HOUSING Watter

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

30th Birthday Issue

In April 1987 the very first edition of Housing Matters was published.

The front page from that issue shows an image of "New Council Housing at Exmouth Street, designed to blend in with traditional terraced houses."

Back then the newsletter was a lot more streamlined consisting of just eight pages, printed in black and white with a splash of pink!

Turn to page 7 to read 30 extracts and facts from the first issue.

Garden Competition's 30th year

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the reintroduction of the garden competition.

See page 3 for details of this year's competition which we hope will be the biggest and best ever.





WE GIVE YOU A CHOICE ON HOW YOU CAN ACCESS OUR SERVICES

We have our office at: Barrow Borough Council - Housing Department, Town Hall, Duke Street,

Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 2LD

Our office hours are: Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm

Telephone enquiries: Monday to Thursday: 8:30am to *5pm (*4.30pm on Friday)

You can telephone us: (01229) 876578

Our 24hr Emergency No: Out-of-hours homelessness enquiries and emergency non-gas repairs: (01229) 833311

Emergency gas-only repairs: Freephone 0800 031 6578

You can email us at: housing@barrowbc.gov.uk

We have a website at: www.barrowbc.gov.ul

Request a pin number and you can gain access to our services through SeeMyData which will allow you to report or check on the progress of a repair, view your rent account and access online forms such as garage applications and online surveys.

Love Borrow

Recommendations of the Housing Management Forum

TOWN HALL TALK

Thanks to all the community groups around the Borough who have contributed to this newsletter with their reports on what has been going on since the last edition. It is great to see how much is going on.

Whilst Spring is only just here, we are starting to think about the next garden competition. We are talking with the Tenants' Forum about how we can celebrate the awards this year which will be the 30th year of the event since it was reintroduced in 1987. Details of the event and how to enter are on page 3.

I'm sure you will be aware the Council is having to make savings due to reduced funding. Other than to say the Council is having to consider, amongst other savings, making alternative management arrangements for the Forum and Leisure Centre, the Council has also appointed a new contractor to deal with waste collection and recycling. You should receive a communication direct from our Streetcare colleagues explaining how the new arrangements will work. We are aware from discussions with tenant representatives that waste collection can sometimes be a problem - particularly in flats, but the new arrangements will make it easier.

The Housing Service is equally facing significant financial challenges. In the last edition I commented on the 1% rent reduction. Well, we achieved the savings required to balance the books for this year, but we do have less money to spend on improving the stock and further savings are required. The Tenants' Forum will be working with officers and councillors to consider how they will achieve the necessary savings in following years. We will of course keep you informed through the Tenants' Forum meetings and this newsletter.

Colin Garnett

Assistant Director – Housing

Email: housing@barrowbc.gov.uk Website: www.barrowbc.gov.uk Below is a summary of recommendations made by members of the Housing Management Forum.

Meeting held on 10th November 2016 Community Alarm Services provided by

the Housing Service
Members agreed that the Housing
Service:

- ends its provision of providing Community Alarm Services directly and serves three months' notice on the remaining tenants;
- meets the charges made to the tenants until they move to an alternative provider or stop receiving the Service but not longer than the Notice period; and
- provides assistance if necessary to help tenants move to another provider.

Grange & Cartmel Community Centre Consultation

Members noted for information the results of the consultation.

Future Use of Grange and Cartmel Crescent Community Room and Guest Bedroom

Members agreed the conversion of the Community Centre into residential accommodation and for the resultant flat and guest bedroom to be incorporated into the housing stock and that the Assistant Director – Housing would look to fund the work from previously agreed Maintenance Budget.

Disabled Adaptations: Cumbria Housing Partners – Contractor Selection Procedure

Members noted the selection criteria adopted by Procure Plus and the subsequent appointment of Top Notch Contractors as the Council's preferred contractor to undertake disabled adaptations via the CHP framework.

Repair Finder: Change of Supplier Members agreed to accept the

Members agreed to accept the recommendation to select M3 vendor with a direct award

Cumbria Housing Partners – Enhancing Social Value

The Council agreed:

- the proposal for the future delivery of social investment proposed by CHP;
- that all monies derived from the delivery of the Housing Maintenance Programme be only used for the benefit of the Tenants of Barrow; and
- to delegate the Assistant Director -Housing to approve the detailed process for allocating funds and sign the Fund Agreement when he was satisfied that the appropriate arrangements were in place.

Meeting held on 12 January 2017

Housing Revenue Account 2017/18 Executive Committee agreed the HRA for 2017/18 including a dwelling decrease of 1% and garage increase of 2%.

Housing Maintenance & Gas Servicing

Members noted progress of the two contracts over the first 12 months; a further report will be presented late summer to consider whether the contracts should be extended.

Meeting held on 23 February 2017

Housing Maintenance Investment Programme 2017/18

Members agreed 2017/18 investment profile.

Tenancy Agreement Review

Members agreed review of the Tenancy Agreement should progress to the consultation stage.

Cumbria Housing Partners

Executive Committee agreed the Housing Investment Plan be delivered directly with Procure Plus and Cumbria Housing Partners be served with notice to end membership.

