



issue three

federation news&views

the newsletter of the north lanarkshire federation

Free computers for all member organisations!

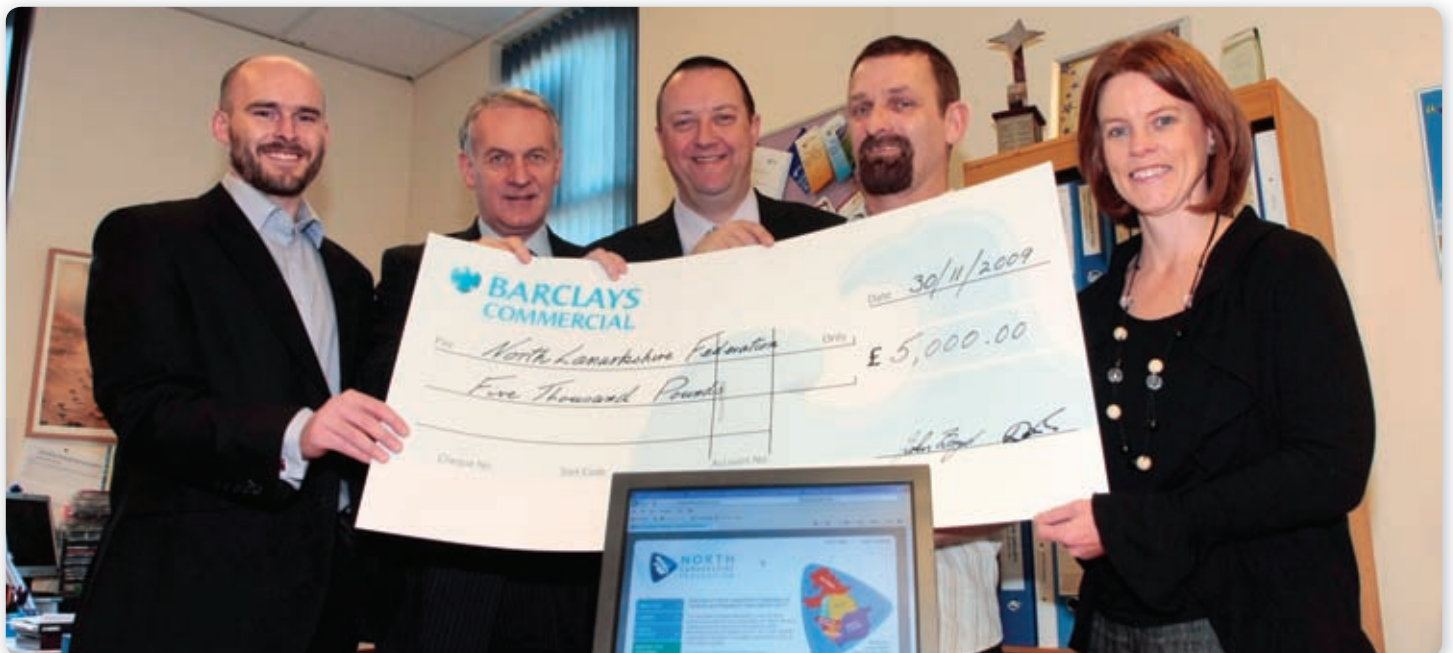
We are incredibly proud to announce a fantastic new support for our members – FREE COMPUTERS. Yes, the North Lanarkshire Federation has been working hard to develop this project in partnership with LAMH Recycle Ltd, MPC, Saltire & North Lanarkshire Council. With funding from MPC and Saltire, and training/advertising from North Lanarkshire Council, the Federation are now able to provide all their member organisations with:

- A free computer
- Free software, including virus software
- Free computer training- from introductory training to advanced
- Free computer maintenance & repairs for a year

Using computers is now considered an essential skill and the Federation are proud to announce such a key support to their members. The computers will assist local tenant and resident organisations operate more effectively. Whether it's writing minutes, managing accounts, using email, researching the internet or developing publicity materials, tenant groups can achieve far more by being IT literate.

This fantastic computer project shows that partnership working can deliver real results for tenants in North Lanarkshire.

If you are interested in getting a computer for your tenant group, you should be a member of the Federation. Membership is free of charge and is simple to do. Please phone 01236 435 844 for more details.





Consultation Corner Update

New Year- New Constitution.

The North Lanarkshire Federation has managed to successfully review its constitution. The main changes in the constitution are:

- **It's far easier to read and use.** We've taken out a lot of the bumf. The old constitution was a dense thirteen pages. The amended one is an easy to read nine pages.
- **More notice of AGM.** Our AGM will now be advertised 56 days in advance. This gives members more opportunities to make nominations and submit the paperwork for the AGM.
- **Improved voting and election process.** The election process is no longer so cumbersome. We've improved the voting system so all members get one vote. Previously every group had to have two people attend to get their full allocation of votes. We've protected the safeguards for each individual area when electing people on the committee but made it easier for people to get involved. The Federation has always been running without a full committee. It is hoped this changes could help get more people involved.

