

DOWN YOUR

Street

Tenant
approved

Tenants' Magazine

Allocations
policy
conference
p14

Burst into Spring

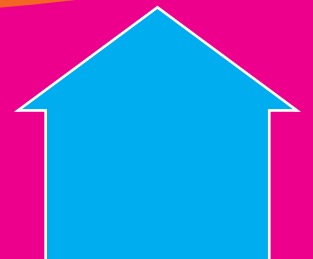
www.fife.gov.uk/housing

 #DYSFife



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Rent increase p4



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|--------------------------------|----------------|
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| After hours and weekend | 03451 55 00 99 |
| Housing Information and advice | 03451 55 00 33 |
| Rent and Arrears | 03451 55 00 44 |
| Automated Payments | 03451 55 00 55 |
| Council Tax & Housing Benefits | 03451 55 11 55 |
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Language lines

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| Urdu | اُردو زبان کے لیے ٹیلیفون نمبر 03451 55 55 66 |

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Get in touch

Edited by: The Tenant Participation Team/
Tenant Editorial Team

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



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



tenantparticipation@fife.gov.uk



Fife Council Tenant Participation



Welcome!

The annual budget to set the council rent increase for 2025/26 at 6% has been agreed by the Council. This decision allows the Council to balance the Housing Revenue Account and ensure we can continue to deliver much needed housing services during this Housing Emergency.

I know that the decision to increase rents will be difficult for some tenants to afford, particularly tenants not supported by Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. It is just one of your household bills which need to be managed. We are here to help if you are struggling with your rent. Please contact your local Housing Management Officer for advice.

Storm Eowyn is now a memory for us, but its impact will be felt for some time to come in terms of damaged roofs and fencing. We are working hard to make good this damage but please bear with us as we seek to carry out this additional work.

Looking forward, the Housing Emergency still dominates the Council's housing work and we are trying our hardest to make every new house, bought house and empty house available as quickly as possible to help tenants and housing applicants meet their housing needs. You will be hearing much more about how the Council and partners are meeting the Housing Emergency in local news and media outlets.

John

John Mills

Head of Housing Services



Hello again!

As John says, we have had a lot of engagement with each other in the latter part of the year, through the Tenants' Conference; the Rent consultation – and more recently, FFOTRA held a conference about Housing Allocations.

All of these opportunities are for all tenants – and YOU are invited to join in!

I thank those of you who did respond to these events. I'm a big believer in tenant participation – you having your say – and the Council listening and working with you.

The rent consultation once a year, should not be the end of the conversation.

When tenants have a voice, things can get done in a way that works for them. I want you to continue

to raise concerns, to share experiences and to help shape the policies, making them fair and practical.

When you join in, you make us accountable and transparent. We can't just tick boxes. We want you to feel heard and involved. Please stay involved through TRAs; and your Housing Officers. Let's work together to make lasting and positive change for your homes and communities.

Judy

Cllr Judy Hamilton

Convener of the Community and Housing Services



Rent increase from April 2025

Fife Council has agreed a rent increase of 6% for council houses. This increase will apply from 7 April 2025, adding £5.19 a week to the average rent cost.

The same increase will apply to service charges, garages, lockups, and temporary accommodation.

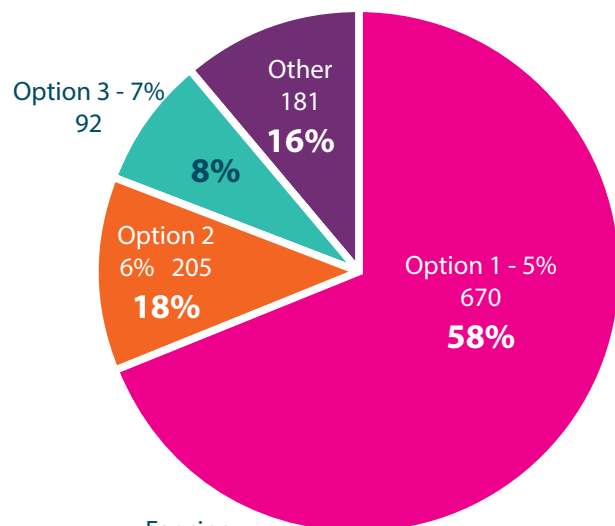
We appreciate that any increase in the current financial climate is a difficult one, but it is essential to support Fife’s under-pressure housing services.

This increase allows us to continue to deliver services to tenants and maintains our commitment to make home improvements, build new council houses and create more energy efficient housing. You told us these are your top three priorities for investment and a 6% increase is necessary to maintain stability and sustain investment.

It means Fife Council’s average weekly rent will be £91.72. Our rent levels remain below the local authority average, below housing association rents, and significantly below private market rents.

