



Forgewood Housing Co-op

Autumn 2007 Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn 2007 edition of Forgewood Housing Co-op's newsletter. We hope that the information contained is informative to you. Please remember that our newsletters are also available online at www.forgewoodcoop.org.uk.

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Forgewood's Glorious Gardens

The Co-op's annual garden competition was judged independently over the summer, and the best maintained gardens were selected.

We thank all of those residents who once again showed a high standard of garden maintenance and we hope this continues in the future. As usual prizes were awarded to all the winners.

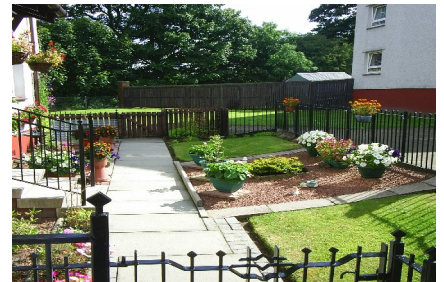
The winners were as follows:-



Winner New Build
81 Kinloch Drive



Winner Flats
164 Fife Drive



Prizes were also awarded for second place as follows:-



Second Place New Build
26 Lorne Drive



Second Place Flats
172 Fife Drive



Tenant Participation Open Day

We are pleased to announce that an open day for all of our residents is proposed for Saturday 15th December 2007 at Braidhurst High School. The Co-op is in talks with various partners who will also attend the event and we intend to make it a day of festive fun for all. This will include prizes being given out and hopefully Santa will manage to come along if he's not busy!

The day should also be very informative for our tenants and we hope you can mark this date down in your diary and keep some time free to come along. We understand it is a busy time of year but we are sure it will be very worthwhile. More information will be sent out to all of our households in the near future regarding the event.

Skip Delivery

Please see below the schedule for future skip deliveries in the area. The skips will now be delivered four weekly from October 2006.

Wed 27th September - Corner of Davaar Drive/Dinmont Crescent

Wed 11th October - Corner of Fife Drive/Lorne Drive

Wed 25th October - Entrance to new houses in Ashton Street

Wed 22nd November - Side of Forgewood Nursery

Wed 20th December - Corner of Davaar Drive/Dinmont Crescent

Please be careful when using the facility, which is usually available between 8.30am and 12.30pm. To make the most of the skip service please try to flatten any items such as cardboard boxes, drawer units, etc. before putting them in the skip. All residents are asked to ensure that any bulk items placed in the skip are broken down as much as possible beforehand. There have been occasions where large pieces of furniture are dumped and this has left little room for other items in the skip.

Office Closure

The Co-operative will be closed from **1.00pm on Thursday 20th September 2007 and will re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 25th September 2007.**

A list of emergency contact numbers are listed at the back of this newsletter should you require assistance when the office is closed.

New Tenant Handbook

You will have received the Co-operative's new tenant handbook with this newsletter. As well as outlining your tenancy conditions, the handbook contains information on your rights and responsibilities as a tenant and our rights and responsibilities as your landlord.

Please take some time to read the handbook and keep it in a safe place as there is a lot of useful information inside.

Housing Lists

We are always trying to attract new applicants onto our housing lists. Lots of information is given out with an application form such as names of other landlords in North Lanarkshire that can be applied to for rehousing.

A Common Housing Register (CHR) for North Lanarkshire is also being set up to make things easier for those wishing to be rehoused. One application form can be filled in with any Registered Social Landlord like the Co-operative without the need to visit other organisations. More information will be provided nearer the time of the CHR going live.

In the meantime, if you know of anyone wishing to be rehoused please get them to contact the Co-op and we will be happy to process an application as well as providing advice and assistance.



Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is still proving to be problematic in the area and we have referred to this issue in a number of previous newsletters. If you have a dog, you must ensure it is kept under proper control and supervision at all times. We have plenty of poop scoops and bags available for free at the office.

Dog fouling is a serious issue and the Council's Dog Warden has imposed fines where owners have not shown proper care and responsibility. If you know of anyone who is allowing their dog to foul without cleaning up afterwards, please contact Sandra (Dog Warden) on 01698 403110, or alternatively advise the Co-op and we will pursue the matter.



Interested in Becoming More Involved?