The fantastic new constitution has been brought about by the hard work of the constitution sub-group. Thanks must go to Jim Leonard, Jim Milligan, Gordon Encinias, Gwen McMullen, Maureen Duggan, Robert Arthur, Peter Winnie and John Colquhoun for their hard work in reviewing the Federation's constitution. Facilitated by Sharon Donohoe from the Tenants Information Service and supported by Phil Arnold, the subgroup met over many weeks to devise a number of recommendations. The recommendations were sent out to all tenant groups. On 6th February 2010, over 50 people met up in the Moorings Hotel to discuss the constitution and vote the new constitution in. The committee will now use the new constitution to manage the affairs of the Federation.

The new constitution is on line at www.northlanarkshirefederation.org.uk

Fantastic funding for tenant groups – assisting tenant groups to get the funding they need

Thanks go to all the tenant groups who assisted the Federation to successfully review the Housing Services' grant of £400 per year per tenants group. By completing a questionnaire, coming to a workshop or attending a Food for Thought session, many groups had their say about the current support package given to tenant groups. The Federation then developed a series of recommendations that are designed to make the application process easier. These recommendations have largely been agreed by the council and will be implemented shortly.

The main changes will be as follows:

- Groups will now only need to apply every six months for their first year and thereafter will be entitled to apply once a year. Previously groups needed to apply every 6 months for the first two years.
- Phone calls will no longer need itemised phone bills. There will be £50 a year float for groups to contribute towards these costs
- There will be no need for groups to send in their constitution on every application, just when it changes - just tick the box to show it hasn't changed
- A new standard will be developed- All grants will be in the group's bank account within 28 days of applying (if the group has submitted the right paperwork)
- There is a new easier to use application form for all grants

In addition the Federation has recommended that:

- A new pot of cash is developed for groups to bid into. Many groups are restricted by the £400 annual funding. Discussions are underway regarding establishing an additional pot of money for topping up the £400 grant. More details to follow shortly.
- There is better publicity about Community Grants. Every councillor in North Lanarkshire has £4,000 per year that tenant groups can apply for (see separate article).

Superior support structures for tenant groups – the next era

Tenant groups in North Lanarkshire will shortly receive a far superior level of support. This has been achieved by a number of excellent projects running in parallel that are all coming to a close. These projects include:

1. Procurement for the Tenants & Residents Participation Project.

With support of the Federation, North Lanarkshire Council has awarded the Tenants Information Service a new three year contract to support tenant organisations in North Lanarkshire. It will shortly be confirmed whether there will be an increase in the outreach and administration support available. Outreach support has already been increased to full time between January and March. This allows some intensive work with struggling groups out there.

2. Supporting the start up of new groups

Groups can only access funds once they are constituted have an elected committee and have a bank account. However getting to this stage can take up to 6 months. During this time volunteers sometimes end up paying for odd bits and pieces out of their own pocket such as travel costs, refreshments, printing, publicity and sometimes even hall hire. This will shortly stop once and for all. Discussions are underway to develop a start up budget that will cover all these costs and ensure volunteers only need to give up their time not their money as well when forming tenant groups.

3. M.O.T.s for tenant groups!

Sometimes people move on and committees stop meeting. Sometimes tenant groups can disappear along the wayside without anyone realising they are even struggling. We know that there are 66 tenant groups in North Lanarkshire. We don't know whether those groups could benefit from some extra support.

With work from the Tenants & Residents Support Project a new system of M.O.T.s for tenant groups has been developed. Once a year a survey will be sent out to groups asking about any information and training they could benefit from. This information will then be used to plan a strategic system of support for tenant groups. The form will also provide groups with contact details for key organisations that provide can support and information on what services they can get from them. If a group fails to return the form, it could be a sign that the group is struggling. So if a group does not complete the form, a Housing Officer will arrange to help them complete the form, check they are getting on ok or arrange for outreach support to assist them get back on track again.

4. Free computers for all tenant groups!

See the article on the front page for more details.

Together between these four projects the North Lanarkshire Federation and the Tenants & Residents Participation Project has ensured tenant groups get an improved much better support for the years to come. Together with the work of developing the grant system for tenant groups (see article above), we believe a huge number of achievements have been made this year supporting groups. Hopefully this new system of support will greatly benefit the tenant movement in North Lanarkshire and see it become even better and stronger.

Website review - Stats on using Website

We are all greatly encouraged by the success of our website. In the first full year of its operation (2008) the site received around 32,000 hits. In 2009 we are pleased to announce that the site has had over 44,000 hits (or over 100 hits a day). The site has proved to be a fantastic way of communicating with the public and interested tenants and residents. The statistics demonstrate that the website is an effective way of getting information out to people interested in the tenants' movement in North Lanarkshire. We have recently reviewed the site and found a number of ways to make improvements and will be working on these.

Estate Walkabouts or estate talk-a-bouts?

The Federation has been reviewing the effectiveness of estate walkabouts and developed a series of recommendations which have been submitted to North Lanarkshire Council.