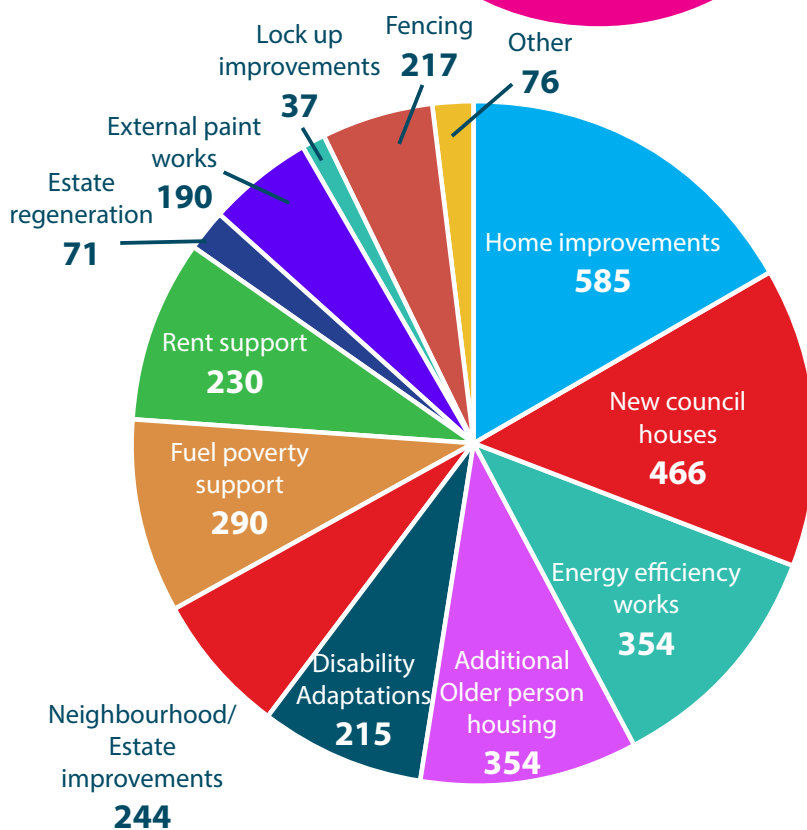
2024/25 Annual Rent Survey Responses

1,148 tenants responded to our Rent Increase Survey within our December newsletter – thank you to all who took the time to vote.



Tenants’ top priorities for investment:

1. Home Improvements
2. New Council Houses
3. Home Energy Efficiency
4. Older Person Housing



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



Aged to perfection

'Aged to Perfection' is the new Tenants Association which has just been formed at the Retirement Housing Complex in Oakley, Fife.

The Tenants Association will meet the Third Wednesday of every month, at 11am in The Hub at 14 School Grove, Oakley.

Tenants had their first official meeting with Tenant Participation Officer Rab Clark, on Wednesday 19th February in which they excitedly signed their constitution, discussed ideas for fundraising and concerns within their local area and what can be done to improve them.

The Tenants Association requested a walkabout in their local area sometime soon, with their Housing Management Officer, Elected Members and other Services and departments, so Fife Council can listen to ideas and concerns from residents on what can be done to improve the area for everyone.

Some of the tenants feel this is a great opportunity for them to play their part in helping with any community issues whilst also encouraging them to socialise by attending meetings.

Since the formation of the Tenants Association,

tenants have attended the Sheltered Housing Forum at the Rothies Halls in Glenrothes and the Allocations Conference at St Bryce Kirk in Kirkcaldy, to influence the way Fife Council deliver Services for the Tenants.

I joined the Tenants Association to have my voice heard and to improve the local area and environment – John Proudfoot - Chair

If you want to find out more about how to get involved and have your say in your community, please contact your Tenant Participation Officer for your area:-

Dunfermline and South West Fife

Rab Clark email Rab.Clark@fife.gov.uk or telephone 07525 392637

Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy

Julie McDougall email Julie.McDougall@fife.gov.uk or telephone 07718 422471

Glenrothes, Levenmouth and North East Fife

Ross Cameron email Ross.Cameron-hsng@fife.gov.uk or telephone 07525 402597





Ian Bushnel

Ian Bushnel had been the Chair of the Invertiel Tenants and Residents Association for 9 years, before he stepped down in October 2024. The TRA members wanted to thank Ian for all his hard work and dedication to the Invertiel area and presented Ian with a small gift at the November 2024 TRA meeting, to thank him for his continued commitment to improve the area and show Ian their appreciation.

As Chairperson there were times Ian went above and beyond for the area and he will be sorely missed as Chairperson by the rest of the committee, Fife Council staff and Invertiel TRA members.

Although Ian has stepped down as Chairperson, he will still be attending the TRA meetings to show his support to the TRA and to continue to work towards improving the Invertiel area for everyone. Thank you, Ian.

