

CUSTOMER
APPROVED

Falkirk Council
Tenant's Magazine
Summer 2026
Edition No.30

Tenant Talk



The Show Must Go On!

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Community**

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Editorial

Welcome to the 30th edition of Tenant Talk, in the edition you can find out more about support services in Falkirk, and what local groups have been up to. The panel enjoyed writing and researching articles for this edition. We would encourage as many readers as possible to enter the competitions, and please let us know if you would be interested in taking part in a 'Bake Off', this is an exciting idea. We would also like to congratulate Lisa on being appointed as a Tenant Advisor for the Scottish Housing Regulator, and are pleased to see that the Young Persons Housing Forum have submitted an article. If you would like to get involved in producing Tenant Talk, please get in touch. We meet every couple of months for about 2 hrs, we do have fun and the chat is great – plus side – we always have cake.



Katrina



Louise



Liz J



Lisa

Keeping an Eye On

Percentage of tenants who feel their landlord is good at keeping them informed about their services and decisions.

97.8% 85.2%

2025

2024

Scottish Average 90.0%

Empowering Communities in Falkirk: How Tenants' Choice Funding is Bringing Ideas to Life

Across Falkirk, something powerful is happening. It's not just about funding – it's about voices being heard, ideas being supported, and communities shaping their own futures.



Through the **Tenants' Choice** initiative, local residents have been given real decision making power over where funding goes, backing projects that matter most to them. The result is a vibrant mix of creativity, care, and connection, delivered by passionate local groups who know their neighbourhoods best. From greener spaces to family outings, from warm meals to vital emotional support, this funding is reaching into the heart of Falkirk communities and making a genuine difference.

At the centre of this local impact, **Callendar Park Registered Tenants Organisation** has been awarded **£3,864.90** to enhance shared spaces with decorative planters. More than an aesthetic improvement, the project aims to create pride, strengthen connections, and make everyday surroundings more welcoming and uplifting.

Similarly, **Blooming Bairns** received **£4,179** to invest in landscaping and planters. Renowned for their commitment to greener neighbourhoods, their work reflects a wider movement across Falkirk – bringing colour, life, and wellbeing into outdoor spaces while encouraging social connection and supporting mental health.

For families, quality time together is invaluable. That's why **Tamfourhill RTO** has been awarded **£4,000** to deliver a summer family trip complete with lunches and beach toys. This initiative will create joyful experiences for families who may not otherwise have access to such outings, helping to build lasting memories and stronger bonds.

In a similar spirit, **Parkfoot Court RTO** received **£4,285** to organise community trips, entertainment, and a special Christmas lunch. These events are especially important for residents facing isolation, ensuring everyone feels included during the most meaningful times of year.

Bringing people together also lies at the heart of **Belmont Tower Social Club**, awarded **£3,711** to provide hot meals, activities, and a bus trip. These gatherings offer vital opportunities for friendship and belonging.

Meanwhile, **BACCRA** (Breton and Corentin Courts Residents Association) received **£4,409** for decorations, trips, equipment, and garden work – combining practical improvements with social engagement.

One of the most impactful awards went to **Women Stronger Together**, receiving **£3,098** to support running costs, therapy, trips, and hospitality. Their work provides safe, supportive spaces where women can heal, connect, and rebuild.

What unites all these projects is ownership. Residents chose them. Communities shaped them. And Falkirk is feeling the impact.

Because when people are trusted to choose, incredible things happen.

This article was written by Lisa Campos



To find out more about tenants choices and to apply please scan this qr code with your phone

or email tenant.participation@falkirk.gov.uk or text 07484070877

How Your Rent was Spent in 2025/26

£45,386,000
Total spend

£2,828,000
on kitchens and bathrooms

£2,641,000
on electrical works

£2,992,000
on heating upgrades

£8,455,000
on new builds

£6,025,000
on buybacks

£11,864,000
on window and door replacements

£69,300,000
Total Income



In October and November 2024, we asked you what rent increase you preferred for the next three years. You told us you preferred:

- 9.5% for 2025–26
- 9% for 2026–27
- 7% for 2027–28

On 29 January 2026, the Council agreed to this plan. So, your rent increased this year is based on that decision.



Did you know ...

