

newsbite

ISSUE 28 AUGUST 2011

Tenants' Magazine

Tenants Open Day 2011

Aberdeen Music Hall
Saturday 3 September,
10am-1pm (drop in)

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Wellbeing event for Older People

Aberdeen City Council & NHS Grampian are holding an event in support of International Older People's Day. The event will have a number of information stands from organisations to help raise awareness of wellbeing in the city. The event, which will include a focus on getting ready for winter, is being held at **The Town & County Hall on Thursday 29 September 2011**. Anyone can drop in for free from 10am - 1pm.

If you would like more information please contact **Julie Thomson** on **01224 523122** or email **Juthomson@aberdeencity.gov.uk**



Do you know about the Customer Access Points?

Aberdeen has three Customer Access Points situated in Kincorth, Mastrick and Woodside. They provide a gate way to a wide range of council services for the residents of Aberdeen. The staff at all our Customer Access Points deal with requests and enquiries as quickly and effectively as they can.

The Customer Access Points provide a very varied and convenient service to people living in Aberdeen as they provide information and advice on a number of issues including:

- Making a Council housing application
- Pay any Aberdeen City Council bill
- Paying Rent and Council Tax
- Additional waste bin applications
- Applying for Disabled Badges (Blue and green)
- Paying any parking fines due
- Booking a bulky item uplift
- Parking permits
- School clothing and footwear applications
- Recycling and bin collection calendars
- Parking/garage/allotment spaces.

For a full list of the services available at the Customer Access Points please visit www.aberdeencity.gov.uk or contact:

Kincorth Customer Access Point, Provost Watt Drive, Aberdeen. AB12 5NA
Phone: **01224 872572**

Email: **CAPKincorth@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Mastrick Customer Access Point, Spey Road, Aberdeen. AB16 6SH
Phone: **01224 788503**

Woodside Fountain Centre, Marquis Road, Aberdeen. AB24 2QY
Phone: **01224 524920**

Email: **woodsideCAP@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Important Contact Details

Tenant Participation Team

Carol Hannaford - 01224 522839 **Caroline Souter - 01224 489523**

or email **TPO@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Aberdeen City Council General Enquiries **08456 08 09 10**

Emergency Council Repairs **08456 08 09 29**

Waste Aware **08456 08 09 19**



Tenants Open Day 2011

The 2011 Tenants Open Day is being held on **Saturday 3 September** at the Music Hall from **10am - 1pm**.

The Tenants Open Day is an informal event where you can drop in at anytime and get information about a number of matters relating to your tenancy as well as other services within the city.

Tenants just like you will be there to talk about what its like being involved in Tenant Participation and the benefits it can bring - they've done it so why don't you?

This year there will be stalls including:

- **Kitchen/bathroom displays**
- **Housing Associations**
- **Tenant Participation**
- **City Wardens**
- **Sports Village**
- **Estate Management**
- **Repairs Service**
- **Competitions**
- **Refreshments**
- **Activities for children**

And for the first time, we have also invited other local housing providers to come along to form a Housing Options stand. This will be your opportunity to learn about all the housing options available to you or family members. So whether you are thinking of downsizing, moving to sheltered accommodation, shared ownership, mutual exchange, changing your landlord or want information about our Homeless Service come along to the new Housing Options stand.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you would like more information please contact the Tenant Participation Team **Caroline** or **Carol** who will be delighted to help you (contact details on page 2).



Get involved in Tenant Participation

By Paul McMenemy, Tenant



I've been involved with Tenant Participation for 3 years and attend a number of meetings to do with housing issues as I'm interested in what is going on in Aberdeen city and my community. Some of the groups I attend are:

- **Tenants Open Day Planning Group**
- **Newsbite Magazine Editorial Group**
- **The Tenant Service Review Group**
- **New Citywide Group**

They are just a few of the groups that deal with issues that can affect tenants and we discuss in a fair and positive way to resolve any problems that have arisen.