The council warmly invited the Federation to present their research findings at a senior management meeting and have actively adopted the Federation's recommendations. Since then there has been active discussions about ways to improve the walkabouts. The Federation's recommendations included the following:

- Better links between different departments and links to Local Area Partnerships. The Local Area Partnerships have significant funding to spend on locally identified projects. The Federation believes the estate walkabouts could be a fantastic way of identifying projects in local communities.
- Better use of the action plans to monitor local operations including contact details and names of people dealing with jobs
- Better feedback
- Better advertising and publicity especially regarding the successful projects that have taken place through the walkabouts.

It is anticipated that these changes will be implemented shortly. If you have any feedback about the estate walkabouts we would be pleased to hear from you.

COSLA Award Ceremony

At this year's Performance Report the Leader of the Council proudly awarded The North Lanarkshire Federation the COSLA Bronze Award for Community Planning and Local Democracy 2009. The award goes to show that the North Lanarkshire Federation is having a significant impact nationally as well as a strong impact within North Lanarkshire.

COSLA stands for the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. It brings together all the Leaders of all the councils in Scotland, and is the national voice for local government in Scotland. To receive an award by this organisation is a fantastic achievement. To receive the award for Local Democracy and Community Planning is an even greater achievement. It assists tenant groups to be increasingly recognised and valued across community planning partnerships in Scotland. It shows that in places such as North Lanarkshire- where people in communities work together for a common goal- we can make even the most senior level of management stand up and listen to what we are saying. An amazing result for the tenants' movement in North Lanarkshire.

Launch of sub-groups- Motherwell Towers, Waste Management, Roads and Street Lighting

The Federation now have three sub-groups up and running – Motherwell Towers, Waste Management and Roads & Street Lighting. These sub-groups push tenant participation into new council services.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these sub-groups please contact us. On 01236 435844.



Valuing the achievements of tenant and resident groups

This year the Federation has focused on assisting local groups recognise their successes. Many member organisations of the Federation are incredibly successful in working locally. They bring about fantastic changes to their communities from improving the community spirit and providing services for young people to tackling important regeneration and environmental improvements or improving repairs and estate management.

Yet occasionally groups can feel that they aren't listened to or they do not achieve anything. In some cases this could be true although more often than not groups struggle to recognise and monitor their achievements. This year the Federation has worked to focus on what local tenant groups are already achieving in North Lanarkshire. We want to do justice for what our members are achieving whether it is recognised by them or not.

This has had two effects-

It motivates the group.

If you are a member of a tenants group that thinks it's not achieving anything, how does that feel? Exciting? Definitely not. Energised? Nope. Now stop to think for a minute. If you are part of a tenants group that KNOWS it is greatly benefiting the lives of people. Your group can show how you've improved services in your area, how you've united people, what changes have happened because of the tenant group. As an individual on the committee you know that you have contributed to those achievements. How does that feel now? Absolutely incredible! This is why people join tenant groups and get involved. Why do you think in 2003 there were 35 tenant groups and today there are 66 groups. BECAUSE THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL!

It helps other groups to learn and develop.

If a group is proud of what it has achieved it can assist other groups that are facing similar challenges. Many groups in North Lanarkshire face the same challenges and yet communication between groups isn't always effective. By celebrating and publicising our successes we can assist each other develop.

So this year the Federation has started a number of initiatives to assist groups recognise and publicise their achievements. So what have we done this year?

The Federation awards.

These fantastic awards recognise the hard work and dedication of local groups, not just in their own areas but by working for all people of North Lanarkshire. This year the Commendable Contribution awards

were given to Harthill & Eastfield Tenants & Residents Association and the Coatbridge Central Tenants Association. The Outstanding Contribution award went to Chapelhall Tenants and Residents Association. All fantastic groups who are really working hard to develop not just their own lives but the lives of people across the whole of North Lanarkshire



19th September – Federation Open Meeting.

This meeting focused on the achievements of local groups, and created space for groups to learn from each other. At the event over 100 different and amazing achievements were captured. These achievements included:

- Improving the repairs reporting system,
- Developing better car parking facilities
- Improving street lighting, CCTV and security in neighbourhoods
- Improving roads and pavements
- Improving estate cleanliness and recycling services
- Starting a whole range of successful sports and youth projects
- Setting up allotment projects
- And so so so many more examples.

Developing a DVD of local groups' achievements.

Working with North Lanarkshire Council the Federation developed a DVD about tenant participation and what local groups can achieve in North Lanarkshire. The DVD was launched at the tenants conference and is currently being developed as a tool to assist new groups explore the roles and effectiveness of tenants groups in North Lanarkshire. For a copy of the DVD call North Lanarkshire Council on 01698 274143.

Restructuring North Lanarkshire Council – new people new contacts

North Lanarkshire Council has undergone a massive restructuring. Within Housing Operations there are two teams of people now- Person Centred Services and Locality Management. As the name suggests the 'person centred' services focus on services for individual people. This includes finding people a house (the allocation policy and homelessness) and providing support. Locality Management focuses on the local geographic areas. This includes estate management and rent arrears.