You can check your rent balance and pay rent online using our Housing Online Portal. Visit www.falkirk.gov.uk/housingonline With Housing Online you can:

- View your rent statement and payments
- Bid for homes on Home Spot
- Update your contact details

Later in 2026, we'll be introducing an improved way to report and arrange routine/urgent repairs. We're making the Repairs Reporting feature in Housing Online simpler and easier to use. Soon you will be able to:

- Use a better tool to help diagnose the problem.
- Upload photos and videos of the issue.
- Report an emergency repair (without appointment).
- Book an inspection appointment with a Technical Officer.

To use Housing Online, you need to register. Go to www.falkirk.gov.uk/housingonline and choose:

Need Help? Email IHMS@falkirk.gov.uk and our team will help you.

Keep Your Details Up to Date After registering, please make sure your contact details remain current. We use this information to stay in touch with you. You can review and update them at any time in the 'My Contact Details' section.

Want to help improve Housing Online? Join our volunteer group: Call 01324 590858 or email tenant.participation@falkirk.gov.uk

New Committee - Big Plans!



A new Tenants and Residents' Association has formed, and they're already off to a fantastic start! The committee will be representing the views of tenants living in Breton and Corentin Court on all housing related matters, as well as organising a range of social activities.

They've recently secured Tenants Choice funding to redecorate the Corentin Court clubroom and plan some exciting trips. The group has been incredibly active attending the recent Tenants Forum with local tenants and even volunteering to test the new online housing repair reporting tool.

Once the clubroom makeover is complete, it will be used for a variety of activities and community lets, with computer and internet access also available.

If you'd like to find out more, why not pop along to the clubroom between 10 and 12 on a Thursday morning. Everyone is welcome and you might even get to sample some proper home baking!



Upcoming Bus Trips	
23 July	Oban
20 August	Ayr
24 September	Peebles
22 October	Dundee
19 November	Livingston

Strathcarron

Since 1981, you've made Strathcarron Hospice care possible. Join in these celebrations to ensure your local Hospice is here in another 45 years - by getting inspired, taking action, and sharing your story!

2026 is the year we will all celebrate 45 years of Strathcarron Hospice care - made possible by you! Join their birthday celebrations by taking on a fun 45 challenge and share your Strathcarron stories, photos, and memories online to raise awareness and funds. With your amazing support, Strathcarron hopes to provide hospice care across our local communities for another 45 years!



45 years.
Thousands of families.
One Community.

For 45 years, Strathcarron Hospice has supported local people with specialist care and compassion.



Join their celebrations! Ensure your local Hospice is here in another 45 years - by getting inspired, taking action, and sharing your story!



We support our local Hospice.
Every life matters, every gift counts

Housing Support – Tenancy Sustainment Service



Case Study – Impact of the Service

An elderly gentleman who had been evicted from supported accommodation due to self-neglect and lack of engagement was placed in temporary homeless accommodation in March 2024. With support from Wheatley Care, he received help to:

Set up and manage his tenancy and housing costs

Arrange utility accounts and payment methods

View and secure a suitable long-term tenancy (offered April 2025)

Furnish his home through community care grants and local support

Access housing benefits and council tax reduction

Address isolation through regular visits and community engagement

Reconnect with health and social care services, including social work and district nurses

Manage declining health and maintain his tenancy

Transition successfully from temporary accommodation to a permanent home

Outcome

The support gave him confidence, stability, and reassurance, enabling him to engage with essential services and live as independently as possible. He reported that the service made a significant positive difference and did not suggest any improvements, stating that without Wheatley Care's support he would have struggled to set up home and access long-term care.

The Tenancy Sustainment Service, run by Wheatley Care, supports people living in the Falkirk Council area to stay in their homes, prevent homelessness, and understand their housing options.

What the service offers

- Support for first-time tenants, people who are homeless, or those leaving supported accommodation to move into permanent housing.
- Help with setting up and maintaining a tenancy, including avoiding homelessness.
- Advice and assistance with:
 - Re-housing and resettlement
 - Income maximisation and budgeting
 - Managing rent arrears and housing costs
 - Arranging minor repairs
 - Preparing for independent living
 - Managing correspondence
- Accessing furniture, grants, and community services
- Referrals to health, financial, and social support services
- Housing support focuses on tenancy-related issues and daily living in the home, rather than personal care.

