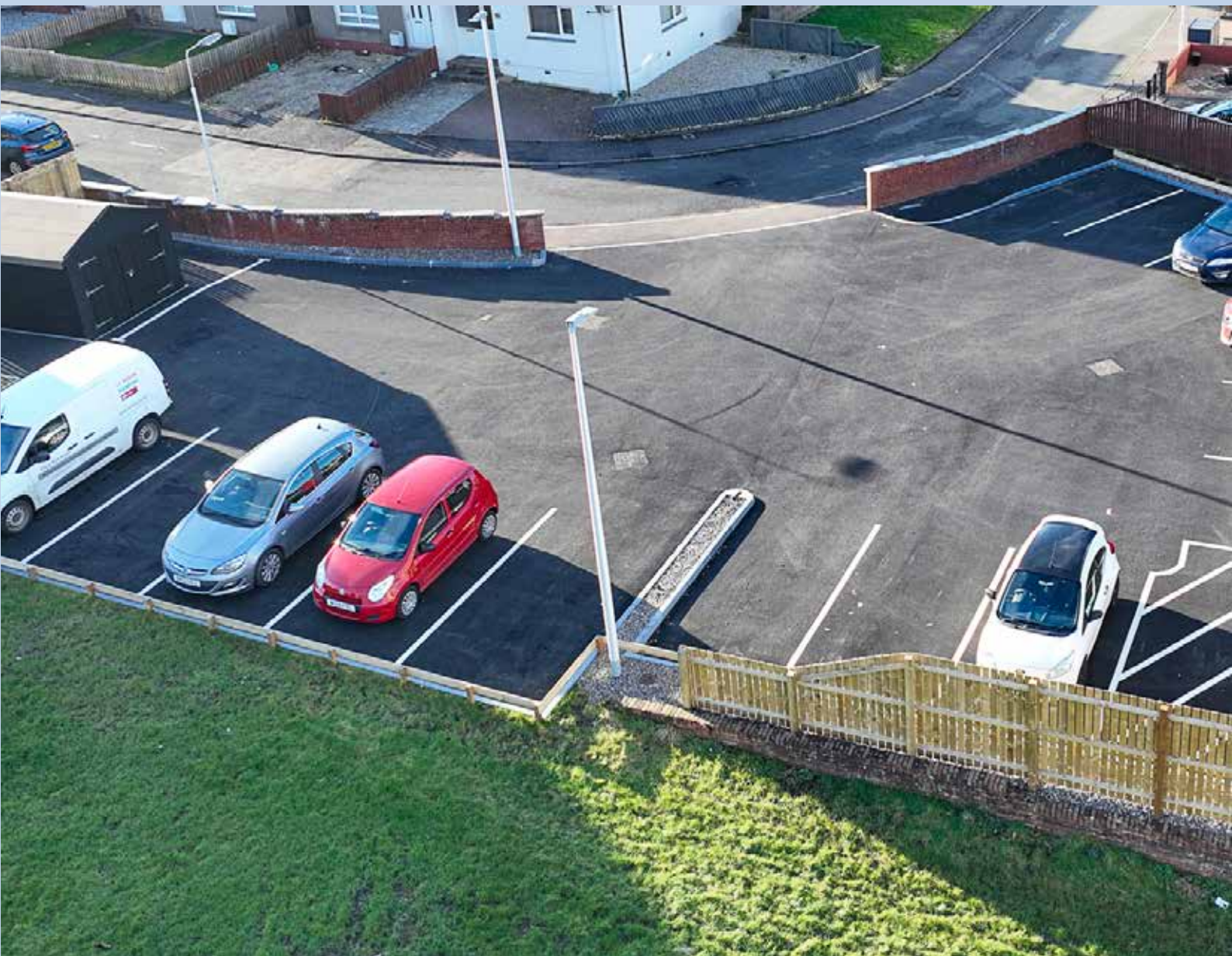
show an interest in developments & attended the drop-in session, to see the proposed works, prior to site works beginning.

A final thank you, to Transportation, who worked closely alongside the Housing Officer at all times & were helpful & came up with solutions to work around all aspects of delivering the ultimate result.

Feedback has been positive from residents & I hope that this site continues to be well used & alleviate some of the parking issues. I am often in the area & request that residents speak to me or make contact if there are any problems.