Sometimes it can be hard to know who's the best person to contact and how to get them. With such big changes a foot here's a list of key Housing Staff and their different roles to keep you in touch.

The North First Stop Shop (Cumbernauld, Moodiesburn, Kilsyth)

Contact number- 01236 828120

Bob Brownlie, Area Manager

Locality Services			Person Centred Services		
Joe Biggam, Service Delivery Manager			Ann Knight, Service Delivery Manager		
Lynn Moore	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Arrears	Jim Stewart	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Susan Paterson	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Helen Cox	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Vicki Gorman	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Andrea Hamilton	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Support

Airdrie First Stop Shop

Contact number- 01236 758035

Brendan Sherry, Area Manager

Locality Services			Person Centred Services		
Chris O'Neill, Service Delivery Manager			Ann Pickering, Service Delivery Manager		
Donna Sloan	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Arrears	Debbie Shawcross,	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Allocations
Angela Burns	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Betty Watson	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness
Karen Keegans	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Pamela Gilmour (temp)	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Support

Coatbridge First Shop

Contact number- 01236 812561

David Dymock, Area Manager

Locality Services			Person Centred Services		
Jamie Pettigrew, Service Delivery Manager			Carol Henderson, Service Delivery Manager		
Jim Farrell	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Arrears	Julie Toner	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Eleanor O' Brien	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Lorna Patterson	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Ina Stewart	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Yvonne Quinn	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Support

Wishaw & Shotts First Stop Shop

Contact number- 01698 302920

Stephen Llewellyn, Area Manager

Locality Services			Person Centred Services		
Chris O'Neill, Service Delivery Manager			Gillian Whitehead, Service Delivery Manager		
Maureen Miller	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Arrears	Angela Magee	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Tracey Fallow	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Helen McLaren	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Gillian McCaffer	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Jim Robertson	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Support

Motherwell First Stop Shop

Contact number- 01698 332233

Lorraine Anderson, Area Manager

Locality Services			Person Centred Services		
Susan Fowler, Service Delivery Manager			Pauline Maginnis, Service Delivery Manager		
Ian Curran	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Arrears	Liz Lafferty/ Audrey Miller	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Joyce Barclay	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Claire Lloyd	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Kenny MacIver	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Matt Clark	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Support

Bellshill/Viewpark First Stop Shop

Contact number- 01236 812561

Alison Clark, Area Manager

Locality Services			Person Centred Services		
Ann Djuritchek, Service Delivery Manager			George Russell, Service Delivery Manager		
Wille Jeffrey	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Arrears	Gordon Heng	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Fiona McDermott	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Stephen O'Neill	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Homelessness/ Allocations
Fiona Cameron	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Estate Management	Fiona Wright	Service Delivery Co-ordinator	Support

Property Services

Robin Slater	Property Services Manager	01698 338628
Arthur Crossley	Client Services Manager	01698 338622
Joe Brady	Planned and Voids Manager	01698 338625
Les Stalker	Service Delivery Manager (Routine/Emergency repairs)	01698 338635
John Apperson	Service Delivery Manager (Gas)	01698 338619
Raymond Boyd	Service Delivery Manager (Planned Works)	01698 338 618
Chris Sullivan	Service Delivery Manager Voids	01698 338 629

Are you looking for a property to let from North Lanarkshire Council

(Article by North Lanarkshire Council)

Are you looking for a property to let from North Lanarkshire Council?

Or do you know someone, maybe a friend or family member who is looking for rented accommodation?

A number of properties are available for let across North Lanarkshire. The availability ranges from area to area with properties from one bedroom flats to three bedroom family homes on offer. Rent levels in North Lanarkshire are affordable. The currently average weekly rent in the area is £48.88 (over 52 weeks) and is the 13th lowest in Scotland and around 3% below the national average of £50.51.

As well as low rents, multi-million pound investment is being made in our homes. Already we've brought forward a further £10m to improve our properties bringing the overall budget to £58.1m. This investment will improve the lives of our tenants and will help deliver new heating systems; new upvc double glazing, new roofing, roughcasting, rewiring, new kitchens and bathrooms.

Our tenants are also happy with the services they receive. Our last survey told us that 84% of tenants are very satisfied or satisfied with the council as its landlord. 89% of tenants were satisfied or very satisfied with the range of information available on housing services; 85% were satisfied or very satisfied with the accessibility and responsiveness of the First Stop Shops/housing offices.

And if you decide that North Lanarkshire is the place for you, then we'll work with you to help you move in to your property, settle in and retain your tenancy.

Available with selected properties: Double Glazing – Decoration Allowance – Central heating system – Carpets – Tenant information packs – CCTV security systems - New Kitchens and Bathrooms – Communal gardens/garden areas – Caretaking services – Close cleaning services – Parking facilities – Close to local amenities. We have properties available in the following areas.

Airdrie/Coatbridge

Holehills and Craigneuk in Airdrie offer both flats and family homes. A mix 2, 3 and 4 bedroom

terraced properties with gas central heating, new fitted kitchens and new fitted bathrooms are available in Craigneuk.