Who can access the service

Housing support is available to individuals and families who:

- Are aged 16 or over and live in Falkirk
- Live in council, housing association, private rented, owned, or temporary accommodation
- Are at risk of homelessness

How to access support

Support can be accessed directly through Falkirk Council or Wheatley Care, or via referrals from housing officers, housing associations, the Housing Needs Service, or the Private Sector Team. Following a referral, an assessment is completed and a personalised support plan is agreed and regularly reviewed.



Contact the
Tenancy Support Team
tenancysupportteam@
falkirk.gov.uk
01324 503600

Competition's Page

Children's Competition

The theme for this Children's Competition was chosen by Charlie Ann (Dinosaurs), see separate insert.

Winners will receive a £50 Smyths Toys Voucher



Children's Competition Winners

Charlie Ann from Maddiston Perrie from Falkirk Aria from Falkirk

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL COMPETITIONS IS 10th AUGUST 2026

Wordsearch

Find the following TWELVE SUMMER words:

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

Poetry Competition

Open to all young people aged 16 – 25
Winners will receive a £25 Amazon Voucher

a Dead Hedgehog Near Mariner Rd
by Kirsty Heggie

Making hog-sized holes in fences,
Making hide-outs - no expenses -
A laundry basket of Autumn leaves
Cosy corners with something to drink
Look around your front or back garden
And try to think how
a hedgehog would think

Don't take them home - I tries that -
it's no good
Build them a den, sprinkle dried worms
and leave some cat food
When Autumn is ending
and Winter is near
Try to drive mindfully, come down a gear
Watch the roads carefully
Now you know - because
The world is a better place
Full of happy little hedgehogs!



What's on at the Polmont Community Hub

Polmont Community Hub is a former school that the Braes community purchased from Falkirk Council as part of their community asset transfer process, which the hub completed in December 2025. It's a growing community where everyone is welcome to join. Ordinary people have come together to work towards transforming the community hub and its former playing fields into a sustainable asset that benefits not only Polmont but also the upper and lower Braes areas and surrounding districts.



Currently, the hub is successfully managed by unpaid volunteers, but the group plans to employ staff as soon as they have the resources to do so.

Communities Scotland. Many groups and individuals have borrowed tools for gardening, DIY, arts and crafts, and catering from the hub's sharing libraries.

The Hub hosts regular events, and to celebrate the completion of the asset transfer, they organized an afternoon tea and cake event funded by Falkirk Council's Stronger Communities fund. For months, the hub has welcomed a young band called Polar Opposite, which practices on Thursday nights. The band played their first gig at the hub's participatory budgeting soup night. However, the band members struggle to access musical instruments, inspiring the hub to add music equipment to their various sharing libraries.

The Hub is part of the Share and Repair Network and Circular

- Start a new group or join one of the established groups—there are over 30 to choose from!
- Help with ground maintenance; there is a lot of land to manage, and this grassroots pioneering journey is just beginning.
- Assist at events—helpers are needed for regular activities.
- Attend hub meetings, cinema nights, and join crafting and upcycling groups.



Thanks to funding received from the FDC Community Choices Awards, the hub converted its girls' changing rooms into a Braveheart Top Toes Foot Clinic. Braveheart Top Toes offers a toenail clipping service for those who are no longer able to cut their own nails, staffed by NHS podiatry-trained volunteers. Clinics are available in:

- Falkirk town centre
- Bo'ness
- Stirling
- Clackmannanshire
- Now in Polmont

The first appointment costs £35, which includes a personal clipper pack (costing £25 and required for each subsequent appointment). Please note that this service is for toenail clipping only; however, if clients experience any other foot-related issues, Braveheart Top Toes can refer them directly to NHS Podiatry for treatment.

To book an appointment or for further information, please contact Eleanor Paterson by phone at 01324 633505 or via email at eleanor.paterson2@nhs.scot.

Authentic Voices Group: Putting Lived Experience at the Heart of Local Services

Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) bring health, social work, police, education, and community organisations together to prevent and reduce alcohol and drug related harm in a community.

ADPs develop local strategies, commission and coordinate support services, and monitor performance to make sure people receive effective help and communities are safer and healthier.