ASB Action Ltd: Service Level Agreement 2017/18

Members agreed to renew the SLA for a further 12 months.

For more details on these reports visit:

http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/about-the-council/barrow-council/council-minutes-and-agendas

Features	Page
GARDEN COMPETITION	3
HELP WITH WATER CHARGES	4
RECORD OF PAYMENTS	6
30 YEARS AGO	7
GOOD TENANT REWARDED	12
CHILDREN'S COMPETITION	16



ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION



Special 30th Anniversary

This year's competition is a special one – it will be the 30th competition since it was reintroduced in 1987.

To mark this special occasion, we're hoping this year's competition will be our biggest and best ever!!

The competition is open to all our tenants and leaseholders and there's a category to suit any outdoor space - whether your garden is small or large, a balcony or communal area or simply pots and containers – we would love you to enter.

Everyone who enters the competition is invited to a special awards ceremony (including buffet lunch) held in the splendor of the Town Hall and there are lots of prizes, including gift vouchers, shields and trophies - in fact, no-one will leave the ceremony empty handed.

Judging usually takes place mid/late July with entrants being advised of the actual date nearer the time.

There are six categories to enter, including one for first-time entrants, so if you have never entered before, why not give it a go this year?





Schools Competition

We will contact primary schools directly inviting them to enter the competition.



2017 GARDEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

l wis	sh to enter the following category: (Please ti	ck ap	propriate box)	
	FLOWER Garden (large/small/containers)		VEGETABLE Garden	
	Garden by TENANT WITH DISABILITIES		ESTATE/COMMUNAL Garden	30th Year
	Garden by a LEASEHOLDER		FIRST-TIME ENTRANT Garden	
	ne (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) – IN CAPITALS			
Aaa	ress	• • • • • • • •		蟲
Post	tcode Tel	· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		BOROUGH OF

Completed form should be returned to: Cathy Kirk, Garden Competition Co-ordinator Housing Department, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 1RR – by end of June 2017. Complete this form or ring Cathy Kirk on (01229) 876523 to register as an entrant.



UPDATE ON OUR NEW CONTRACTORS

In November 2015, we appointed two new contractors to carry out gas maintenance and responsive repairs. Here is an update on their performance to date:

Sure Group - Gas Servicing & Repairs

Sure Group has exceeded our expectations in the delivery of gas servicing and breakdown repairs within the borough.

The new service provided by Sure Group offers tenants a direct link – via the freephone number – to a dedicated help desk team who process and handle all gas-related enquiries from tenants, including out-of-hours emergency calls

This has resulted in both financial and efficiency savings for the Council and improved the delivery of services for tenants.

In addition, Sure Group have improved the overall standard and quality of the services provided and are presently achieving the following levels of performance;

•	Landlord's Gas Safety Record compliance	100%
•	Servicing appointments made and kept	97.88%
•	Breakdown appointments made and kept	99.27%
•	Repairs fixed first time	98.00%
•	Customer satisfaction	100%

On the down side, there remain a significant number of tenants who fail to allow Sure Group access to carry out their annual gas safety inspection. This causes a lot of unnecessary work and some tenants eventually find themselves summoned to court where the magistrate issues a warrant to break into these properties to ensure the gas supplies and appliances are safe.

Please remember to respond promptly to a gas service appointment letter. If you need to make an alternative appointment please contact Sure Group on 0800 031 6578.

Hughes Brothers - Responsive Repairs & Void Improvements

Hughes Brothers have made positive improvements to the way responsive repairs are managed and delivered.



The restructuring of staff and, in particular, supervision and administration in the Barrow office has been a difficult task for Hughes Brothers' management team and created operational difficulties around planning and scheduling of works. To help improve the services offered to tenants Hughes Brothers have invested in a new computer system. The new system allows repairs to be booked into a suitable appointment date and time that suits tenants availability.

In addition, Hughes Brothers have responded positively to rectify some early performance shortfalls and whilst there remains room for improvement the trend in service quality for tenants is moving positively upwards and is improving with time. The present level of performance is shown below;

•	Number of appointments made and kept	84.77%
•	Repairs fixed first time	96.05%
•	Customer satisfaction	94 40%

Please remember to respond promptly to a responsive repair appointment letter. If you need to make an alternative appointment please contact Hughes Brothers on 01229 389088.

HELP WITH WATER CHARGES



Help to Pay Scheme

One of the newest schemes to be introduced for customers is the Help to Pay scheme from United Utilities.

If you receive Pension Credit - either Pension Guarantee Credit or Pension Savings Credit - you may be eligible to have your water bill capped at a set amount each year.

If you are accepted on to the scheme, the maximum annual amount you would pay for your water this year would be £250.

So, if your current bill is more than £250 and you are in receipt of Pension Credit, please contact Jo Hughes at the Housing Department - contact details below.