Please note this was before the Invertiel and New Linktown merged and became Links and Invertiel Tenants and Residents Association.

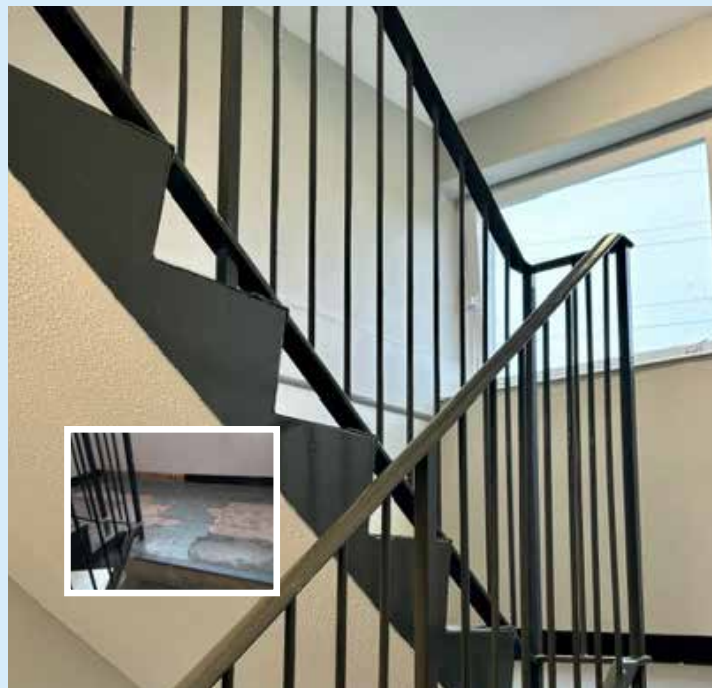


Abel Place, Dunfermline has enjoyed a makeover

On routine visits Housing Management Officer Jackie McGowan identified that the blocks were in need of a freshen up

Jackie obtained costs for internal painting and new communal flooring. This was approved for the area budget and then prioritised which blocks would be completed first. To date blocks 17 to 31, 33 to 47 and 97 to 111 have all had paint and flooring works completed. Block 113 to 127 has had paint works completed with a view for the flooring to be carried out by summer. We hope to continue the works on the remaining blocks over the next financial year. There is now a vast improvement in the appearance of the internal blocks and we hope that this has made a difference to the residents.

Quote from tenant "It's made a big difference and it's nice to look at now when you come out your flat and back into the block. They've done a great job!"



Empty homes

Do you know that the council have a dedicated Empty Homes Team who work to encourage and support owners of long term empty homes to bring their properties back into use?

Why do we do this? Because:

- there are over 2500 privately owned homes that have been empty for over 6 months in Fife
- bringing these back into use more quickly could relieve pressure on the housing market and help with the current housing emergency

Problems an empty home can cause in your street:

- empty homes can often cause issues for neighbours through disrepair and overgrown gardens
- they can attract antisocial behaviour including fly tipping and vandalism, generally effecting the feel of the surrounding area
- living next door to an unheated long term empty home may result in higher energy costs for neighbours & burst pipes during colder spells

For information on Empty Homes, including how to report a privately owned home that you believe has been empty for longer than 6 months, then go to:

www.fife.gov.uk/emptyhomes



Building Bridges Project:

Supporting Migrants and Refugees

Fife International Forum is a third sector, people led charity committed to supporting migrant and refugee families to access safe and secure housing. We do not provide direct housing accommodation, our team support individuals to navigate the housing system addressing any challenges faced.

Mr T, a migrant who moved to the UK in 2020 he is disabled and relies on a wheelchair. He lived with his wife in a 3rd floor Housing Association property in Fife. Mr T's quality of life was greatly affected due to his inability to leave his property due to a lack of access of a lift for his wheelchair. He suffered isolation issues and a lack of independence as he had to rely on his wife to support him in everyday tasks. He was referred to us for support in seeking a parking space for his mobility scooter. The Housing Association was unable to accommodate this.

Our team successfully supported Mr T to make an application for housing with the necessary adaptations to meet his needs. Mr T moved to a ground floor accommodation with a parking space for his mobility scooter. The outcome for Mr T greatly enhanced his quality of life and independence, now he can leave his home and enjoys the ability to engage more fully in the community.

Understanding language can be a barrier to accessing essential services our team of multilingual staff and volunteers work closely with people to support clear communication and accessible assistance.



Housing Issues? We are here to help

Housing benefits

Rights and responsibilities

Council tax reduction

Homelessness

Discrimination

Illegal eviction

Rent arrears

Support with letters or forms

Income Maximisation

Home energy advice

Storm damage

On the 24th of January Fife was hit by Storm Eowyn, the effects reached across the whole of the UK and was an unprecedented weather event. The fallout from this meant we have several major roof projects and lots of repairs on roofs and fencing.