The Authentic Voices Group brings together people with lived experience of alcohol or substance use to help influence important Alcohol & Drug Partnership (ADP) decisions. Members get involved in ADP workstreams, help shape policies and strategies, and offer honest insight into how services can improve.

This means decisions aren't just based on data — they are grounded in the real life experiences of the people who use, deliver and are affected by these services.

Who Can Join?

The group is open to anyone in Falkirk who cares about improving alcohol and substance use services. They aim to bring together a friendly mix of 10–12 members, including:

People with lived experience (currently in services or not)

Staff working in local services

Support workers

Carers and family members affected by alcohol or substance use

Anyone aged 18+

If you're passionate about shaping services for the better, your voice is genuinely welcome.

What Influence Does the Group Have?

Members have a meaningful role in shaping ADP decisions. They can:

Influence decision making at Executive Committee level

Share views on policies and proposals

Suggest changes or improvements

Put forward recommendations for approval

Contribute in a safe, open, and relaxed environment

This isn't just a "seat at the table" — the group is treated as a key partner in driving positive change.

What Does Being Involved Look Like?

As a member of the Authentic Voices Group, you'll have the opportunity to:

Help shape and grow the group itself

Represent the wide range of lived experience across Falkirk

Use your own experience to influence local policy

Coproduce new service designs

Connect and network with others in the lived experience community

Access training and personal development opportunities

The commitment is just two hours per month, with relaxed inperson meetings held on the first Monday of every month, 2–4pm. If you would like to know more please email FalkirkADP@falkirk.gov.uk or call 07484057254

Request an Estate Walkabout

What are Estate Walkabouts ?

Estate walkabouts are joint inspections of neighbourhoods by housing staff, tenants and partners such as waste management, roads and street lighting. They are an important way for residents to work with local housing teams to improve neighbourhoods. Tenants can request these walkabouts to identify issues, plan improvements and agree actions and priorities. The results of these walkabouts help monitor performance and guide the Council's neighbourhood improvement activities.



Estate walkabouts are not about inspecting individual gardens but can include open communal spaces that are maintained by the Council. To conduct the walkabout services will need at least three tenants to express interest.

Estate walkabouts can be requested by groups and individuals by scanning the QR code, or you can call 01324 50 60 70. You will need the following information:

- Your Name
- Name of Registered Tenants and Residents Organisation
- Contact email and or phone number
- Your address
- The name of the street/s you would like to inspect
- The issues you would like to point out



To request an estate walkabout please scan the QR Code with your phone.



If you would prefer you can report estate related matters by scanning this QR code.

You will be able to report things like:

Litter, Empty damaged grit bins, Potholes, Trip hazards, blocked drains, Abandoned vehicles and Dog fouling



Services are keen to work alongside Registered Tenants and Residents Organisations (RTO). If you would like to contact your local RTO. Please scan this QR code.

Safe Transition - Impact Arts

We recently popped along to see how this fantastic project is coming along. It's a relaxed, creative space where people can make something unique for their home — whether that's a cushion cover, a painting, or even an upcycled piece of furniture. The whole project is fully funded, and everyone gets a small budget to purchase an item to upcycle. All art materials are provided too.

You don't need to be an expert to join in - just bring an idea! Participants have been creating mood boards to help inspire their projects. These can include photos, drawings, textiles, or anything that captures the vibe or feeling they're going for. Mood boards are a great way to focus your ideas and guide you through the creative process.

If you'd like to take part, check out the details in the flyer. Refreshments are provided at no cost, and everyone is welcome. The project is especially aimed at people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, offering a supportive space to get creative and connect with others.

This course is free to attend, travel expenses can be reimbursed and refreshments are provided.



MOVING IN TO A NEW TENANCY? WORK WITH IMPACT ARTS AND GET £150 SHOPPING BUDGET TO DO UP YOUR NEW HOME!

Tuesdays | 9.30am - 12:30pm | 1st Falkirk Scout Hall, Pleasance, Falkirk FK1 1BG

Make It Your Own provides one-to-one support from professional artists and interior designers to spruce up your new home, give it character and make it truly your own.

In weekly workshops, tutors will teach you skills including: wall art & canvas painting, sewing & upholstery, furniture upcycling, wood working.