In Coatbridge, properties are available to let in Shawhead, Kirkwood, Kirkshaws and multi storey flats in Cliftonville. Again most are close to good local amenities including new schools and leisure facilities such as the Time Capsule and Summerlee Heritage Park.

Both areas provide excellent links to the M8 and a range of transport services including trains and buses. Local amenities nearby include shops, schools and health centres.

Bellshill/Motherwell

Properties available in Motherwell include Carfin and New Forgewood. In Bellshill two bedroom properties are available close to the town centre.

Wishaw

Craigneuk, Newmains, Cleland, Pather, Coltness, Main Street, Gowkthrapple in Wishaw have selected properties available. These are located centrally all are close to amenities and have excellent transport links.

There is also availability at Sunart Street Sheltered Housing Complex. This complex is close to local shops, community centre, church and sports centre and there are good public transport links nearby.

There's a conservatory and communal garden area which are both maintained by council. As this is a sheltered housing complex there is a warden on site and several social activities are held within in the complex.

Shotts

Properties also available in a number of outlying villages. In Shotts there are a range of properties with gas central heating and double glazing. Some properties also include a garden to the rear or side of this.

If you want to find out more call the "Your Home" property hotline on 01698 302921 or email yourhome@northlan.gov.uk

Big Freeze Heroes

Case Study 3: The Gritter Driver

Jake Quinn, 48, Amey Roads North Lanarkshire gritter driver Airdrie

IT wasn't the smartest driving in the world ... and the woman paid the price.

Amey Roads North Lanarkshire gritter driver Jake Quinn (48) was shocked: "I was out in my mini-gritter, a 7.5 tonne truck, when this driver overtook me on the outside lane, covered in pure untouched snow.

"She got past two other cars before losing control and hitting another car and a taxi.

"Some of the things people do in this weather are crazy."

Since the winter freeze blasted in, Jake hasn't had a day off.

Either he's been spreading grit on priority routes around Glenboig, Airdrie, Chapelhall and Wishaw or piling road salt into the back of the trucks in at the ARNL depot at Bargeddie.

He said: "Mind you, when I haven't been doing that, I've been out patrolling through the night for blackspots.

"The shifts are long, up to 11 hours, but we get a break in between.

"I don't think anyone expected the weather we've had."

Jake celebrated Christmas Day in the cab of his mini-gritter. He joked: "Boxing Day was my Christmas Day this year. I managed a quick break at the house, just long enough for dinner and I was off again."

But even with tonnes of steel and rubber between him and road, Jake's truck isn't immune from treacherous road conditions: "What you have to remember is that we are out in the worst of the road conditions ... because we're trying to clear them.

"I've been stuck a couple of times in the past three weeks or so; the first time it was soft snow that just stopped me in my tracks.

"I had to salt my way out; spreading grit behind the truck and reversing into it to give me a decent run at it".

"Another time driver ahead of me slowed up too much and got stuck on a hill.

"Instead of easing back, they just kept hitting the gas and spinning the wheels.

"All that does is compact the snow into ice.

"I had to salt my way out of that too."

But despite the hours and the risks, Jake wouldn't be happy doing anything else at this time of year: "We are keeping the main routes open and as safe as we can get them.

"Sure the shifts are long and you get tired but all you can do is to try to keep healthy and get the roads cleared."

As well as ensuring that the area's primary roads network remained open and functional North Lanarkshire Council's gritting teams also respond to blue light emergencies and requests for assistance for access for funerals. If you need to contact the roads service you can contact us via Northline, our customer contact centre, on 01698 403110

Note to readers: The gritting route information is now on the website link below

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1220>.

Groups can have a look at how the gritting routes to see how gritting will be planned for next year. Roads are divided into primary, secondary and tertiary roads. By arguing how roads are defined you can influence the gritting patterns that will take place.

Your News from Dmm² (Coltness) Tenants Residents Association

We have had a lot of achievements since we starting. We'd like to share a few of them with you-

- New parking area top of Denholm Drive with white lines to mark parking bays. The concrete bases removed. New fence and kissing gate installed to entrance to woodland. New footpath from woods to existing path.
- Roads and car parks being swept, gully's cleaned.
- Broken slabs replaced in a number of areas: Maxton, Minto and Denholm Drive.
- Metal covers replaced throughout streets.
- Weed killing and grass cutting now getting cut more regular.
- Flats in Maxton Crescent: repaired where required, communal area painted, new doors put on bin stores and painted, new railing fitted to side of steps to flats.
- Program in place 2009/2010 for council fencing, facier boards etc to be painted.
- Containers removed from top of Denholm Drive.
- New facier boards to lockup garages and painted. Also garage doors painted 1-7 Maxton Cres.
- 30-48 Maxton Crescent gutters cleaned.
- 10-28 Maxton Crescent footpath dipped in middle, tarmac re-laid,
- New road signs put up for Denholm Drive.
- No ball games signs and poles erected.
- Drop kerbs put in to gable entrance of path to St Aidans Primary School.
- Repairs to roads, car parking areas, Denholm, Maxton, Minto.
- New dog litter boxes placed around areas.