We received a large volume of repair calls and have work to do to rectify reported issues on the roofs and houses affected by the storm. Our contractors will need time to get through the backlog of work over the next few weeks.

Fencing

If you reported fencing during this time, our team has been assessing and investigating all reports, recently you would have seen some fences completely removed due to safety concerns and some we have managed to repair where possible.

The Area Housing Managers are reviewing full fencing replacement requirements because of storm damage, in addition to new fencing requests in line with budget availability. As budgets are limited and set each financial year it may be that your request is held for a future year when funding becomes available, as outlined in the Fencing Policy agreed at Cabinet Committee in September 2024.





Links and Inveriel Tenants and Residents Association

After several months of discussions and negotiations between the Inveriel TRA and the New Linktown TRA to merge, an Emergency General Meeting was held on 26th February 2025 at 7pm in the Philp Hall. The meeting was well attended by Tenants and Residents from both TRAs.

Supported by the Tenant Participation Team a new committee was elected. The constitution was agreed, printed, adopted and signed by the new Office Bearers.

Everyone is really excited and enthusiastic, to see what can be achieved by working together in partnership between Links and Inveriel TRA and Fife Council.

If you stay in the following streets and want to have your say and support and improve your community please come to the meetings on the last Tuesday of every month (excluding July and December) at 7pm in the Philp Hall, where you will be made most welcome:-

Aitkin Court, Alison Street, Barnet Crescent, Bridge Street, Buchanan Court, Bute Wynd, Heggies Wynd, Hendry's Wynd, Inveriel Bank, Inveriel Road, Inveriel Terrace, Kinninmonth Street, Leslie Street, Links Street, Marion Street, Methven Place, Peebles Street, Pratt Street, Ramsay Road, Saunders Street, Seafield View and Watery Wynd in Kirkcaldy.

Dates of future meetings 29th April 25, 27th May 25, 24th June 25, 26th August 25, 30th September 25, 28th October 25, 25th November 25, 27th January 26, AGM - 24th February 26

Quotes

The areas are next to each other, we have the same issues with drugs and Housing and we will now have 6 Councillors instead of 3, so we should see more improvements. – Shane Halstead – Committee Member

It made sense to merge because we're the same area with the same problems and hopefully now having 6 Councillors we will get things done and get the Housing Management Officers to attend the meetings. – Mark Smith – Treasurer

After a few months of discussions, we have brought our strengths together and with help of Rab Clark and Julie McDougall, (Tenant Participation Officers) keeping us on the right path, paper work wise, we can go forward on a better footing to help our community. The merging of both TRAs, means more bums on seats at the meetings. Links and Inveriel TRA will be a stronger and possibly louder force to be reckoned with and heard by the powers that be. – Maria Syme – Vice Chair



Golfdrum Street TRA



At Golfdrum Street TRA we have a renewed focus on providing events for the community. In March we hosted our first film event and, joyously, it all happened without a hitch, even the technology behaved itself!

It was a successful first event as we navigated risk assessments, licences and all the things that go on behind the scenes! We have a few things to work on such as marketing to increase the numbers but overall it was a really positive start!



Pop the date in your diary for our next family friendly film evening at the Baldrigeburn Centre on 18th April, 6pm. Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with this event and let us know what other community events you would like to see!

Find us on Facebook at 'Golfdrum Street TRA' or send us an email at Golfdrumstreettra@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.



Golfdrum Community Garden

Our Community Garden in Golfdrum Street is a joint venture between Dunfermline North Parish Church and the Golfdrum Street Tenants and Residents Association.

Planning for this 2025 is at an early stage, but as we move towards vegetable planting season in late March / early April February, we have already begun weeding the various planters and vegetable patches getting ready to prepare the plot for the new season.

Last year we had a good crop of potatoes but our attempt to grow carrots was not so successful. We know that our strawberry patch attracted a number of residents in the street during the summer who made good use of our abundant crop and some cooks were glad to use some of our herbs in the meals they prepared for their family. It

was great to see the garden being used – that's why it was created.

The gardening group meets most Saturdays at 10.00am February onwards. We not only do some gardening but we share companionship over tea coffee and biscuits. So the garden is not just about growing plants it's also about growing our community.



Ask the Council

Fife College Students Association and the Fife Council Housing team delivered their 6th annual 'Ask the Council' events at Fife College as part of their Re-Freshers Festival. The events 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 events allowed the teams to engage with over 500 students across Fife and is essential for many of them to gain access to the support and advice they need. The partnership grows annually, and student feedback is always positive regarding the help and support this event provides.

Students enjoyed the variety of stalls which they found interesting and relevant for their campus, commenting that they loved the freebies especially! Students also liked the interactive stalls and games, friendly and engaging staff and stall holders, the positive vibes in the room and the music.