Support Tariff

Support Tariff is for customers who have arrears with their current water charge. To be eligible for support tariff, you must:

- be in arrears with your water charges;
- live in the local authority area; and
- receive one of the benefits/tax credits shown below:
 - Council tax reduction/support
 - Housing benefit
 - Income support
 - Income-based JSA
 - Working tax credit
 - Pension credit guarantee
 - Income related ESA
 - Universal credit

Six tariffs are available depending on your individual circumstances. You will need to provide details of your income and a copy of your latest DWP award letter or payslip.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties and worried about paying your current charges please get in touch with me.



Contact me

For more information on either of these schemes, please get in touch with me, Jo Hughes, (Money Management Advisor) on (01229) 876534 jhughes@barrowbc.gov.uk



DEALING WITH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR



Anti-social behaviour is persistent, aggravating and deeply distressing for those suffering the nuisance. A single case can take a huge amount of officer's time to ensure the safety and peace and quiet for our residents. We are committed to 'stop and prevent' the repetition of anti-social

behaviour and we are continually looking to improve our service to our customers.

We are lucky to have a service level agreement – a contract - with a ASB Action Ltd who provide us with expert advice, training and support when dealing with ASB cases - through to legal action where necessary.

Action on Untidy Gardens

We are keen to work with them to ensure untidy gardens are dealt with efficiently and where necessary secure 'garden injunctions' to ensure our estates are free from 'untidy gardens' which looks unsightly and brings an area down.

Out-of-hours Witness Support Service

Another service improvement we are now providing is an 'out-of-hours' witness support service for serious cases of anti-social behaviour. We will arrange for a member of ASB Action to ring a victim out-of-hours up to 10pm. This service will support witnesses who are extremely vulnerable or frightened (ie, those residents who are worried there may be retribution following the serving of an injunction). Our expert consultants will call them of an evening and offer reassurance and companionship.

We are committed to providing excellent customer service and support for our most vulnerable residents.

Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour

For more information, including what to do if you are having problems with a neighbour and how we tackle anti-social behaviour, please pick up a copy of our Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour leaflet or contact us (details on back page).

Complaints can also be made online: http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/residents/council-housing/housing-forms/tenants-reporting-form/

HOUSING'S NEW I.T. SYSTEM

We are in the process of upgrading our IT system and are planning to launch this new system in June/July this year.



It is our priority to ensure the transition to the new system is as smooth as possible with little disruption to our service or customers, and we are working hard to achieve this.

We will be running

staff training sessions over the coming months but our team of dedicated Housing Staff will be available to deal with all your requirements and queries as normal on (01229) 876578.

TENANCY AGREEMENT REVIEW

The Housing Service operates two types of tenancy - an Introductory Tenancy and a Secure Tenancy.

Our current Tenancy Agreement is due for review due to operational changes and also changes in legislation with the Localism Act and the Housing and Planning Act 2016 which impacts on clauses within the current Tenancy Agreement.

As part of the 'review' process there have been several meetings with Scrutiny Group to look at the existing Tenancy Agreement and also discuss drafts of the revised agreement.

We have worked with specialist housing solicitors to ensure all areas affected by changes in legislation are incorporated into the review. We now have a draft of the new Tenancy Agreement which in the coming weeks will be put out to a four-week consultation period.

All tenants will be sent a copy of the draft tenancy and given the opportunity to provide feedback. Our website will also have a section entitled 'Tenancy Agreement Review' which will include the draft Tenancy Agreement and information regarding the consultation process.

HOME TENANCY VISITS

Providing you with the best service we can...

As your landlord, the aim of the Housing Service is to look at ways we can improve the services we provide to you.

We think one of the best ways to do this is by speaking to you in your home – where you feel comfortable and relaxed. We have therefore made a commitment to visit all our tenants in their own home once every two years – a biennial tenancy visit.



Home visits will be carried out by the housing officer who looks after your area and they will be very informal.

We will always contact you before we visit to arrange a convenient date and time.

As well as checking on the standard of the property, and ensuring our records are up-to-date, home visits are also an opportunity for you to discuss with your housing officer any issues or concerns you may have relating to your tenancy.



BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL





DATE	TOWN HALL	CEMETERY OFFICE *	FORUM & COFFEE SHOP	THE DOCK MUSEUM	LEISURE CENTRE For specific activities visit: www.theparkleisurecentre.com		BARROW PARK	MARKET
					Pool	Club Pulse		
Good Friday 14 April	CLOSED	CLOSED	Closed	11am – 4pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	7.30am - 9pm	9am-5pm
Saturday, 15 April	CLOSED	CLOSED	9am-4pm	11am – 4pm	Normal opening times	Normal opening times	7.30am - 9pm	9am-5pm
Easter Sunday 16 April	CLOSED	CLOSED	Closed	11am – 4pm	Normal opening times	Normal opening times	7.30am - 9pm	CLOSED
Easter Monday 17 April	CLOSED	CLOSED	Closed	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	7.30am - 9pm	CLOSED
Bank Holiday Monday, 1 May	CLOSED	CLOSED	6pm-10pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	7.30am - 9pm	CLOSED
Bank Holiday Monday, 29 May	CLOSED	CLOSED	Closed	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	7.30am - 9pm	CLOSED