Your News from Allanton Tenants & Residents Association

Campaign to reduce dampness in properties

During late September and early October 2009 we conducted a survey on 2 streets in the village in an effort to highlight problems of dampness in properties, correlating this with water logged gardens and areas with permanent flooding linked to the adjacent fields. The 3 elected members approved and supported the survey. Cllr Robertson passed the completed survey to NLC. Mr Les Stalker, Property Services, and Mr David Miller, Geotechnical Dept attended our public meeting on 20th October. Properties affected by dampness were promptly inspected and action to deal with this is taken place now.

A meeting was held 19th November to discuss the widespread flooding. It is felt the primary source is coming from the old Kingshill No1 colliery. At the meeting we learned that the Minewater Remediation programme currently being carried out across the country by the Coal Authority is done on priority recommendations made by SEPA. The photographic evidence we provided will be the subject of further investigation and discussion by them at their next meeting. These agencies have agreed to meet with us in 3 – 6 months to discuss the outcome of investigations.

NLC have sent a Consultant to look at the flooding which is seriously affecting garden land on a number of properties. In the past deep trenches were dug to divert this water; these have become silted up, dredging them now would release large amounts of redmyre into the South Calder water. The land is now owned by the Council; costs to them to deal with this mining legacy would be prohibitive. A separate area of land has become contaminated with redmyre coming from the now disused Damside Opencast.

We have just learned that there was no Landscaping Bond held against British Coal for reinstatement at the abandoned Damside opencast site. This has been left like a lunar landscape with hardly a blade of grass over this vast acreage. North Lanarkshire Council are considering a planning Application by Scottish Coal for further Opencasting in the area at Headless Cross, Shotts. Will they undertake to hold this operator to account? How many more areas will be left scarred in this region? Through the medium of the Federation we can make folks aware of what is simply environmental vandalism.

Your News from Allanton Tenants & Residents Food Co-op.

We have been running a Food Co-op for just over 2 years in partnership with the Healthy Living Centre in Shotts. The 10% till sales amounting to £700 have been donated back to organisations within our village. We would like to thank all those who have supported us in this endeavour; in particular all of the Team at Shotts GBT without whose input the project would never have got off the ground.

Your News from Ash and Spruce Road Tenants & Residents Association, Cumbernauld

We started in February 2009. Our aim is to bring together the community and promote the rights of tenants and residents in the maintenance and improvements of their housing conditions and community issues. We have started to work on a range of issues including bringing together the community. We are hiring the Wee G bus- a mobile youth club, and exploring possibilities of taking on the Spruce Road community Centre. If you are interested in finding out more about our association you can email us at ashandspruce@hotmail.com

Morningside residents celebrate traffic victory – article in Wishaw Press

The residents of Morningside are celebrating victory after the Scottish Executive refused planning permission for a development which would have allowed heavy lorries to go to and from a freight line at nearby Chapel over 200 times a day.

Community campaigners had launched a fight to stop vehicles accessing the railhead – where goods would be loaded or unloaded – over fears of noise and pollution.

The firm behind the proposal had promised that commotion and dust would be kept to a minimum and that the lorries would never actually go through the village. However, after hearing both sides and going on a site visit, a Reporter from the Scottish Executive have delighted villagers by knocking back the plans. The chair of Morningside Residents' Association, Ron Banks, said: "As a result of this decision, villagers can now safely enjoy the tranquillity, fresh air and healthy, natural, rural environment which have been valued by Morningside residents for years, and have been important for the many new families who have chosen to settle in this growing village.

"This decision is a victory for democracy. The people of Morningside spoke, each with a clear and persuasive voice, and made a collective sound which no listener could ignore.

"North Lanarkshire Council's Planning and

Transportation Committee wholeheartedly rejected this application in the spring and the Reporter has upheld that wise decision. Villagers are delighted that he reached this just decision having been presented with an overwhelming number (120) of written submissions from residents who pointed out in detail the dangers associated with this kind of development.

"Many residents, particularly those who had recently settled in the village, were faced with the prospect of 44 tonne lorries driving close to their properties at a rate of around, one every two minutes', for 11 hours a day.

"I hope this victory for the people of Morningside will give encouragement to anybody whose lifestyle is threatened by inappropriate development or feels overwhelmed by systems which seem to make it difficult to be heard. People have a right to have their opinions heard and they should exercise that right with all the skill and passion they can muster."

At the moment 60 lorry movements of coal are allowed at the railhead each day (30 in and 30 out) and it was proposed that would change to 112 lorry loads of coal a day (224 movements instead of 60). North Lanarkshire Council had previously refused the application to allow more lorries earlier in the year, and an appeal on this decision was made to the Scottish Executive.

A programme of successful events in Chapelhall

All in all we're keeping busy in Chapelhall. Here are a few events and things that have been done in Chapelhall.