Eligibility criteria applies

SIGN UP TODAY: Email fin.russell@impactarts.co.uk



Young Persons Housing Forum

Earlier last year, our Youth Involvement TPAS winner Bryony got in touch with all our tenants aged 35 and under. You might be surprised to hear that, out of around 17,000 tenants, just under 3,000 fall into this age group.

The response was really encouraging. Around 20 young people signed up to a consultation register, with 7 becoming core members of the Young Persons Housing Forum (YPHF). Together, they agreed a Terms of Reference to shape how the group works.

Since then, the YPHF have been busy learning more about Housing Support Services. They felt it was important to share clear, helpful information about the service with other tenants, but first wanted to fully understand what's on offer. To do this, they looked at local statistics from Falkirk Council and spoke directly with Support Workers from the Wheatley Group, who deliver the service.

Members have also been getting involved in research with Stirling University, taking part in a focus group exploring intergenerational living and the housing hopes of both younger and older people. Some members are even hoping to attend an international conference to hear different perspectives on this topic.

The forum will continue to be involved in a range of housing consultations and is always keen to learn more. They'll soon be choosing their next topic to explore, so if you're interested in getting involved, now is a great time to join.

Meetings take place once a month on a Friday, from 6–8pm, at Falkirk Stadium, with catering included. If transport is an issue, this can be arranged.

To find out more, please email tenant.participation@falkirk.gov.uk or text 07484070877.

Tenants Forum

A Tenants Forum was held in January 2026, and it was great to see around 20 tenants come along alongside staff from Housing Services. The Tenant Led Service Improvement Scrutiny Panel felt it would be helpful for volunteers and tenant groups to learn more about the services we provide, so the agenda was designed with that in mind.



Speakers from different parts of Housing Services came along to share an overview of their work—including the Building and Maintenance Division, Housing Operations, and staff who introduced the new online housing portal and explained the benefits of using it. The Community Engagement Team also provided an update on the progress of the new Tenant and Customer Participation Strategy.

We're planning the next Tenants Forum for September, and we'd love to see even more people get involved. If you'd like to come along, or if you have ideas for what should be included on the agenda, please email tenant.participation@falkirk.gov.uk or text 07484070877.

'The Tenants Forum is a great space to meet staff and other tenants, we had opportunity to speak directly to officers, the council provide transport and refreshments – I enjoy coming along to these types of meetings.'

Get Involved at Your Pace

The Housing Consultation Register is a list of tenants who have expressed interest in hearing about housing events, providing feedback on services and taking part in consultations. There are currently approx 500 tenants on the register who come from across the district. We would like to increase the numbers on the register to ensure we are reaching a wider tenant population.

If you would like to join the register, please scan this QR code with your phone.

Change to Had A Repair Carried Out?

Tell us how happy you were with your repair. If something hasn't gone well, we will get in touch to try and put it right.

Scan the QR Code below with your phone



Tenant Participation Action Plan Update

The strategy is Falkirk Council Housing Services' plan for how tenants and customers can have a say in housing services over the next five years.

It explains:
How you can give your views
How the Council listens and responds
How tenants can help shape decisions, if they want to
The law says tenants have the right to be consulted and involved in decisions that affect their homes and services.

The Council believes:
Housing services work best when tenants' voices are listened to and acted on.
You do not have to get involved — but the choice must always be there.
If you do choose to get involved, the Council will:

- Offer training and support
 - Pay travel costs if needed
 - Use accessible venues
 - Offer online options
 - Provide feedback on what changed as a result of your views
- Nothing About Us Without Us means decisions about housing should never be made without giving tenants the chance to be heard.