^{*}Cemetery grounds open 8am-8pm every day



24-HOUR EMERGENCY number for homelessness, repairs* & other emergencies:

(01229) 833311

For *GAS ONLY EMERGENCY REPAIRS (freephone) 0800 031 6578

Waste collections will operate as normal: www.barrowbc.gov.uk









Wk	From	Payment	Wk	From	Payment	Wk	From	Payment	Wk	From	Payment
1 *	03/04/17		14	03/07/17		27	02/10/17		40	01/01/18	
2	10/04/17		15	10/07/17		28	09/10/17		41	08/01/18	
3	17/04/17		16	17/07/17		29	16/10/17		42	15/01/18	
4	24/04/17		17	24/07/17		30	23/10/17		43	22/01/18	
5	01/05/17		18	31/07/17		31	30/10/17		44	29/01/18	
6	08/05/17		19	07/08/17		32	06/11/17		45	05/02/18	
7	15/05/17		20	14/08/17		33	13/11/17		46	12/02/18	
8	22/05/17		21	21/08/17		34	20/11/17		47	19/02/18	
9	29/05/17		22*	28/08/17		35	27/11/17		48	26/02/18	
10	05/06/17		23	04/09/17		36	04/12/17		49	05/03/18	
11	12/06/17		24	11/09/17		37	11/12/17		50	12/03/18	
12	19/06/17		25	18/09/17		38	18/12/17		51	19/03/18	
13	26/06/17		26	25/09/17		39 *	25/12/17		52 *	26/03/18	

^{*} NON-COLLECTABLE WEEKS – Please note unless your account is clear, payment is still due during the non-collectable weeks.



30 years ago... Here are some extracts of news published in the 1st issue of Housing Matters together with other information which appeared in editions from 1987...

- The Town Hall celebrated its centenary year (1887-1987) with lots of events held to mark the occasion, including a 'Town Hall Tattoo' and a Centenary Dinner in the Council Chamber.
- 2. On 3rd April 1987 Eamont Close Sheltered Housing Scheme (33 bungalows) was officially opened by Cllr Harold Browne. The £1 million scheme was designed by the Council's Architect's Department and built by its Building Department.
- On 14th September 1987, (as part of the decentralisation of housing services), the first neighbourhood housing office opened on Ormsgill. Pictured below are staff who worked in the Ormsgill office



L to R: Sylvia Armstrong, Claire Briddock, Jackie Smith, and Linda Shrimpton.

- 4. Average weekly rents ranged from £14 to £22. Today's average weekly rent ranges from approx. £70 to £93.
- 5. In 1987/88 we had 4,278 Council properties. *Today we have* 2,643 properties.
- **6.** 161 tenants purchased their homes under the Right to Buy Scheme. *This year 25 homes have been purchased.*
- 7. The Council introduced a 51 week rent year. Rent is now paid over 48 weeks.
- 8. In late 1987 work started on a second housing office to be based on Walney at Mill Lane.
- The Housing Committee decided to re-introduce the Annual Garden Competition. It had just two categories – vegetable and family garden. See photo opposite of the winners.
- 10. Building work had started on started on two sites in Dalton the Bankside and Queens Arms developments – to provide a total of 21 flats and 6 flats respectively.
- 11. 'Swim Fit' courses for Adults and 50+ Adults took place at Abbey Road Baths.
- **12.** The Housing Department was based at 53 St. Vincent Street with an office at Dalton Town Hall and Ormsgill.
- 13. Jack Richardson was the Housing Manager.
- **14.** A team of rent collectors made house-to-house visits to collect the rent.
- **15.** The Council's insurance scheme provided cover for a minimum of £5,000 from 30 pence per week.

- **16.** The Furness Lions donated a piano to Eamont Close Community Centre.
- **17.** In November Lord Street Sheltered Housing Scheme hosted a concert held in the Pensioners Hall in Chapel Street.
- **18.** In November nearly 70 tenants attended a public meeting at Roosegate Community Centre to look at proposals to spend £350,000 on environmental improvement works on the estate.
- **19.** Marjorie McEwan (resident warden on the Griffin) thanked Thorncliffe School for hosting a Christmas party for the senior citizens of Griffin estate.
- 20. A new control system was installed at the Broad Close warden call alarm centre. Fitted with the latest emergency communications technology, it allowed two operators to deal with the increasing number of people using the system.
- 21. Residents at Eamont Close's sheltered housing scheme had a trip out through the Lakes to Carlisle. Resident warden, Sheila Irvine organised the event.
- 22. In September, rent collector Ken Christian hung up his rent collector's bag for the last time. He had worked for 17 years as a rent collector for Dalton Urban District Council and since 1974 for the Borough Council. During his time, Ken knocked for rent on almost half a million doors in Dalton and Barrow.
- 23. £600,000 was allocated by the Government's Estate Action Unit for improvements works on the Ormsgill estate.
- 24. Eamont Close community centre hosted an old time music hall variety show, with players from David Marcus' group entertaining residents.
- Derek Lyon was the Town Clerk & Chief Executive of Barrow Borough Council.
- **26.** The Housing Service managed a 20-bedroomed homeless families hostel in Ramsden Street- known as the Sun Hostel.
- 27. Councillor John Dick was the Chair of the Housing & Environmental Health Committee.
- **28.** Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Ken Boon wrote articles for the newsletter on home security.
- 29. Councillor John Smith was the Mayor.
- **30.** And, finally, five members of staff who were working for the Housing Department in 1987 still work for the department today!