- Play day was held all over Britain on 5th August 2009. As part of this we organised a fun day for the children and parents of Chapelhall. It was a fantastic day for everyone involved with over 1,500 people attending. At the day we organised football tournaments, climbing wall, sumo wrestling, face painting, obstacle course, information stalls from organisations such as the Federation, the police etc, 107 Radio station providing entertainment and music all day. We received great help from James Ballantyne (TIS) and James Fagan (Plad) and all the staff from Learning & Leisure. The committee did an extremely good job of organising and planning the event.
- We participated in the TIS focus group meetings to review the tenant participation strategy. The meetings were held over a number months to develop and improve tenant rights to participate, and influence decisions.
- We recently met with Brendan Sherry, our new Area Manager at North Lanarkshire Council to develop relationships.
- We are in the process of developing an allotment project with support from Vincent McCulloch and Councillor Michael Coyle. We have identified an area in Chapelhall that can be used to develop an allotment project and are looking to obtain funding. To assist us we are learning from the work of Craigneuk and Old Petersburn Tenant group, when they established an excellent community allotment scheme.
- We have been attending the Food for Thought sessions in the Federation office with Phil Arnold and other organisations. The sessions are excellent. From this we are now also involved in the Federation's Roads & Lighting sub-group with Alex Ramsay. This provides valuable input into the Roads Department.
- The committee has managed to get NLC to erect a Christmas tree. We held two Christmas parties for different age groups. The first being 1-5 years old and the second for 5-8 years old. We are also planning a disco for 9-12 year olds and intend to hold a talent concert for 12-18 year olds.

Due to the committee's hard work and involvement we received the Outstanding Contribution Award to the North Lanarkshire Federation in May 2010. With a lot of hard work we achieved a lot.



My Holidays in Egypt by John More, Cala Sona Tenants & Residents Association

Most people dream about going to an exotic location they have read about or seen on the televised media. I am very fortunate in having gone to the city of Luxor in Egypt on three occasions since 2008. My dream came true when my friend Anne Hill, who is visually impaired, Danny Cook, her partner and I went there, we are residents of Cala Sona Court in Wishaw.

I am a powered wheelchair user and unable to walk so a lot of thought and preparation and enquires from various sources was required on how to get to Luxor. My flight to Luxor was from Birmingham so arrangements were made for wheelchair accessible travel by train from Motherwell to Birmingham, an overnight stay there and arrangements to assist me on and off the plane. And of course making sure that the same arrangements were made for the return journey too.

In Luxor we stayed at the St Joseph hotel. The hotel is not particularly wheelchair accessible but the hotel staff are very friendly and could not do enough to assist and help me. The view from my hotel balcony is spectacular looking out onto the River Nile and the West Bank. On the roof of the hotel is a swimming pool, sun lounge and restaurant with spectacular views of the Nile and the city of Luxor. It is relaxing there in the warm sunshine watching the barges and cruise ships

sailing on the Nile and the caliches (horse driven carriages) bargaining for hires below on the busy Luxor streets. One evening I attended an Egyptian night in the ground floor of the hotel where local food was served and the entertainment was served and the entertainment was live Egyptian music, a snake charmer and belly dancer.

I managed to take in a few excursions whilst there. I went to the West Bank to the Valley of the Kings and saw inside the tomb of Ramesses III one of the last great Pharaohs who lived more than 1500 years ago. Abu Temple which was constructed during the reign of Ramesses III and saw the Valley of the Queens. I also visited Luxor Temple, a large complex of ancient Egyptian buildings and the Temple of Karnark in Luxor. I also visited a perfume shop in Luxor where they make mouth - blown glass perfume vials on site and got to sniff a few of the many scented oils.

I thoroughly enjoy my holidays there, the constant warm sunshine and different cultural experience and escaping the often cold and wet weather of Wishaw. If it had not been for my friends Anne and Danny I would not have made it so if I can do it with help from my personal care, assistance and some encouragement then go and see what you can do too. Hoping to go back again soon. Now, where did I put my passport ...! ?



Funding Focus- NLC Community Grant. Up to £2,000 available for tenant groups

Each Councillor in North Lanarkshire has £4,000 per year to give away. Constituted and democratically run tenant groups can apply for these funds. The grants are quite general and can be used for projects that bring community benefits including social activities that bring more people into your group. Grants can be used for various purposes including events, equipment, training, publicity, start up costs and administration. When applying for a grant it is a good idea to speak to your local councillor and get support for the project.

For more information on these grants please contact North Lanarkshire Council on 01236 812 604 or 01236 812642.

Changes to project staff

Phil Arnold, Development Officer on the North Lanarkshire Tenants & Residents Participation Project is moving on. Phil has been working with the project since it started back in November 2004. Phil will be moving to the British Red Cross as Orientation Manager. The post will involve managing four projects for asylum seekers and refugees in the West of Scotland, and includes the chance to become involved in emergency relief work abroad.