Staff and stall holders praised the engagement from students, having answered lots of questions and shared what they do. Stall holders also commented on the buzz in the event, adding that it was well organised and a great opportunity to network with other college staff and external organisations. Stall holders who attended on multiple campuses said they benefitted from being able to tailor their approach to the different courses and populations on each campus, and some even joked that, "I've come away with more work to do!" after meeting students who will use their service in future.



Allocations Policy Conference

Many thanks to the tenants and residents who attended the Allocations Policy Mini Conference on 26th February. Organised by Iain Ralph and Alice Nicol from FFOTRA, with a bit of help from the Tenant Participation Team, the event attracted 60 interested tenants from across Fife.

The Housing Allocation Policy is always an emotive subject, and with the role of helping the Elected Member Led Task and Finish Group, there was plenty to get through in a morning. In a very interactive morning, the Group considered the current systems and agreed that it is just too complex and applicants need access to a simpler system and high quality housing information and advice.

The Group were challenged with the task of thinking about who should get priority – and who should not – but it is fair to say that will need a bit more consideration. There will be tough choices ahead as the Group think through what Housing Emergency measures could and should be put in place while demand levels are so high and complex.

The Group also considered an alternative way to allocate housing through a 'choice based' approach but it is fair to say that the jury is still out.

The discussion took different directions and touched on tenancy conditions, exit and relet standards etc. and it was an extremely interesting discussion with a lot of thoughts and views left with the teams. Definitely an area for further consultation but should you want to have your say now, please let us know by contacting Housing.Allocations@fife.gov.uk



Conference

"I found the Housing Allocations Conference to be very interesting, it gave us an understanding to how the properties are allocated. It was explained in detail to us and any questions asked were all answered" - Janice McGregor

"It was good to see such a great turnout on the day. The event was well organised, and the content was both informative and engaging" - Alice Nicol





Sea Road South TRA Walkabout

Sea Road South TRA held their first tenant led walkabout in February to try and make some positive changes for their community. The TRA have been raising concerns at their monthly TRA meetings regarding several issues in the area. The walkabout was really well attended from tenants and residents of Turner Crescent, Sea Road, Memorial Road and Keir Hardie Street. The TRA have been working closely with several Services to make positive changes in their area. On the day there was representation from Levenmouth Housing team, FFOTRA (Fife Federation of Tenants and Resident Association), Environmental Services, Safer Communities, Local Councillors and CLEAR (Community-Led Environmental Action for Regeneration)

The walkabout lasted around an hour and a half, with a lot of good contribution was made to the discussion. This was all then collated and added to an estate action plan for the area. This Action plan will now be brought to monthly meetings where the tenants can now have a clear picture of what has been done to improve their community!

The TRA are delighted with the recent outcomes they are starting to see. As you can see from the before and after photos, there has already been progress to improve the cleanliness of the area. Sea Road South TRA would like to thank Environmental Services for their quick response and are delighted that a positive change has been made. The TRA will continue to pursue the other items raised on the walkabout and all of the services will continue to support the TRA moving forward.

The TRA along with help from the Tenant Participation Team and FFOTRA have created an action plan which will be visited at monthly meetings to show the progress of the walkabout. So far, it's been a really good start, but the TRA know there is still some way to go to get all of their issues resolved and are committed to working together to achieve this.

Well done Sea Road South TRA, let's keep this going!



"I feel a real pride in being part of the TRA and making a difference to our community. I have pleasure in opening my curtains in the morning and seeing the place so tidy. We still have a long way to go but it's a fantastic start to improving our area."
- Irene Guild, Secretary of Sea Road South TRA.

"This is the best the scheme has looked in over 60 years!" - Amy Matthewson, Longest resident of Turner Crescent and Board Member of Sea Road South TRA.



after



Fire safety

We want everyone in Fife to be safe in their home. Every year in the UK more than 6,000 people die in accidents in the home and 2.7 million turn up at accident and emergency departments seeking treatment.

Every hour of every day there's a house fire in Scotland. During 2024 in Fife there were around 40 fires in people's homes caused by the incorrect use of electrical equipment or faults with electrical equipment including heaters, an iron, a battery charger, microwave oven, washing machines, dishwashers and at least 6 incidents involving tumble driers.

Everybody's home is at risk of fire. It's important to know how to reduce the chances of fire happening in your home and, if it does, how to protect yourself. Here are some hints and tips on how to stay safe:-

Smoking safety

- Smoke outside and always make sure cigarettes are put right out.
- Never smoke in bed or anywhere you could fall asleep.
- Do not leave any type of lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Use proper ashtrays and never throw hot ash into the bin.
- Keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of children

Electrical safety

- Never overload electrical sockets.
- If you have to use a fused in-line adaptor – know the limits.
- Don't leave items on continuous charge.
- Turn all other electrical items off when they are not in use.