L to R: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Crossfield, Mr. Wilde, Cllr John Dick & Mr. Whitehouse at the presentation for the winners.



ORMSGILL YOUTH & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



New Committee Members

Following recent changes, the Chair continues to be Cllr William McEwan; Treasurer is Julie Pitcher and Secretary is Cath Corkhill.



Xmas Panto -19th December

The juniors had a great time watching Peter Pan at The Forum. They especially loved the catchy songs.







Afternoon Tea - 7th December

Some of the seniors helped out in our first afternoon tea by serving tea and coffee and getting to know the local residents, with games such as tombola, bingo and a raffle. The young people enjoyed helping out and look forward to doing it again soon.



Christmas Hampers

Juniors put together Christmas hampers for local residents and they were then delivered by the seniors along with a Christmas carol. They had lots of fun making the hampers and were even happier when they realised they were going to the local community.



Visit to Blackpool - 21st December

The seniors had a great time when they went to watch Aladdin in Blackpool. It was very entertaining and we all couldn't stop laughing.









Christmas Party - 23rd December

The young people had fun at the Christmas party playing games such as pass the parcel and musical statues. They loved all the nibbles - especially the sausage rolls! They even had a visit from Santa himself.







Ormsgill Youth Club is always open to new members and we would love to see more of the youngsters off the estate taking advantage of what we have to offer.

• Junior sessions

(for 7-11 years) are held on Tuesday and Friday evenings 5.30pm-7pm

• Senior sessions

for 12–16 years) are held on Tuesday and Friday evenings 7.30pm-9pm

There is a small admission charge of a £1 for each of these sessions and we have a tuck shop available to members to buy drinks and sweets.

When our senior members reach 16 years of age we try and encourage them to stay, train them and guide them to become our next generation of volunteers.

All our volunteers receive training in Child Protection, Health & Safety, First Aid, Safe Guarding, Managing Behaviour and Ground Rules & Procedures so that everyone is kept as safe as possible.

Come along and find out what's going on and have some fun with your friends



To celebrate all things
Ormsgill, including Ormsgill
School celebrating 25 years
at the heart of the community,
a free event has been
organised for the community.

ORMSGILL COMMUNITY

FUN DAY

Wednesday, 31 May: 1 pm - 4pm at Ormsgill Primary School

Bouncy Castle • Coconut shy •
Ice-cream van • Face Painting
Stocks & wet sponge throwing game
Youth Club • Crafts • Raffle • Tombola
Sweets • Cakes • Tea & Coffee
Barrow AFC • Library Link • Police
Fire & Rescue • Allotment & Soup
Community Skills & Learning
Plants & Gardening

ALL WELCOME





GRIFFIN COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMUNITY NEWS

Need A Place For Your Celebration?

The Griffin Community Centre is available for hire at very competitive rates - use of the kitchen and appliances is included in the hire price.



If you would like to hire the Centre for your children's parties, meetings, family functions, etc., please ring Barbara Lavender on 829773.



Knitting Club

Every Thursday evening there is a Knitting Club at the Community Centre, where you can get tips about handmade clothes or gifts for family & friends and enjoy a chat over tea & coffee. This is held from 7pm to 9pm. For more

details, come along on a Thursday evening where you will be given a warm welcome



Defibrillator

An Automated Defibrillator Unit situated outside the Griffin Community Centre. This is linked to the North West Ambulance Service and is for public use.

Roof repaired

The Committee is pleased to announce that after many months of a damp, dripping kitchen, the roof has now been repaired and the hole in the ceiling made good. We look forward now to having the re-decorating done once the plaster has dried out and having our nice kitchen back.



Cotswold Crescent Senior Citizens' Club

The Senior Citizens' Club meets every Tuesday afternoon at the Griffin Community Centre. and currently has a membership of 42 members. Our members enjoy many events, including special lunches and, of course, the customary bingo sessions which are held at every meeting!

Since the last newsletter, we have had some new members, who have been welcomed into the Club. There is still room for more and if you wish to join, come along to the Griffin Community Centre any Tuesday afternoon. Club meetings are held between 1:30pm and 3:00pm and any new members will be given a very warm welcome.

The Senior Citizens Club has continued to meet at the Community Centre every Tuesday afternoon with members being treated to lunch at one of the meetings every month.



The Christmas Lunch was held on 6th December. This year, the Committee decided that it would be more convenient to hold this event at the Griffin Community Centre, rather than go to a hotel. In previous years, the club members met up at a local hotel for their lunch but it was felt that to save them the trouble of travelling back to the Griffin for the rest of the celebrations, we would hold everything in the one place. This proved to be the right decision and was a great success.