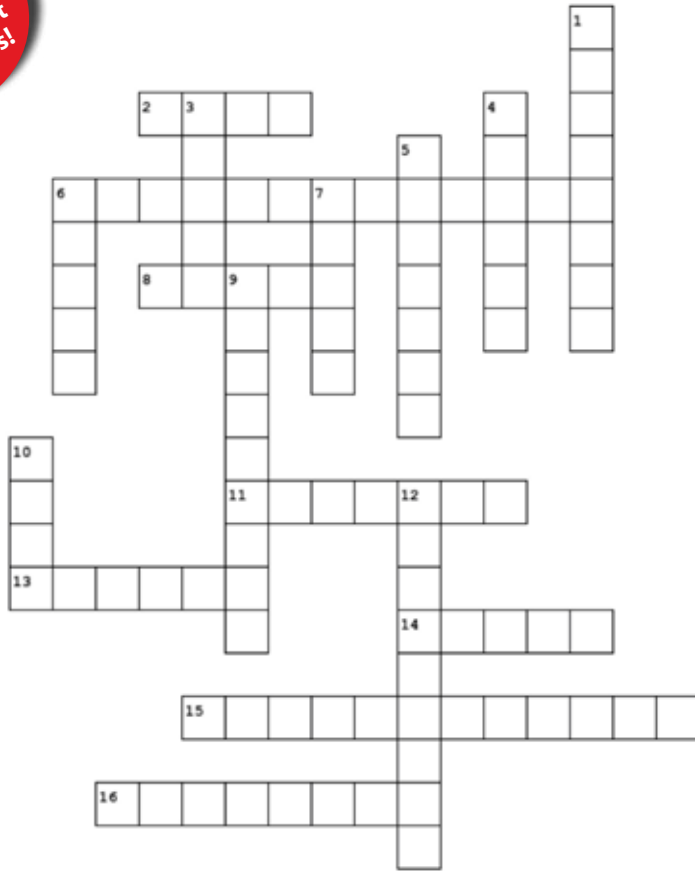
Pauline Purves

Housing Management Officer
T: 07506751006
E: pauline.purves@fife.gov.uk



Win £30 of high street vouchers!

Springtime Crossword



Win £30 of high street vouchers!



Where's Millie?
Tell us where Millie and her friends are this issue.

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 24th May 2024.**

Across

- 2. A white fluffy baby animal (4)
- 6. A Japanese tree that flowers in springtime (13)
- 8. The opposite of dirty (5)
- 11. A children's TV show in the 1970's (7)
- 13. What is Tigger's tail (5)
- 14. Holland's national flower (5)
- 15. A hat worn at springtime (12)
- 16. The Welsh national flower (8)

Down

- 1. What were Alvin, Simon and Theodore (8)
- 3. The first alphabetical month of the year (5)
- 4. A woven carrier (6)
- 5. British word for vacation (7)
- 6. A baby bird (5)
- 7. Slang name for Rabbit (5)
- 9. Chocolate treat during springtime (9)
- 10. Poached, Fried or Scrambled (4)
- 12. A Colourful winged insect (9)

Previous Competition Winners

Colouring in - **Brodie Gemmell, Cowdenbeath**

Word Search - **Daniel Eaton, Kirkcaldy**

Where's Millie?

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____



Tenant Participation News Bulletin

New TRAs

Do you want to make a difference to your community? If so, here's how you can!

By having a Tenants and Residents Association, it can give your community an opportunity to participate in matters that affect you and the community.

As you are aware we have recently created a new Tenants Association in the Levenmouth area and we, as the Tenant Participation team, are keen to keep on creating and support the Tenants and Residents Associations within Fife. If you or someone you know would like to be involved in a TRA then please do not hesitate to get in touch. Our contact details are provided below, with what areas we cover as a team. Alternatively you can contact tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk and one of the team will pick up your enquiry.

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

Glenrothes and Levenmouth - Ross Cameron – 07525 402597 or ross.cameron-hsng@fife.gov.uk

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath – Julie McDougall – 07718 422471 or Julie.mcdougall@fife.gov.uk

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

Gary's gang

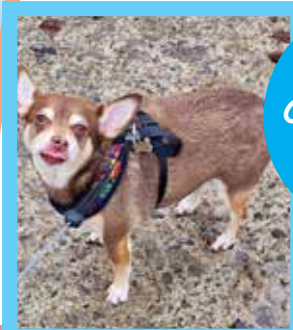
I'm Gary look at all my new furriends!