Tenant Participation is about tenants taking part in decision making processes and influencing decisions. **It's an important process and I would urge tenants of all ages to get involved!**



BEACH BALLROOM PRESENTS

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER
Jeff Leyton & J.C. Lee
 A Musical Evening
 Songs from the
 West End plus
 hits from 60s,
 70s and 80s
 Doors open 7.30pm
 £17.50 + £1.50 bf

SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER
The Aberdeen Legends Christmas Show
 A fabulous night of nostalgia with music
 and dancing through the decades.
 4.30 - 10.00pm
 £16.50

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER
Live Band Christmas Carvery
 Featuring live music from
 Mustang
 Doors open 7.30pm
 £39.50 (includes half bottle of
 wine per person)

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER
Christmas Carvery Party Night
 Doors open 7.30pm
 £37.50 (includes half bottle of
 wine per person)

Also Booking
FRIDAY 16 MARCH

ALVIN STARDUST

An evening with the Godfather of
 Rock 'n' Roll
 £15 ticket only
 £22.50 including supper

beachballroom.com
01224 647647

Pressured Area Status (PAS)

In September 2007 Aberdeen City Council made a successful application for Pressured Area Status (PAS) for 35 letting areas. This lasts until September 2012 and restricts the Right to Buy in these areas.

The Council will be carrying out an assessment of all letting areas in the city before the next PAS application. This assessment may include more areas or exclude some areas, however this will not be known until the assessment is complete. The new PAS designation will be for 10 years

instead of the previous 5 year limit and may also include house types (houses/flats) or number of bedrooms.

Once the provisional list of letting areas is known the Council will consult with potentially affected tenants, tenant representative groups and others before finalising the letting areas for inclusion in the next PAS designation.

For more information about the consultation please contact **Carol** or **Caroline** (details on page 2).



Coronation Court Street Cafe

In the last issue of *newsbite* we told you about the Coronation Court Street Café. A few of you contacted us to ask where the Café was. The Café is situated within Coronation Court in School Road, Peterculter.

Aberdeen's Winter Festival

Aberdeen City is the place to be this festive season with vibrant events, fabulous shopping and fun for all the family.

NOVEMBER
 Sat 5 Fireworks Night
 Sun 26 Christmas Lights Switch On
 Sun 27 Christmas Tree Switch On
 Sun 27 Nativity Scene Unveiling

DECEMBER
 Thurs 1 Aberdeen's Singing Orchestras Concert
 Sun 4 Santa and his Reindeer Parade
 Thurs 8 SD+ Christmas Tea Dance
 Sat 24 Carol Concerts
 Sat 31 Hogmanay Ceilidh Supper

JANUARY
 Sat 21 Traditional Burns Night

aberdeenswinterfestival.com



photographer, George Washington Wilson. Old photographs can show buildings which are no longer standing, or show major changes to some familiar sights. Forgotten what Union Street looked like when the trams were around, or too young to remember? An old photograph will certainly help jog those memories.

Family history

If you are interested in researching your ancestors, Aberdeen Local Studies also holds a wide range of genealogical resources. These include Old Parish Registers (up to 1854) and census returns (1841-1901) for the area; we also offer free access to Ancestry – one of the premier

ABERDEEN LOCAL STUDIES

Situated within Information Services on the first floor of Aberdeen Central Library, the Local Studies department holds a variety of sources which can help you find out about the history of the city, or add flesh to the bones of your family tree.

The Central Library building itself dates back to 1892, but the resources inside reach much further back in time. Some highlights from the collection include Aberdeen's first newspaper in 1747, and some very early maps of the city dating from 1661.



Newspapers

Along with a complete run of microfilm newspapers for the Press and Journal and Evening Express, Local Studies hold many other titles including the Banffshire Journal and the Huntly Express. We also stock a huge list of periodicals and journals, including the Bon Accord and Northern Pictorial.

Members of the library service also benefit from our online resources. We offer access to the British Library 19th Century Newspaper collection – this means you can search the Aberdeen Journal (1800-1900) plus hundreds of other newspapers all from the comfort of your own home! All you need is a library card!

Maps

In addition to old newspapers, Local Studies have numerous maps showing the development of Aberdeen from two relatively small settlements to the third largest city in Scotland today. Why not try and find your house or street on a map from 100 years ago and see what's

changed? You might be surprised.

Photographs

Local Studies have thousands of views of the city from various dates, including some by the famous Aberdeen

genealogical websites – in all of our libraries. If you are a keen family historian and you are already using Scotland's People to find out more, you might also be interested to learn that we sell discounted vouchers – this means you can do the same amount of searching, but for much less money!!

Books

Of course, the largest part of the collection is the books. Local Studies have thousands of books all relating to some aspect of Aberdeen through time. So if you are researching education, religion, whaling, the coming of electricity, the railways... we will probably have a book which is just for you.