The members enjoyed their lunch which consisted of a choice from three starters, main meal of either turkey, beef or salmon with all the festive trimmings and a choice of three desserts. Each member was given a glass of wine to complement the meal and the usual crackers and novelties were on the tables. The meal, which was brought in by an outside caterer and served by the Committee, was excellent and everybody enjoyed it.



Following the meal, the Christmas raffle was held, with every member receiving a prize. Thanks to those who donated raffle prizes. Bingo followed, with a free game, followed by the usual games session being played. The afternoon concluded around 3:30pm and the members left with a gift from the Committee.

The Club re-opened after the Christmas and New Year holiday with the Annual General Meeting being held on 10th January. This meeting was followed by the re-registration of members and the normal club activities.

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day was acknowledged by the Club members with a free lunch being served. The attendees were treated to pie and peas, from an outside caterer. Also, following the pie and peas, fresh cream cake was served. This cake was kindly provided by one of the members celebrating her birthday. Tea, coffee, shortbread biscuits and heart shaped chocolates were also provided. Following the meal, a bingo session was played and the afternoon concluded at around 3 o'clock.





DEVONSHIRE RESIDENTS' & TENANTS' ASSOCIATION

Friday Night Bingo Club

Friday Night Bingo is not just about playing bingo it's about involving the community in social events as well. The Committee of the Association who run the Bingo, try very hard to involve everyone by organising many "special" events. Friday night bingo is open



to everyone aged 18 years and players from all over town come to play. All ticket prices are paid back in winnings and we have an 8 game book which includes early and late flyers and a jackpot game. The late flyer house prize is always £40+. Doors open at 6pm and play starts about 7:30pm. The evening ends about 9pm and costs a maximum of £6 for books, raffle tickets, interval refreshments and entrance fee.

Please think about joining us on Friday evenings – new members are always welcome, and the more who join in the better the prize money!!

The Friday night Bingo Christmas Supper evening was held on 16th December and was a great finish to 2016. A lovely buffet supper was provided, brought to the venue by an outside caterer and was served during the interval. Players arrived at 6pm and the bingo started at 7pm with

a free game. The Christmas raffle was held and all members received a raffle prize. Thanks are given to all who donated items for the raffle!! It was a very pleasant evening and was enjoyed by all who attended.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT GRIFFIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Monday	1 – 3:30pm	Sequence Dancing
Tuesday	1:30 – 3pm	Cotswold Crescent Senior Citizens' Club
Thursday	7 – 9pm	Knitting Club
Friday	7:30 – 9pm*	Friday Night Bingo

* Doors open at 6pm. Play starts at 7:30pm. (Run by Devonshire Residents' & Tenants' Association)

If you would like to join in any of the Community activities mentioned above, please come along to any of them.

Should you require further information please contact either Jennifer Lord (Secretary) 835165 or Barbara Lavender – 829773 who will be pleased to help with your enquiries.

Ocean Wave Club Looking For New Members



We are nice, friendly little club and are always looking for new members to join us.

We meet every Wednesday afternoon (in the community centre on Ocean Road/corner of Court Guards) to play bingo. If you've never been before, please pop along, have a game of bingo and a brew! Bingo starts at 1:50pm.

We have a trip every summer and a Christmas dinner. Last Christmas we went to the King Alfred – everyone had a lovely time.

Our summer trip this year is to Oswaldtwistle Mills for shopping, lunch and a cabaret afternoon.

Hope to see some new faces soon!



RAGLAN & CORPORATIONTERRACE RESIDENTS'& ASSOCIATION

Xmas Party

On 17th December we held a Christmas party at St George's Church Hall. The party was a huge success and all the children had a fabulous time.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success including 'balloon man' Terry Crawford, Colin for doing the disco and John Robinson for stepping in at the last minute to play Santa!

Mandy Anderson Chair



FACE TO FACE with...

Simone Singleton

Simone, has worked in the Housing Department for 12 years.

Her role of Tenancy Officer includes identifying potential tenants who may need enhanced additional support to sustain their tenancies as well as managing furnished and temporary emergency accommodation.

Simone, how do you spend your leisure time?

When I have some (!)
..dog walking/being
in the countryside,
watching my sons' rugby matches
and catching up with family.

What's your favourite film? Any of the Bridget Jones's films.

What's your favourite TV programme? Any drama/crime/detective programme.

What was the first record you ever bought? One of the first was Tainted Love by Soft Cell.

What's your favourite singer?

At the moment Ed Sheeran, but this changes frequently.

What's your favourite drink/meal?

Coffee and roast dinner with plenty of veg.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Relaxing with a glass of wine and having control of the TV... ... yeah!

What would be your ideal holiday destination?

Would love to tour around the full coast of England.

Describe yourself in three words.

Persistent, caring and bonkers!

If you could invite six people to a dinner party (living or dead) who would you invite? All of my children and their partners.

What's your most treasured possession?
My dog, Ollie (pictured).





GOOD TENANT REWARDED

Congratulations to James Walmsley of Biggar Garth who has been awarded £100 Love2Shop vouchers under our Rewarding Good Tenants incentive scheme.