Electric Blankets

- Check the blanket, plug and flex for damage
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Never leave an electric blanket switched on when you're in bed unless it's marked 'suitable for all night use'.
- Never use a damaged or defective electric blanket.
- Never fold, but roll a blanket when storing

Appliances in the home

- plug straight into a wall socket and avoid using adaptors
- clean the filter in tumble driers after each use
- Keep heaters well away from anything that can catch alight and never use them to dry clothes.
- Only leave essential appliances switched on such as the fridge or freezer.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service carry out free Home Fire Safety Visits for those most at risk. They will take you through a questionnaire and then discuss a fire escape plan. They can provide information about smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms. To find out whether you are eligible for a Home Fire Safety Visit, go to www.firescotland.gov.uk or, if you do not have internet access, call 0800 0731999.

REMEMBER: GET OUT, STAY OUT & DIAL 999

Fact.

Some of the **most common** causes of **fires** in the **home** are the misuse of electrical equipment, faulty leads and appliances.





Broomside Tenants Association

Kirkcaldy area have welcomed another new Tenants Association with the setup of Broomside Tenants Association.

The Tenants of Broomside have come together and set up their association to tackle issues in and surrounding their area, hoping to achieve improvements for everyone.

The group have had their first few meetings and have already started to see results from working alongside their Housing Management Officer, Tenant Participation Officer, Safer Community Team, Fife Federation of Tenants and Residents Association and other services to tackle important issues and help make improvements for residents.

The group meet on the last Tuesday of every month in the retirement lounge of Broomside at 3.30pm. If you live within the retirement properties and would like to be involved, we would love to see you there.

If you require any further information, or would like details about setting up a Tenants and Residents Association in your area please contact the tenant participation team at TenantParticipation@fife.gov.uk

Contact us here



IMPORTANT NOTICE: RADIO TELESWITCH SERVICE SWITCH OFF

We are reaching out to inform you of an important change regarding your electricity meter. As part of a nationwide update, radio switch electric meters will be deactivated from June 2025. This change may affect how your electricity is supplied and billed, so it is crucial to take action if necessary.

What This Means for You:

- If you currently have a radio switch electric meter, it will no longer function after the switch-off date.
- This could disrupt your electricity supply if you rely on off-peak tariffs, such as Economy 7 or Economy 10.
- You may need to arrange for a meter upgrade to ensure continued service.

How to identify if you have a Radio Teleswitch:

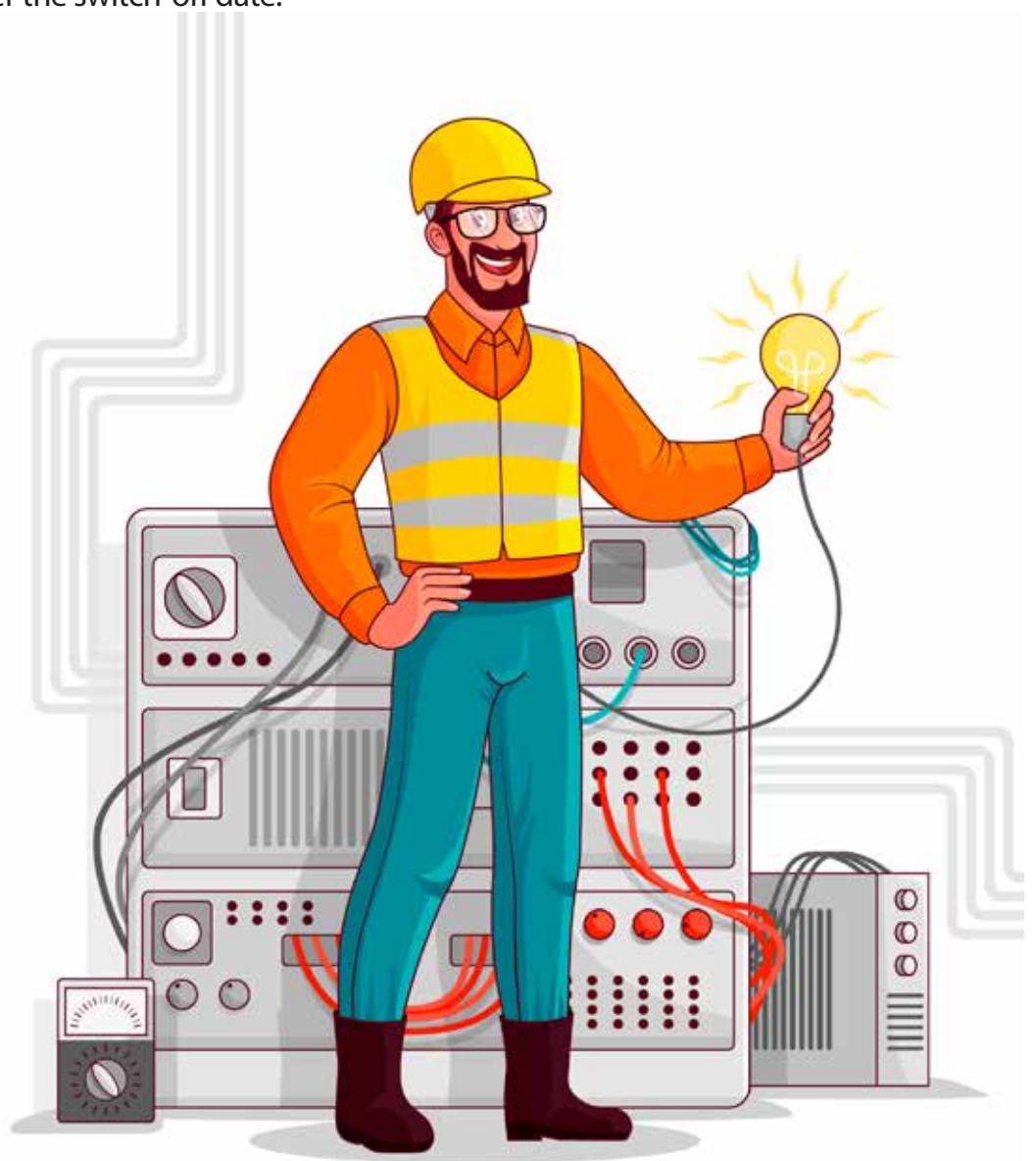
- There may be a separate teleswitch box near your meter with a "radio teleswitch" or "telemeter" label on it
- Your home has or has in the past had electric storage heating
- You have cheaper energy at different times of the day

