



# Cowal Estate Management Newsletter December 2023

Welcome to your local newsletter, which tells you what is happening in and around the Cowal area estates.

## **Building new homes - We listened to what our tenants needed**

We have completed the build of 4 much needed specially adapted properties at Eton avenue. These properties have been built to a very high specification to meet the specific needs of our tenants and their families, these properties lift the overall appearance of our estates and improve the day to day living experience of our tenants.



## Winter Works



Our grounds maintenance team will be out and about making good use of the time whilst the grass cutting season has come to an end. The ground maintenance team will be removing moss from pathways, clearing leaves, and having a general winter tidy up of our estates including our sheltered housing complexes, Cragroy and Wallace Court.

### ASSISTED GARDEN SCHEME

If you are over 65 and/or are registered disabled and struggle to maintain your garden, you may qualify for the assisted grass cutting service. Although our lists are currently full, it is worth planning ahead and contact your local ACHA office for an application, or call us on 01546 605870 and we will post one out for you to complete and return. This helps us plan ahead and if you qualify we can add you to the waiting list.

**Your Local Housing and Neighbourhood Assistants are here to help:**

**Name: Lynne Rennie**

**Email: [Lynne.Rennie@acha.co.uk](mailto:Lynne.Rennie@acha.co.uk)**

**Name: Courtney Cowden**

**Email: [Courtney.Cowden@acha.co.uk](mailto:Courtney.Cowden@acha.co.uk)**

**Tel: 01546 605950**

## ESTATE INSPECTIONS & WALKABOUTS

You will see your Local Housing and Neighbourhood Assistant carrying out inspections of your local area throughout the year. If you want to make us aware of any ideas or concerns you want to make us aware of, please do not hesitate to discuss with the assistants whilst they are in the area.

We also carry out Estate Walkabout on a regular basis across the Cowal area. You are welcome to join our staff if we are in your area, check the Estate inspection performance section on our website for information.



Housing & Neighbourhood  
Assistant  
*Courtney Cowden*



Housing Officer  
*Angie McArthur*



Housing & Neighbourhood  
Assistant  
*Lynne Rennie*

Please feel free to  
join us

Area	Date	Time
5 Manor Way Tighnabruaich	22/12/23	10.00am
Berryburn, Kames – <b>Meet at the entrance to Berryburn</b>	26/01/24	10.00am
Cowal Place – <b>Meet at the top of McArthur Street</b>	23/02/24	10.00am

## Estate Management - when out and about, we have found...

We regularly find dirty floors and fly tipping in communal close areas. We have also identified overflowing bins causing litter and contaminated recycle bins tagged by Argyll and Bute council.

Residents and tenants are jointly responsible for taking turns to clean stairs, closes and other common areas. Our staff inspect closes regularly & will update the inspection records with their findings & record any actions taken.

Tenants and residents have a responsibility to help keep our estates tidy and litter free, and help our environment by recycling responsibly.



**Your green bin is for general rubbish**

**Your green bin is emptied every 3 weeks**

**Please use your green bin for all the general rubbish that we can't recycle**



### **Include:**

- nappies
- cling film, bubble wrap, or food contaminated plastics
- non-recyclable plastics
- polystyrene packing
- items that can't be recycled



### **Please don't include:**

- items that can be recycled
- batteries and electrical equipment
- rubble, soil, stone or bricks
- bulky items



**Your blue bin is for paper, card, cans and plastic**

**Your blue bin is emptied every 2 weeks**

- Please do not put items into plastic bags, just straight into the bin
- Please rinse cans, cartons and plastics before putting them in the bin
- Please leave the lids off bottles so they can be squashed, or



### **Include:**

- food, drink and aerosol cans
- clean plastic drinks, detergent or cosmetic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays
- paper, newspaper, brochures, magazines, envelopes, books
- food packaging cardboard / packaging sleeves
- cereal boxes
- egg boxes
- cardboard boxes / packaging
- drinks cartons / tetrapaks
- clean foil



### **Please don't include:**

- oil or paint tins
- plastic bags or liners
- other types of plastic packaging
- tissues
- metallic wrapping paper
- paper and card contaminated with food
- painted paper or card



## External Wall Insulation, Solar panels & Exemplar Estates

External wall insulation works has been completed at Finbracken in Sandbank and at Shuna Gardens in Kirn. This will be followed up with Exemplar Estates works to enhance the external appearance and improve our estates. Through the Exemplar Estates program we plan to change to high capacity bins at Finbracken, helping to alleviate litter problems. We also plan to remove distressed trees and introduce new tree planting to further improve our environments.



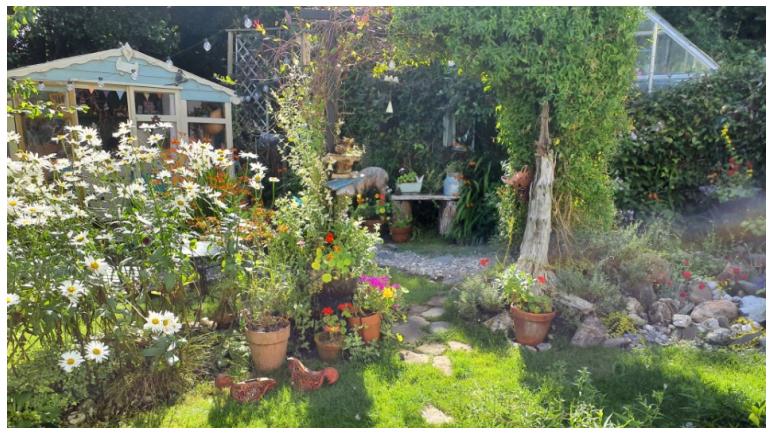
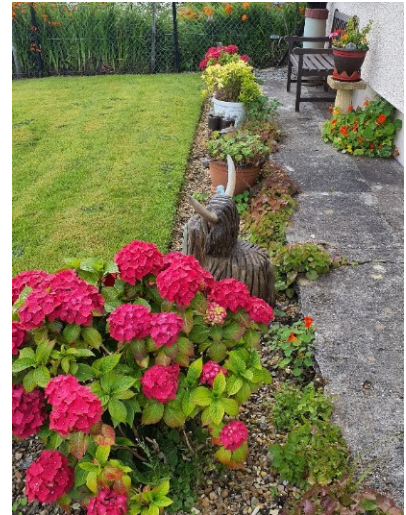


## Garden in Bloom Competition

We know so many of our tenants put a lot of hard work into their gardens and this in turn, makes a positive difference to the appearance of our estates.

Do you or your neighbours have a garden to be proud of? Then look out for our annual garden competition which will be launched again next Spring. There are categories for gardens and containers and the entries are judged by our Board of Management in September. The winners and runners up receive prizes which include a trophy and garden vouchers.

So if you have a garden you are proud of, or if you would like your neighbour's hard work recognised, keep your eye on our website [www.acha.co.uk](http://www.acha.co.uk) early next year, complete an entry form and return it to us.



## ACHA Your Voice Group

Are you passionate about tenants having a say in matters that directly affect them? Do you want to challenge how ACHA and AHFA perform? Then the You Voice Group is for you!

Your Voice is our award winning tenant scrutiny panel. Members have the opportunity to examine and question the way we deliver our services. The role is varied and will involve taking part in team discussions, analysing performance information and making suggestions to shape and improve services for you and all ACHA customers. The group won the Scotland Housing 'Excellence in Tenant Scrutiny Award for 2023.

Do you have the time to help us? This is an exciting