For information on our incentive schemes:

email: housing@barrowbc.gov.uk | tel. (01229) 876578 www.barrowbc.gov.uk/residents/council-housing/incentive-schemes/

STAFF RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITIES AT CHRISTMAS

RAFFLE RAISES FUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Furness Homeless Support Group (FHSG) again kindly donated a beautiful luxury food hamper and a gorgeous hand-knitted snowman for first and second prizes in this year's Charity Christmas Raffle. Through the persistence of Housing's Christmas Elf - Kelly Lamond – Town Hall staff and members of the public raised a whopping £250!! All proceeds went towards FHSG's Christmas celebrations and helped to add that extra sparkle!!! Once again, congratulations and well done to all who donated and took part.





1st Prize winner: Council tenant, Cheryl Jordan



2nd Prize winner: Our own **Technical Service's Scott** Quinn

Operations Manager GIFT & TOY APPEAL

Generous Barrow Borough Council staff continue to give ...!! Tremendous thanks go to all who donated to the Christmas Gift & Toy Appeal, ran again by Housing Service staff throughout November and December. Again, the response was so fantastic and the gifts just kept coming... the piles of gifts were constantly sorted and distributed to the following local groups: Barrow Foodbank, Barrow Women's Community Matters, the Salvation Army and Furness Homeless Support Group. Each and every service passed on the gifts to the most vulnerable families/people living in the Borough and therefore every donation reached the most needy. Thank you to those who contributed to the gift appeal and here's to the next one!

Simone Singleton, Tenancy Officer



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On 16th December, Town Hall staff wore Christmas jumpers to work and raised a whopping £141.50 for Save the Children.

Special thanks to Housing's Xmas Elf, Kelly, who dressed for the occasion and whose bells could be heard all around the Town Hall as she collected donations!



COLLECTION BOX DONATIONS







WE'RE 'REFRESHING' YOUR RECYCLING AND REFUSE COLLECTION FROM IST APRIL 2017

We all know that recycling is good for the environment – good clean dry recycling placed in your new container can be processed for reuse, saving precious resources from being wasted. By not landfilling waste that can be recycled we save you, the council tax payer, money as well as helping the environment.

Here in Barrow we are always looking to provide our residents with the most efficient and clean way of doing things so we are refreshing the methods we use to recycle in the Borough which we believe is the easiest and most convenient system in Cumbria.

We will be delivering a new jumbo sized 240litre purple wheeled bin to most properties in the Borough. (There may be some exceptions for flats and houses of multiple occupancy).

This new bin and your existing box will be all that is needed to recycle in your home.

The scheme will be really simple to operate. Glass only will be put in your box; all other recyclable materials will be put in your new large purple wheeled bin. At the moment, we ask you to recycle paper, card, cans, and plastic, but from 1st April 2017, we will expand the range of recyclable materials which will be collected through the recycling service, to include Tetra Pak cartons and aluminium foil.

BETWEEN NOW AND IST APRIL:

Your new recycling bin will be delivered to your door; if you are not sure what goes into your recycling bin please log onto to **www.barrowbc.gov.uk** where all the items are clearly listed.

If you wish to continue to have your garden waste taken away from your doorstep, you need to subscribe to the scheme, and once payment has been made you will be sent a sticker for your bin to enable your service to continue after 1st April. Please visit www.barrowbc.gov.uk for a link to the scheme.

We will also be streamlining our bring banks for those who wish to take their household recycling to these facilities. From 1st April we will have four bring banks in the Borough, one at Salthouse Depot in Barrow, with one each in Dalton and Askam and one on Walney. Details of locations and opening hours can be found on www.barrowbc.gov.uk

FROM IST APRIL WE WILL BE:

- Collecting your 120 litre wheeled black waste bin every week.
- Collecting your new 240 litre purple recycling bin for dry, mixed recyclables and your recycling box for glass only every fortnight.
- Collecting your brown garden waste bin fortnightly, but:
 - As is common in many other parts of the country, we will also be introducing a charge of £35 per year from 1st April for the collection of green and garden waste.
 - Once you have registered you will be sent a sticker for your bin to show you are a member of the scheme. From 1st April only stickered bins will be collected.









Cancer Charity expands Support in Barrow

A charity that supports families affected by cancer and other life limiting conditions is expanding its services to the community in Barrow and wider Furness area.

Helping over 1,500 local people every year, the CancerCare team is supported by 22 staff, 32 therapists and over 120 volunteers, who currently provide a range of therapies at two dedicated centres in Lancaster and Kendal and within local hospitals.

"CancerCare provides supportive, non-clinical care to local cancer patients, their carers and families and those bereaved."

All the therapies offered aim to act as a bridge between the medical and emotional side effects associated with managing a serious health condition and include relaxing treatments like Massage, the Alexander Technique and Acupressure, as well as more formal counselling sessions, completely free of charge. The new Barrow service is funded by the Sir John Fisher Foundation.

Rachel Minshull, CancerCare Barrow Development Officer says:

"We've had such a positive response from the Barrow community so far with many offers of support to help us set up, such as free venue hire. Our NHS Partners have also been great and have provided an office for us to base ourselves at the Clinical Commissioning Group's Stafford House on Abbey Road.