Need Assistance?

If you have any concerns or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact your electricity provider.

If you have one of these meters you should have been contacted by your electric supplier by letter or by email.

For further information our Fuel Poverty Team can be contacted via email on fuel.poverty@



Things to do in Fife

In 1947 Fife Council bought Mount Melville House and approximately 45 acres of parkland for the sum of £25,000. It is situated about 2.5 miles to the west of St. Andrews town centre. The house became known as Craigtoun Maternity Home and at one point a registrar's office was available there for fathers to register their children's birth whilst visiting their wives.

The park is run on a day - to - day basis by a team of volunteers known as the Friends of Craigtoun who do a lot of fundraising for the park.

Some of the much-loved activities include the Boating Lake; Crazy Golf; and "Puffin Billy" will take you round the Park. There is a large adventure playground maintained by Fife Council.

The "Sunshine Kitchen" is staffed by volunteers and offers lovely freshly cooked food and is dog friendly. There is a garden produce section and greenhouse based in the Park and the cafe make it's soups from the seasonal vegetables and herbs grown there. The cafe is a catering project for young adults with additional needs.

Some of the Park's activities are free of charge and some have a small fee. There is a large car park. Toilets. And is

dog friendly.

Craigtoun Caravan Park is nearby with lots of lovely walks.

The "Dutch Village" is in the process of being restored and brought up to scratch by Fife Council It formerly boasted a tea- room and it is hoped to re-introduce this in the future.

You never know - it would make a fabulous wedding venue too!!!

There is also a miniature railway, bouncy castle, go kart track, putting, nature trail, Italian gardens and greenhouses and is home to a variety of wildlife.

There is a 5k park run on Saturday mornings around the park.

At the time of writing the boating lake has been drained to allow for the work at the Dutch Village to be carried out safely but it should be back to normal soon.

For a complete list of special additional attractions this year go to

enquiries@friendsofcraigtoun.org.uk

tel 01334 472013"



Marestail/Horsetail

(*Equisetum Arvense*)

If you find this type of weed in your garden this information sheet provides some suggestions of what you can do to help to get rid of it.

Marestail tends to thrive between Spring and late summer.

While the presence of Marestail in your garden can be unsightly, it does not pose any health or safety risk to you. The main problem with this weed is the root spread under the ground which can reach up to 2 metres.



As a Fife council tenant you are responsible for the maintenance of any garden area that forms part of your rented property.

This includes grass cutting, weeding and general garden maintenance.

For more information about your responsibilities and rights as a tenant go to www.fife.gov.uk/housing

Remove stems

Stems should be removed in June by pulling out from below the surface of the soil. This should then followed up by a second weeding session later in the Summer to remove any growth.

Smother it

Cover the area of ground to block the sunlight to reduce growth. This could be done with bark or wood chips for example.

Regularly cut your grass

If it is growing within grassed areas then this should be cut as normal with a lawnmower and cuttings removed to prevent further spread. Mowing regularly will weaken the weed and eventually eliminate it.