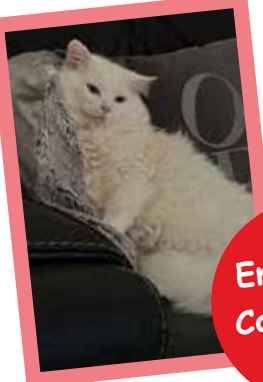
Charlie from Glenrothes

Colin the alpaca

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



Cheeky Cody



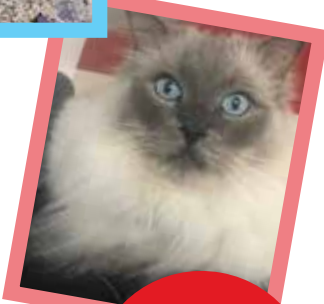
Emo from Cardenden



Dave and Gary



Frankie from Cupar



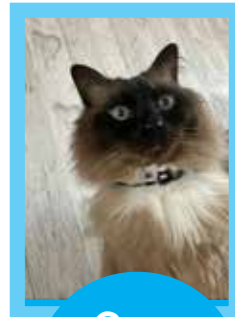
Gizzy from Cardenden



Honey the hamster



Shadow, Archie, Millie and Angel



Oscar from Cardenden



Pheobe, Archie, Millie and Angel



Star from Windygates



Maisie and marmaduke from Cowdenbeath

Mrs Doyle's **KITCHEN**

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



Simple Chicken Fried Rice

You will need:

- 3 chicken breasts
- Spring onions
- Peas (frozen or tinned)
- Soy sauce (4 tablespoons)
- Vegetable oil (1 tablespoon)
- Rice 600g
- 1 egg (optional)

Lets make:

Heat the vegetable oil in a pan.
Add the rice to a pot of boiling water and simmer for approx. 15-20 mins, then drain.
Dice the chicken breast, add to the pan then cook on a slow heat until browned.
Add in the rice, chopped spring onion, peas & soy sauce to the pan.
Add in the whisked egg if desired and mix until scrambled.

Stir & serve.



Easter biscuits

You will need:

- 300g plain flour
- 200g butter
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 100g icing sugar
- Cake decorations or sprinkles

Let's make:

Pre-heat oven to 160 degrees Celsius or 140 degrees fan assisted oven.
Use a wooden spoon or a mixer to mix the butter and sugar together until it of a creamy texture.
Add in the vanilla extract and the flour mixing together until a dough forms.
Form the dough into a ball, seal in a bag and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes until the dough is firm.
Remove the dough from the fridge and roll out until it is approx. 5mm thick.
Use a cookie cutter to cut out your biscuit shapes then place onto greaseproof paper.
Place the shapes onto a baking tray and cook in the middle shelf of the oven for approximately 10-12 minutes until lightly brown.
Remove the baking tray from the oven and allow biscuits to cool.

To Decorate:

Sieve 100g of icing sugar with a couple of teaspoons of water and mix until it reaches the correct consistency.
Drizzle icing over the biscuits and decorate with sprinkle or other edible decorations.

Leave to set then enjoy.

Fife Council Jobs

If you're looking for a job and would like help with our application process, why not make an appointment at one of our Community Job Clubs. Our job clubs provide a space where people can get access to a computer to carry out job searches and apply for jobs.

Staff are on hand to offer advice on most aspects of searching and applying for work. You can drop in to one of the sessions or contact the team to make an appointment. Go to [Community Job Clubs | Fife Council](#) for the Job Club timetable.

At the Council, we have lots of entry level jobs - qualifications are not always required. Where you do need a qualification for a vacancy, the advert will tell you if you need it before you can start work. For some vacancies, you can work towards it whilst on the job.

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.

Fife Council Job Fair

We will be holding a job fair on Wednesday 15th May from 10 am to 2 pm at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes. Why not pop along?

You will be able to find out more about our job vacancies, ask questions and get support and advice with our application process.

You can find out more about our wide range of health and employee wellbeing support services that are available to all Fife Council staff to help with our mental, financial, physical and social wellbeing plus learning and development opportunities.

There will be reps available from our Childcare Services/Social Care/Admin/Waste & Street Cleansing, plus Catering, Cleaning & Janitorial Service so that you can 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