In his words, Phil says:

*"Working in North Lanarkshire has been a total privilege. It is fantastic to know that in all communities throughout North Lanarkshire there are people who **really** care about their areas. These people continue to put in so much hard work and make real improve to the quality of each others' lives. I feel proud to have had my role in assisting the tenant movement in North Lanarkshire become the success it is. It has grown from an idea in peoples' minds to a strong, nationally recognised, representative movement.*

So much has been achieved. There are much better relationships between tenant groups and landlords, so many more opportunities now exist for people to get listened to, tenants have far more rights than they did and the North Lanarkshire Federation is offering communities a much stronger voice than they've ever had. It's an incredibly positive time for tenant participation. I wish everyone the very best in continuing to assist the tenant movement in North Lanarkshire go from strength to strength."

The recruitment process is now underway. As the Tenant and Resident Participation Project (its new name) has successfully been awarded another 3 years, a new member of staff will be in place shortly to continue the good work in April 2010.

Date for your diary – Saturday 22nd May 2010

Federation Conference!

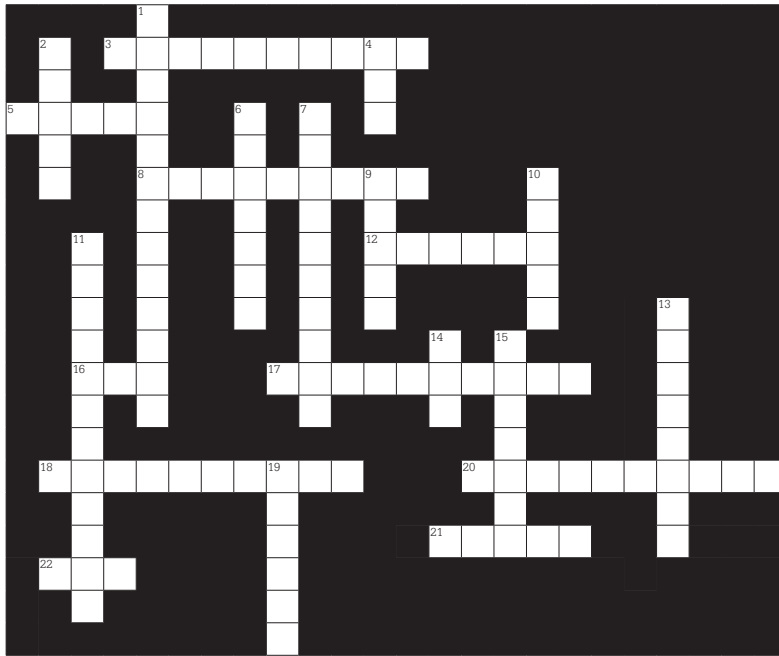
Following last year's resounding success the committee are organising another conference! This year the conference will take place on the 22nd May 2010 at the Airdrie Academy (morning conference). It will be a morning event including lunch. A wonderful array of workshops and speakers will be coming to offer you the very best in information and discussions. More details to follow.

This year we will also be conducting our AGM at the conference. So book your place now!



Puzzle Page

Federation challenge



Can you find all 20 words in the word search below?

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

ACHIEVEMENTS
ALLOCATION
AWARDS
CELEBRATE
CHAIRPERSONS
COMMUNITY
COMPUTERS

CONFERENCE
ESTATES
FEDERATION
GRANT
GROUPS
MOT
MOVEMENT

REPAIRS
RESTRUCTURE
SUCCESS
SUPPORT
TIS
TRAINING

Across

3. They're not just talkabouts they're... (10)
5. Every year each group is eligible for a £400what from Housing Services? (5)
8. What the Federation is giving away to their members (9)
12. Chapelhall received the Outstanding Contribution, Harthill and Eastfield and Coatbridge central received the Commendable Contribution (6)
16. Thousand maximum application for the community grant (3,8)
17. The policy for distributing houses fairly (10)
18. Tenant groups are very (10)
20. Event happening on 22nd May 2010 (10)
21. Where did John More go? (5)
22. The new survey system to ensure groups get the support they need (3)

Down

1. Tenant strategy that was recently reviewed (13)
2. Number of food for thought sessions left before the Federation's AGM (5)
4. The organisation who got awarded the contract to support tenant participation in North Lanarkshire (3)
6. and maintenance (7)
7. Area of North Lanarkshire where the North Lanarkshire Federation has developed a towers subgroup (10)
9. and street lighting sub-group. One of the Federation's three sub-groups. (5)
10. Another of the federation sub-groups (5)
11. The document that was amended on February 6th 2010 (12)
13. The focus of the campaign organised by Allanton tenants group (8)
14. Month of the Federation's AGM (3)
15. Morningside resident association are celebrating what? (7)
19. Successful event organised by Chapelhall tenants group (6)

Answers :

1. Participation, 2. Three, 4. TIS, 6. Repairs
7. Motherwell, 9. Roads, 10. Waste, 11. Constitution
13. Dampness, 14. May, 15. Victory, 19. Funday
- Down**
18. Successful, 20. Conference, 21. Egypt, 22. MOT
12. Awards, 16. Two thousand, 17. Allocation
3. Walkabouts, 5. Grant, 8. Computers,

Across



For more information please contact

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