Use weedkiller

For driveways, patios or chipped areas, Use of a weedkiller product may help to limit the spread of Mares/Horse tail. Please use the product as directed by the manufacturer's instructions.

Don't disturb the soil

It is not recommended to disturb the soil by digging or rotavating where it grows.

Don't Home Compost it

This will allow it to spread. Instead dispose of it in your brown recycling bin.

All of the above suggestions will require ongoing maintenance during the growing season each year to have any kind of impact.



March / April is a good time to sow seeds - some outdoors and some to be sown indoors, until there is no longer any threat of frost.

Tomatoes and chillies should be sown quite early in the year. Beetroot and salad plants can be sown quite early but keep sowing them every few weeks to ensure a good and prolonged harvest.

Vegetables to grow in March include broad beans, Swiss chard - the larger leaves can be steamed like spinach.

Chillies - best on a sunny windowsill or in a greenhouse.

Chives. Kale. Peas.

Potatoes - in the ground or in pots.

Sweet peppers.

Tomatoes - cherry tomatoes are brilliant in pots or hanging baskets.

Beetroot and various salad leaves.

FLOWERS - Sweet peas. Wildflower mix. Dahlias and Lupins.

There are lots of fascinating seed catalogues to browse through or starter plants to buy at garden centres etc.

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



PASTA WITH PESTO.

This is very quick to prepare using a readymade pesto; but if you have a food processor it is easily whizzed up. The recipe serves two people.

8oz / 225gm pasta.
 2oz / 50gm basil
 1oz / 25gm freshly grated Parmesan cheese.
 10z / 25 gm pine nuts (optional)
 4tbls olive oil.
 a little salt and freshly ground pepper..
 grated Parmesan cheese to serve.

Fill a saucepan with 3.1/2 pints / 2ltr water and bring to the boil. Add pasta and let it simmer for about 8 mins until "al dente".

Wash the basil and remove any long stems. Put in processor with the cheese, pine nuts and olive oil and whizz together.

Drain the pasta. Return it to the pan and mix in pesto. Serve with the extra Parmesan if required.

You could also add some roast chicken or mushrooms if you want.

This tasty recipe was sent in by Lynette from North East Fife.



Follow us here



We've had a very busy time these past few months with the Tenant





Gary's gang

I'm Gary look at all my new furriends!

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



Gracie

King Silva of Crail with new addition baby Creed



Oscar

Snoop



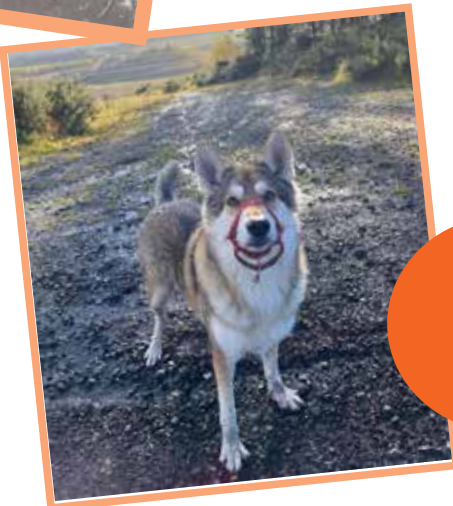
Abbey



Rory, Archie, Millie and Angel



Shiloh



Oscar



Springtime Crossword 2025



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

Across

- 3. A flying insect which can also be a swimming stroke.
- 4. If you were happy some would say you would have a what in your step?
- 9. Popular 80's hit "Walking on"
- 11. National Flower of Wales

Down

- 1. The term for the process of how plants grows?
- 2. Bee's carry this on their legs?
- 5. Translate "Vert" from French to English.
- 6. These fall from trees in Autumn and bloom in the spring?
- 7. The famous children's story of the Ugly, What?
- 8. Birds make these to lay their eggs.
- 10. Mary had a little, what?

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

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

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

Previous Competition Winners

Crossword - **Emily Suttie aged 8** – Glenrothes

Where's Sandy? - **Sheila Grice** – Kirkcaldy



Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____

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 Home | Fife Council 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.

You can view current vacancies and sign up for job alerts at www.fife.gov.uk/jobs. Our website has lots of advice to help you apply. Go to www.fife.gov.uk/jobs/howtoapply and look for the application form

and supporting statement helpful guides. There's also information on what to expect at interview.

We will also be attending a number of DWP job fairs over the coming months so why not pop along?

Leven
Leven Job Centre
2/04/2025 10 am-12 noon

Kirkcaldy
Adam Smith Theatre
21/05/2025 10am- 1.30pm

Cowdenbeath
The Maxwell Centre
11/06/2025
12.15-4.15pm

For further events please contact your local DWP branch.

Remember that you can also follow us on Facebook @FifeCouncilJobs