So, if you are interested in learning more about the history of Aberdeen and its people, why not come down to Local Studies and see what you can find?

Contact Details:

Aberdeen Library and Information Services, Local Studies,
 Central Library, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen. AB25 1GW
 Tel: **01224 652512**
 Email: LocalStudiesLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk
 Website: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/libraries/lib/lib_localstudies.asp

Opening hours:

Monday and Wednesday 9.00am - 8.00pm
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Question time for Mark Reilly

Head of Environment Services

You have a massive remit; can you tell us what it involves?

Environment Services has a varied remit. I'll start with what is probably the least known part of the service, Aberdeen Scientific Services. Aberdeen Scientific provides a highly specialised testing and advisory service to the public sector, private businesses and members of the public throughout the North East of Scotland. The testing is carried out in areas such as food samples, animal feeds and water.

I also have responsibility for Environmental Health and Trading Standards which provide city wide services. These include the inspections and regulations of infectious disease control; weights and measures; food and animal feed; pest and dog control; pollution control; and health and safety as well as public mortuary provision. The majority of these activities are related to fulfilling the City's statutory duty.

A more well known service is 'street scene'. These include the design and maintenance of all parks and gardens; amenity land; arboriculture; countryside services and woodlands; play areas; bereavement services including the crematorium and cemeteries; allotments; street and beach cleansing; graffiti removal; public toilets; and the removal of fly tipping. Quite a selection but it keeps me busy and I have a great team to help me. As well as the above there are the assets associated with these services to maintain such as benches, footpaths, steps, signs and ponds to name but a few. We are also the main grounds maintenance contractor for our housing service.

Last but not least I have waste and recycling services and I am sure that this is the main service tenants' associate with Environment Services. It includes waste disposal; household recycling centres; household recycling points; household waste and recycling collections; food and garden waste collections; as well as commercial and special waste collections.

Quite a remit don't you think? But one that I am thoroughly enjoying.

What is the biggest challenge you face in your job?

I think there are two main challenges. The first one is to achieve best value from our front line operational staff and services. We also need to move forward with implementing the Waste Strategy to meet the city's recycling targets whilst keeping costs down and increasing recycling and composting. I have to ensure that there is infrastructure in place to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to be able to process those waste materials which are separated for recycling and composting. We need to take into account the fact that approximately 50% of properties in Aberdeen are flats, some of these being tenements, which have particular issues such as little storage space for containers and due to problems such as this we need to ensure that the collection systems meets tenants' needs. People have to be encouraged to recycle and I would like to overcome these challenges and look back and say 'we got there'.

Street cleaning is an issue which many tenants complain about. How can we work together to improve this?

In nutshell - stop dropping litter!! We need to educate our citizens about the damage to the environment through litter and the cost of cleaning the City's streets. I know that the service has been working with schools getting the children involved in up to 50 litter picks. There will always be calls for more bins to rectify the problem but over the years studies have shown that 20 - 30% of people will always drop their litter even if there is a bin present.

I would like to see people take ownership of their community. By this I mean people sweeping outside their front door and picking up any rubbish on or around their property. Reporting fly tipping and graffiti is also very important.

How difficult is it to ensure that grass cutting, hedge and tree trimming are undertaken given all the cutbacks?

Once again it's about council tenants helping out their neighbours. I am really keen to get communities to develop community gardens for their own use. If all tenants were able to maintain their own garden then this would potentially save them money indirectly. We have been working with Community Service (offenders who are given community service rather than prison or a fine) who have done some fantastic work over and above the Council's normal service provision and, our tenants have been very happy with the standard of their work.

We hear a lot about how we have to reduce landfill or we will get fined by Europe - can you explain this?

The UK needs to meet the targets agreed by all European countries to reduce waste sent to landfill or the UK Government could be fined. A proportion of these costs will be passed onto the Scottish Government and potentially to each Council. Aberdeen City Council has a waste strategy in place to develop the waste and recycling services but we need to ensure that our targets are met. We also need to increase the amount of waste recycled and composted as the cost of waste disposal to landfill is rising by £8 per tonne every year. If we do nothing this means an additional annual cost of £2.88million by 2014/15 or about £25 per household per year.

How can tenants work with the Council to recycle more and what can be done to improve recycling?

Tenants can help us by separating their waste into paper, bottles etc but I would also like them to think about how much food they throw away. Did you know that every household in Scotland throws away approximately £430 in food per year? Think before you buy those 'buy one get one free' deals, share these offers with your family or friends rather than throw it in the bin because it passes its use by date.