Following Consultation, the new Tenant and Customer Participation Strategy is now live, the Community Engagement Team have put together an action plan which outlines what we want to achieve and how we are going to achieve it, some of these actions include:

What We Want to Achieve	How We'll Make It Happen
Provide consultation feedback	We'll keep you updated by sharing results on Participate Plus and in Tenant Talk, so you can see how your views are making a difference.
Promote TP opportunities	Every new tenant will receive our How to Get Involved leaflet at their Settling in Visit, making it easy to see all the ways you can get involved.
Respond to estate walkabout requests	Tenants and community groups can request a walkabout online or by calling the contact centre — and you decide who attends and what areas to focus on.
Operate the Tenants' Choices Funding Panel	We'll continue supporting projects that benefit tenants and promote the fund through Tenant Talk and at events across housing services.
Support Registered Tenant Organisations	We'll offer training when needed, encourage groups to network, and share helpful housing-related information to support your community work.
Increase the consultation register	Tenants can join online, through the contact centre, or by speaking with their Housing Officer. We'll also promote the register in Tenant Talk to help more voices be heard.
Develop the Tenant Forum	We'll work closely with tenant groups and volunteers to shape future forum agendas together.
Provide Tenant Participation training for staff	Staff will receive training during team meetings and newstarter induction sessions to help them better support participation.
Develop a report on tenant influence	Each year, we'll publish a report highlighting how tenant representatives have shaped our services. This will accompany the Landlord Report to Tenants and be shared in Tenant Talk.



If you would like to see the Tenant and Customer Participation Strategy and more actions, please scan the QR code below. You can also request a copy of the strategy, please email dawna.chisholm@falkirk.gov.uk or text 07484070877.

Tenant & Customer Participation Strategy 2025 – 2030



Taking Care of the Environment

The Hallglen development involved careful planning to balance environmental, historical, and modern housing needs. Wildlife was protected through measures such as installing bat boxes, creating hedgehog pathways, and preserving or replacing trees, while also maintaining natural spaces for biodiversity.

Historical considerations were explored, including a potential link to the Battle of Falkirk, but archaeological surveys found nothing significant. The site, formerly Woodend Farm, retains its heritage through the refurbishment of listed farmhouse buildings, blending traditional features with modern upgrades like insulation, double glazing, and discreet solar panels.

The new homes incorporate energy-efficient features such as solar panels, triple glazing, and smart heating systems, alongside practical additions like EV charging space and secure outdoor fittings. The development also includes shared green spaces and has been designed with long-term sustainability and infrastructure protection in mind.

Article written by Katrina Fraser



Homes back in to council ownership

Falkirk Council Buy Back Scheme: 1,000 Homes and Counting

The Buy Back Scheme looks at buying back former council homes that were sold under the Right to Buy. This helps increase the number of affordable homes available across the Falkirk Council area.

Falkirk Council has reached an important milestone in its work to increase affordable housing. Through the Buy Back Scheme, the Council has now purchased over 1,000 homes. Since 2013, the scheme has helped bring former council homes back into use. This means more people across the Falkirk area can access safe, secure and affordable homes. Many Council teams have played a part in this success, including Housing Operations, Asset and Investment, Legal Services and Finance. They have worked closely with the Scottish Government to secure grant funding to support these purchases.

What types of homes are we looking to buy?

The property must:

- Be a former council property
- Be advertised for sale with a current Home Report
- Have an owner who has already made their own rehousing arrangements
- Be a house of any size or a 1 or 2 bedroom flat

Priority is given to areas where there is the greatest need for affordable housing.

How do we find properties?

Properties are identified through online listings and information from estate agents. All homes must be within the Falkirk Council area.

Every home brought back into council ownership helps provide stability for individuals and families who need it most.

The Council acts like any other buyer. Council officers do not meet with sellers or estate agents, and sellers are responsible for their own legal fees.

Contact us

Housing Strategy Team
E: bb@falkirk.gov.uk
T: 01324 590797

Help with Decoration

Armstead products	Armstead Vinyl Matt Colour	Armstead Vinyl Matt White	Armstead Vinyl Silk Colour	Armstead Quick Dry Satin Brilliant White	Accessory Pack	Quick Dry Polyfilla 330g
1 Bed Pack	1 x 5L 1 x 2.5L	1 x 5L	1 x 5L	1 x 2.5L	1	1
2 Bed Pack	2 x 5L 1 x 2.5L	1 x 5L 1 x 2.5L	1 x 5L	1 x 2.5L	1	1
3 Bed Pack	3 x 5L	1 x 10L	1 x 5L	1 x 2.5L	1	1
4 Bed Pack	4 x 5L	1 x 10L 1 x 2.5L	1 x 5L	1 x 5L	1	1
Single room	1 x 5L	1 x 2.5L	—	1 x 2.5L	1	1
Kitchen/ bathroom	—	—	1 x 5L	1 x 2.5L	1	1
Where to use?	 Living Spaces & Bedrooms	 Ceilings	 Bathrooms	 Woodwork	 Accessory Pack	 Repair cracks and holes

We understand that moving into a new home can bring extra costs. To help with this, Housing Services now offers paint packs to all new tenants when they are allocated and sign up for a new property.