Then why not become a member/shareholder? It costs £1 (one off fee) and this entitles you to stand for election to the management committee, as well as being allowed to vote at the Annual General Meeting. All you have to do is be over the age of 16 and have an interest in what goes on in the area. For further information, please contact the office and we will be happy to help.



Bin Collection

Once again we would like to remind all tenants that your bin must be out for by **7.00am** on the day of collection. It has been noted that some tenants are not having their bin emptied on a weekly basis and this causes problems for the tenants themselves and their neighbours. North Lanarkshire Council will advise all tenants of the changes to uplift dates for all public holidays. The Council has informed the Co-op that this Monday's collection will be done one day earlier i.e. Sunday 23rd September 2007. However the Council should have issued you with written notification of this change.

Estate Issues

Close Cleaning

As you will be aware the Co-op provides a weekly close cleaning service, however it is still the responsibility of the tenants to ensure all common parts are swept and cleaned regularly. There have been incidents whereby bags have been left in the close areas. This has resulted in the Co-op opening the refuse sacks to ascertain households responsible. The Council's Environmental Wardens have taken up the matter and issued fines where appropriate.

Wheelie Bins

An alarmingly high number of wheelie bins have gone missing in recent months. The Co-op can no longer continue replacing these bins as all tenants are responsible for looking after them. If your bin is missing or has been stolen you must report this to the Police on 01698 483000 and receive an incident number. From now on tenants will be responsible for payment of replacement wheelie bins.

Kids Corner Competition Time

A word search is enclosed for anyone to complete. You may be aware that the Rugby World Cup is taking place at present, and the word search contains all of the teams in the tournament (well, all but one)!!! See if you can tell which team is missing. We will issue prizes to the first drawn correct entries.



Management Committee News

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held this week (Wednesday 19 September 2007) and this involves shareholders/members standing for election to the management committee. We will publish details of the full committee on our next newsletter, however the information will be available at the office and will also be displayed on our website.

What's On

We have displayed information on an insert with this newsletter on various different workshops/classes etc that are currently ongoing in the area. The information is provided by North Lanarkshire Council's Community Learning and Development team. You will see from the leaflet that there is plenty going on in and around Forgewood, with most events free of charge.

The Pension Service

The Pension Service can provide anyone aged 60 and over with a full benefit entitlement check in their own home. The Pension Service will quickly check entitlement to:-

Pension Credit	State Pension	Attendance Allowance
Carers Allowance	Winter Fuel Payments	Disability Living Allowance
Social Fund	Housing Benefit	Council Tax Benefit
Bereavement Benefit		
Support for Dental treatment, prescriptions charges, eyesight tests and other NHS costs		

To arrange an appointment please telephone 01698 483616.

Emergency & Useful Contact Numbers

Emergency Numbers (24hrs)

Saltire 0845 606 1555 - *Gas Central Heating Repairs*

Maintenance & Property Care 01236 624100 - *All other emergency repairs*

National Grid 0800 111 999 - *Gas Leaks (Transco)*

Scottish Power 0845 272 7999 - *Loss of electricity supply*

Scottish Water 0845 601 8855 - *Loss of water supply or problems with mains water supply*

Useful Numbers

Community Police 01698 483009 (Rob Brown) Citizens Advice 01698 251981

Benefits Agency/Job Centre 01698 483500 Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Council Tax 01698 403170 Housing Benefit 01236 758040

Northline : Bulk Uplifts, Pest Control, Abandoned Vehicles, Roads and
Lighting, Graffiti Removal, Dog Warden

Contact: 01698 403110



Staff Information

As you may be aware, the Co-op shares staff with Garrion People's Housing Co-op in Wishaw and cover is provided by all staff to both offices. The current staff team is:

John Mulholland, Director

Cathy Brien, Depute Director

Paul Lennon, Housing Manager

Jim Blyth, Maintenance Officer/Clerk of Works

Susan Kane, Sharon O'Rourke & Elaine Hyslop, Housing Officers

Kirsty McCourt, Administration Officer

Kevin Plunkett, Administration Assistant

Billy Gibb, Caretaker

Jim Murphy, Maintenance Assistant

Garry King & Ann Wilson, Wardens Law View Sheltered Housing Complex, Overtown

Forgewood Housing Co-operative Ltd, 79 Kinloch Drive, Motherwell, ML1 3XD

Opening Hours 9.00am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday

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