It is not only about food. I remember when I got my first house I got virtually all the furniture from my family and friends. So if you have anything that can be used again then please contact a local charity or there may be a community scheme that can help you pass your unwanted items onto someone else. **If you are in an area covered by the recycling bag and box scheme or the food and garden waste collection (Brown Bins) and need more containers then contact the Waste Aware Help-line on Tel: 08456 080919**

Our Tenant Open Day is on Saturday 3 September at the Music Hall, are you able to attend?

I cannot promise that I will be there but I do know that two of my services will be there. The Waste Aware and Ground Maintenance teams will be available to answer any questions and give tenants advice. I have heard it is a very successful event and a great way to engage with our tenants in an informal setting. I think that the Open Day Planning Team, which includes tenants, is a great idea and it shows what tenants can achieve by working with the Council.

Having bins collected once a fortnight has created problems for some tenants. What are your thoughts on this?

We have received no significant increase in complaints since the change from 7 to 14 day collections but there has been a 5% increase in recycling. However we need to look at the issues our citizens have and try to work with them to help minimise problems and increase recycling and composting. In tandem with reducing rubbish collections we have offered additional bags and boxes for recycling. Most people, even in larger households, find they have sufficient capacity for rubbish if they make full use of the recycling service and, where provided the food and garden waste service. I know we have properties in the city where there is very little storage space and for that reason we have to be innovative in providing the means to recycle and compost for all residents across the city. Recycling and composting is the way forward to reduce the costs associated with waste that are paid for through rates by the householder.

I would like to get communities involved in trying to increase recycling and there are officers in the Waste Aware Team who will come out to local community groups and offer advice on how to improve recycling. We are here to provide a service and to work with you to improve recycling and subsequently reduce service costs.

Bill's reply

I would like to thank Mark for giving up his time and speaking to me. I certainly did not know how large his service was and all the responsibilities he has. I hope that this will encourage tenants to work with the Council to reduce costs increase recycling and take an active part in working in their community. With Mark as the man in charge and with his team of dedicated officers I am sure that Aberdeen Council will achieve their targets. One last message for tenants... Please do not drop litter in the street and think before you bin it!





The Draft Scottish Social Housing Charter is published

In May your Tenant Participation Team welcomed back William Fleming, Head of the Tenant Priorities Team at the Scottish Government, to give a presentation about the Scottish Social Housing Charter Discussion Paper. There was lots of interesting discussion with tenants, council officers and Councillor Malone all discussing what the Charter should include.

Since then the draft document was published for further consultation on 1 August 2011 and is available to download at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications.

Next Stage

We are delighted to inform you that representatives from the Scottish Government will be coming to Aberdeen on **28 September 2011** in the **Town House 10.30am – 3.30pm** to consult further on the draft charter. This is a joint event which has been organised by your Tenant Participation Team, other local authorities and social landlords as well as tenants from these organisations.



If you are interested in coming along please contact the Tenant Participation Team (details on page 2) for further information and to book your place. This is a fantastic opportunity for new tenants to get involved in Tenant Participation and we would welcome tenants of all ages at this event.

Launch of Aberdeen City Council Tenant Participation Strategy

We are delighted to launch our latest Tenant Participation Strategy which runs from 2011 – 2014. Prior to this one, our last Tenant Participation Strategy was reviewed in 2007 and since then Tenant Participation has under gone a major review, making it easier than ever for people to get involved.

This strategy is intended to reflect the relationship between the Council as a landlord and its tenants and improve our service delivery.

A great deal of thanks goes to the Tenant Participation Strategy Group who met regularly with the Tenant Participation Team to help develop and produce this easy to read document.

We hope that you enjoy reading the new strategy and inspires you to get involved with Tenant Participation.

A copy of the strategy can be downloaded from www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/tenantparticipation

For more information, please contact **Caroline Souter 01224 489523**
Or email tpo@aberdeencity.gov.uk
CSouter@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Citywide Group

The second meeting of the Citywide Group took place on **Tuesday 14 June 2011**. At this meeting the following presentations were given:

- Update on the new Allocations Policy and Downsizing Scheme – Kevin Kelly
- The restructured Homeless Service – Paul Hannan
- Update of the modernisation of the Housing Service including the Rent Management Service – Martin Smith

The Citywide group is in its infancy and Focus Groups have taken place to find out how you want this group to operate. The next meeting is on **11 October 2011** in the **Town House, Committee Room 5** at 2pm and the feedback from the focus groups will be presented so that operation and function issues can be discussed.