The size of the paint pack is based on the size of your home. Tenants moving into 1, 2 or 3-bedroom properties will receive a paint pack suitable for that size. If you move into a larger home (4 or 5 bedrooms), you will still receive a paint pack equivalent to a 3-bedroom property.

We recognise how important it is to help you settle in and make your house feel like home, as this plays a key role in sustaining your tenancy.

Our Tenant Panel will be speaking with residents who have received paint packs to hear about their experiences. They will share feedback and benefits in a future edition of Tenant Talk.

What You Need to Know About Our Device Lending Library



1 Is there a charge to borrow a device?
No, borrowing a device, including the MiFis (which provides Internet access via a SIM card), is completely free.



2 How long can I borrow a device for?
Devices can be borrowed for up to 3 months, it may be possible to extend this if there is no waiting list.

3 What if I don't have Internet access at home?
Connecting Scotland have provided some MiFis which can be borrowed, providing free unlimited data, allowing you to connect your devices to the Internet

4 What if I'm not confident using technology?
Don't worry, our library staff will help you get set up and offer advice and support.



5 Will the device hold my data?
No, when the device is returned staff will perform a factory reset, this will remove all of your information.



For more information speak to a member of library staff or contact:
Gavin Johnstone (Digital Services Librarian) LibrariesIT@falkirk.gov.uk



JAYAS CLAY ART STUDIO CLASSES

Clay charms. 1 hour class £15
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2 hour class £20
3d Plaster Art 1 hour class £15
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24B, Level 3,
Howgate shopping centre
Falkirk

for details contact
Jaya.
07538082399



Scottish Wildlife Watch Club

Our vision is for a network of healthy, resilient ecosystems on land and sea, supporting Scotland's wildlife and people.

We will achieve our vision through:

Championing the ecological, moral, social and economic reasons to protect and restore nature

Demonstrating best practice in practical conservation and the creation of Living Landscapes and Living Seas

Inspiring people to experience, learn about and care for wildlife and wild places

If you would like to take part in a nature ramble, please get in touch.

The information for this article was provided by Louise Gillespie



Scottish Wildlife Trust



Love local wildlife?
Stay connected with updates on **walks, talks, and events** in the Falkirk area

Subscribe to our mailing list for regular news

Visit our Falkirk SWT Group webpage to explore what we do

Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates and events

Contact us: swtfalkirk@gmail.com

Scottish Wildlife Trust, Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF

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If you would like regular updates about the Falkirk Group's programme of local walks and specialist talks, please subscribe to the Scottish Wildlife Trust mailing list.



Visit our local Falkirk SWT Group webpage



Follow us on Facebook for news and events

Nominate a Neighbour

The panel received a number of lovely nominations and would like to thank everyone who took the time to put someone forward. After much discussion, the panel chose a nomination from Gillian.

Gillian nominated Andrew, her nextdoor neighbour, who has supported her in so many thoughtful ways — from lending the odd cup of sugar or milk to sharing any extra homecooked meals (with a wee treat for Gillian's dog too!). Andrew doesn't just look out for Gillian; he makes sure everyone's bins are taken out and brought back in (now that's a good neighbour!).



Andrew was presented with £50 Tesco voucher.

"He entertains the kids with his wee Temu deliveries — usually something funny that makes everyone laugh. Andrew really cheers me up. He also looks out for the older folks in the street and makes sure they know they can ask him for help whenever they need it."



Louise, one of our panel members, visited Andrew to learn more and discovered he's currently taking on a skydive to raise funds for his local Tae Kwon Do club, where he also coaches. The money raised will help fund places for young people and provide suits, as Andrew believes every child should have the chance to learn Tae Kwon Do, regardless of family finances. A fulltime dad, Andrew also brings the community together by organising social events like BBQs and Easter egg hunts.

If you have a neighbour that goes above and beyond, why not nominate them. Nominations can be sent to tenant.participation@falkirk.gov.uk or send a text with all your details and the person being nominated — don't forget to tell us why you are nominating them — to 07484070877.

Benefits Calculator

The help you didn't know was there

Many people in Falkirk miss out on money they're entitled to. This isn't because it's not available, but because it can be hard to find out what you can claim. Every year, about £36 million in benefits go unclaimed in Falkirk.

When Anika started working and moved into her own flat, she promised herself she'd keep on top of everything: rent, bills, the lot. But as costs crept up, even her best planning couldn't stretch far enough. One evening, she saw a post about Falkirk Council's new Benefits Calculator. She didn't think she'd be eligible for anything because she was in work. But she decided to try it anyway, just to check. To her surprise, it was simple. In a few minutes, Anika got a list of benefits she could claim including support she hadn't even heard about before.

She started applying that night and felt something she hadn't felt in months: relief.

Sometimes, the biggest difference doesn't need to come from big changes, it can come from simple tools that help people find the support that's already there.

Try the Benefits Calculator today:
www.falkirk.gov.uk/benefitscalculator



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Scottish Government Open Market Shared Equity (OMSE) Scheme



The Link LIFT OMSE scheme, helping eligible buyers purchase a home,

is due to return this year to help eligible buyers purchase a home — opening date to be confirmed. If interested, please go to webpage <https://linkhousing.org.uk/lift/> or contact Link Housing Group directly lift@linksharedequity.co.uk or 0330 303 0125. This scheme is administered by Link Housing Association

Marion's Empire Biscuits

The Editorial Panel has the pleasure of tasting Marion's home baked empire biscuits, they were delicious, so we asked Marion to share her recipe with readers. This recipe will make 24 biscuits.

You will need:

- 4 oz Block Margarine
- 4 oz Willow Butter
- 2 oz Icing Sugar
- 2 oz Cornflour
- 8 oz Plain Flour

This is how you do it:

Cream together margarine and willow, mix in the icing sugar, cornflour then add flour

Mix until it all comes together like a paste

Roll out to about half a cm

Cut into rounds

Bake at 170 (fan oven) for 20 minutes or until pale/golden brown

Sandwich together with jam

To make your icing you will need:

- 125g/4½oz unsalted butter, softened
- 200g/7oz icing sugar, sifted
- 1 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Method

Put the butter into a large bowl and beat with an electric hand mixer until light and fluffy.

Sift in the icing sugar, then work it into the butter, starting slowly at first, then beating more vigorously once all the sugar is combined.

Add the milk and the vanilla, then beat until creamy and smooth. If the mixture is too stiff, add a little more milk.

Scrape down the sides of the bowl to make sure all the icing sugar is incorporated. Continue to whisk until light and creamy.

You can colour the buttercream at this stage, or add flavourings such as cocoa or melted chocolate, or lemon or orange zest.

Don't forget the sprinkles and jelly too!



Wildlife Tips for June

In June, gardens become lively with wildlife and require regular care as summer begins.

Support wildlife: Plant nectar-rich, native flowers to attract bees and butterflies. Leave food for badgers and grow insect-friendly plants to help bats and natural pest control.

Control weeds: Regular hoeing, especially in dry weather, helps keep weeds under control.

Water wisely: Prioritise pots and containers, and consider using kitchen wastewater.

Keep planting: Sow crops like beans, carrots, lettuce, and brassicas in stages for continuous harvests.

Plant out crops: Move tender plants (e.g. tomatoes) outdoors and fill containers and hanging baskets.

Care for shrubs and perennials: Plant them out and water regularly in hot weather.

Overall, June is about encouraging wildlife while maintaining and planting for a productive summer garden.



Would you take part in a bake-off competition?

We don't know how and we don't know when, but we thought best to gauge interest before making any plans, what we are asking readers is – would you be interested in taking part in a bake-off competition. If you are interested, please email tenant.participation@falkirk.gov.uk or text BAKE OFF and your name and contact details to 07484070877.

We will be in touch to let you know if this goes ahead and what the rules will be.



Contact Us

One Number: 01324 506070

Email Housing Services: housingservices@falkirk.gov.uk

Please email tenant.participation@falkirk.gov.uk if this publication is required in another language or format.