All tenants living in mainstream housing are welcome to come along to this meeting to share views and experience. **We would love to hear from you!!**



Tenant Participation moves into the 21st Century:

A Video Conference Call with Falkirk Council

By Pearl Smart, Tenant

On Thursday 12 May 2011 members of the Tenant Service Review Group met to take part in a conference call with Falkirk

Council. None of us were sure what to expect - not even the Tenant Participation Officers, Carol and Caroline!

However after following the instructions we found setting up the video link really easy and before we knew it we had the Falkirk residents and staff sitting looking at us and asking us all about our Tenant Service Review. There was a slight hitch when I was asked to get a photo taken beside the TV. I was so busy posing that I didn't see the cable and ended up pulling out the plug, leaving the TV screen blank. There was a hushed silence but Norman, the Council Photographer, managed to plug us back in and we all breathed a sigh of relief and had a good laugh about it later on!

The residents from Falkirk were very impressed with the Repair Review which the TSR carried out. The things they wanted to know were what training we had been given, how many people were involved in reviewing the service and writing the report and how was the group received at Kittybrewster Depot.

The Falkirk group were very impressed by the report we wrote on the repairs service and were keen to get started on their own one. It was a worthwhile experience and it was just like speaking to folk in the same room. We look forward to hearing how they got on and seeing their report.

Registered Tenant Organisation Training

By Caroline and Kerrie, Housing Assistants

We recently attended a course presented by Jamie Ballantyne of TPAS on the benefits of RTOs. The course was attended by a mix of tenants and Housing Assistants and as two of the Housing Assistants in attendance we found the whole experience very informative and relaxed.

We had a couple of tasks set by Jamie. For the first task he paired a tenant with a Housing Assistant to work together to answer a number of questions relating to Tenant Participation. We found this to be a good laugh and the tenants seemed to enjoy the fact that they knew more than the Housing Assistants did about setting up Tenant Groups. The people on our course got into

the spirit of the "pub" quiz and I'm sure there were many answers changed as Jamie read out the correct answers.

By the time our second challenge was set our group was in full flow and we now had to sit in teams of 4 chosen by Jamie. Each team had to design a poster to advertise a Tenant Group but each group had a different set of objectives. There was a bit of healthy competition going on and everyone appreciated everyone else's contributions. There were lots of

very good ideas put forward.

Overall the course was very informative and well presented and Jamie held the audience captive all afternoon. The banter between everyone was great fun. We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and would most definitely go to another course for this subject.



NEW BUILD

For the first time in almost 30 years, Aberdeen City Council is about to complete the first of its new build council housing programme.

Phase one consists of three sites at Hayton Road, Byron Court and Rorie Court and provides a total of 85 homes comprising of a mixture of family and amenity properties. We will be welcoming our new tenants for phase one over the summer period.

These developments, along with others in the city are intended to regenerate areas

and provide much needed accommodation which will strengthen community spirit and enhance neighbourhood identities.



Our Phase two development at Marchburn, Northfield (Marchburn Park) will comprise of 35 units (18 two bed flats and 17 three bed houses). It has been developed as a 'Home Zone'. This is the name given to residential streets where the

road space is shared between drivers of motor vehicles, pedestrians, playing children and low speed vehicles. It is thought that the Home Zone will help to positively contribute to the character of Northfield. This development is currently under construction and is due for completion in December 2011.

The site for phase three has been identified as the former Croft House. Now renamed Oldcroft Gardens there will be 31 new family homes (20 two bed flats & 11 three bed houses) in this area. The development is due for completion in March 2012.

For any further details or information, please contact **Paula Mann** or **Maria Thies** on **523155/522147**.



What do you know about second-hand smoke?

What is second-hand smoke?

Second-hand smoke is a mixture of smoke breathed out by smokers and the smoke coming from the burning end of a cigarette. Smoke particles linger, spread to other rooms and stick to surfaces in your home and car.

What are the effects of second-hand smoke on children? Second-hand smoke can lead to coughs, wheezing and ear infections. It makes asthma worse and increases the risk of cot death or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

To sign up to the **Smoke Free Homes and Cars Promise**, receive a free goody bag and request a home safety visit from **Grampian Fire & Rescue Service**, please call **01224 555336**.

What can I do to protect my children?

You can reduce your children's exposure to harmful second-hand smoke by:

- Smoking outside the house away from your children
- Making rules to stop others smoking in your house
- Never smoking in the car
- Planning smoking breaks in car journeys
- Keeping an umbrella by the door for smoking outside

You will know best what will work for your family.

Rent Consultation 2011/12

The average weekly rent for the financial year 2011/12 was set by the Council on 10th February 2011, taking into consideration the Scottish Housing Quality Standard Delivery Plan, the Council House New Build Programme, the outcome of the annual rent consultation, and the current economic position.

Current policy is for rent to be increased by inflation (RPIX – Retail Price Index excluding Mortgage Interest Payments) + 1%. This policy would have resulted in an increase of 5.7% using the November RPIX figure, however Council decided to minimise the financial impact on tenants and agreed an increase of 4.7%.

This increase resulted in an average weekly rent for 2011/12 of £63.51.

The rent consultation questionnaire was sent to tenants along with their copy of Newsbite which saved a considerable amount on postage. Fitting in to the Newsbite schedule meant that the questionnaire was sent to tenants later than in previous years. Together with adverse weather conditions at the end of 2010 this meant questionnaires were delivered either over the Christmas period, or after the closing date for returns. This resulted in a considerable drop in the number of questionnaires returned.

Questionnaire results were as follows:

Total issued: **22,400**

Total returned: **646 (2.9% of total issued)**

Number voting YES: **486 (75% of those voting)**

Number voting NO: **153 (24% of those voting)**

Spoilt: **7 (1% of those voting)**

City Partnership to improve Garden Maintenance

The Housing Service has recently entered into a contract with Aberdeen Foyer to deliver garden maintenance services to tenants who are vulnerable, over the age of 75 or physically unable to maintain their garden.

Aberdeen Foyer's 'Get Ready for Work' programme is funded by Scottish Enterprise and is designed specifically to assist young people who may need additional support to make the transition beyond school into the workforce.

The partnership which started in April and runs until October sees Foyer trainees carry out gardening duties under the supervision of the Council's Grounds Services team. Feedback from the team has been extremely positive. Foyer

staff have made a very good impression and the results have been so impressive Aberdeen City Council took on more staff that was first agreed.

The service includes:

- **A maximum of 14 cuts per year (approx 1 a fortnight) per household**
- **Uplifting grass clippings**
- **Hedges cut once per year**
- **Grass edges and channels sprayed and strimmed 3 times per year**

newsbite Competition

BONUS BONDS to TWO LUCKY WINNERS WORTH £20

To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the question below:

Where is the venue for this year's Tenants Open Day?

Answer:
Name:
Address:
Phone:

Closing date is **Friday 14 October 2011**. Please note this competition is for Aberdeen City Council tenants only.

Send entries to: **Newsbite Competition, Marketing, Town House, Union Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AQ.**

Congratulations to May Duncan & Sylvia Fettes who won the competition in issue 27.

Get a LIFT to reach your own home at Donside

The Low-cost Initiative for First Time Buyers (LIFT) could help you to own your own home in Donside – the new village development in the heart of Aberdeen.

Making the most of its 25-acre riverside site, Donside has been designed by Tenants First Housing Co-operative as a vibrant community. With a mix of low-energy housing from flats to town houses, Donside will be a sustainable community with business start-up units, offices, shops and a children's nursery.

In this new community there will be 64 new homes for purchase through the Scottish Government's LIFT scheme. The first houses will be available late this year with others phased over the following two years.

Rather than having to find the full purchase price of the new home, LIFT makes home ownership more affordable by allowing you to pay between 60% and 80% of the house



value. The remaining equity share will be held by Tenants First and the Scottish Government.

Under the LIFT scheme, you still own your home outright. The share that is funded is in the form of an interest-free equity loan. When you sell your house you will get your percentage of the selling price, with the remaining percentage going to the equity sharers.

The LIFT scheme gives priority for particular buyers, such as people living in council or housing association houses.

To find out more about how you could get a LIFT to home ownership at Donside, contact **Tenants First Housing Co-operative** now on **01224 628400**.

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه الوثيقة بالخط العريض أو البريل أو الأشرطة الصوتية المدمجة أو كنت تود ترجمتها إلى لغة أخرى فالرجاء الاتصال بنا على الهاتف أدناه.

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