At the moment, we have a therapist based in the Oncology unit at Furness General Hospital and two counsellors based from home in Ulverston, but we really want to be able to offer clients a more local and broader service. This would help to remove the stress of having to travel far to have one-to-one therapy and means that more people will be able to access much needed support, when and where they need it most."



From left: Lynda Coleman (FGH Therapist); Rachel Minshull & CancerCare client from Barrow, Margaret Grisedale



To find out more about the therapies offered by CancerCare in Barrow or to make a referral please contact Rachel Minshull on 01229 384 084 or email barrow.services@cancercare.org.uk

Helping local families

Calling all Dog Breeders in Barrow

Can you believe there's only one, yes one dog breeder licensed with the Council?

There must be more of them out there selling puppies in the Borough!

We need to check that the dogs and their litters are kept in suitable safe, hygienic conditions and protected against disease. The Government has recently clarified that a dog breeder is someone who is in the business of breeding and selling dogs, regardless of the number of litters produced in a 12 month period. In summary anyone "in the business" of breeding and selling dogs (trading) needs to be licensed.

Under the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, those breeders breeding five or more litters per year may need to be licensed. However, a local authority may still classify a breeder as being commercial – and therefore requiring a licence – even if the person breeds fewer than five litters per year, if in the local authority's opinion, that person might be deemed as breeding for commercial gain.

No person may keep a breeding establishment without first obtaining a licence from Barrow Borough Council. You can apply for this licence by downloading the form from our website http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/business/licensing/other-licensing-application-forms/



There is fee which must be paid at the time the application is made. Currently the fee is £244 plus the cost of the initial veterinary inspection which must be paid whether a licence is granted or not. Where a licence is granted, that licence will last for a year and must be renewed before that date if the premises are to continue as a dog breeding establishment.

Unlicensed Dog Breeding is an offence and carries a penalty of 3 months in prison or a fine of £2,500.

If you're a dog breeder or know any dog breeders who don't consider themselves to be dog breeders then please contact us on 01229 876543 or email commercial@barrowbc.gov.uk

The Kennel Club also provides some guidance for dog breeders available at http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/breeding/breeding-from-your-dog

Sue Carey, Environmental Health Enforcement Officer, Barrow Borough Council



RESULTS OF XMAS COLOURING COMPETITION



Thanks to everyone who entered the Children's Xmas colouring competition - we had some fantastic entries!

> Well done and congratulations to our overall winners Aleisha Howitt (left) and Nikita Kench.



CHILDREN'S EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION

Here's a great Easter picture for you to colour in. Everyone who enters the competition will receive an Easter egg with the overall winners receiving £10 gift cards.

The competition is split into two age groups: 7 years and under & 8-11 year olds and is open to children/grandchildren of Council tenants/leaseholders.

Please return your entry to The Editor, Housing Matters, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow before Friday, 7th April. Good luck!!



NAME	(IN	CAPITALS	PLEASE)
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TELEPHONE NO AGE

Would you like to have more say in how your housing services are delivered?

If so, why not get involved.

You can choose how you would like to be involved. Just tick a box and return this form to the Community Involvement Manager at the Housing Service, Town Hall, Duke Street LA14 2LD



Telephone questionnaire (2 minutes or less)	Short email questionnaire (1-5 minutes)		
Texting (2 minutes or less)	Longer email questionnaire (5-20 minutes)		
Short postal questionnaire (5 minutes or less)	I'd like information on how to start a tenants' and residents' association or become a street voice.		
Longer postal questionnaire (5-20 minutes)	— residents association of become a street voice.		
YOU	IR DETAILS		
Name			
Address			
Home tel.	Mobile tel.		
Email address			
The best time to contact me is:			
Mornings Afternoons	Evenings Weekends		
However you choose to get involved and make your views known, you will be made very welcome. We're always pleased to get to know tenants and how they feel about where they live!			





Get the whole family active

With a Family Membership at The Park Leisure Centre, you and your family can enjoy fun and fitness for the whole year for just £365*



A range of equipment for a total body workout including virtual personal training, entertainment consoles and a dedicated functional training

*£365 single



Two modern studios offering a wide range of classes every week to suit all abilities including Spinning, Pump FX, Zumba and Insanity.



Swim

Keep fit, relax, or simply have fun with the family in our 25 metre pool and our leisure pool. To add to the fun we have a 50 metre water slide, waves and an interactive water play area.



A gym that's all theirs, filled with fitness equipment, Trixter bikes and an interactive light wall. For the younger children we have a super soft play area and interactive games floor – all designed to keep them entertained.

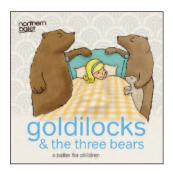


A spacious 4 court sports hall equipped for badminton, short tennis, table tennis, roller skating, netball, basketball, gymnastics, trampolining and 5-a-side

payment or £40 monthly Call us for full details on 01229 871146 Direct Debit or see our website for terms & conditions www.theparkleisurecentre.com



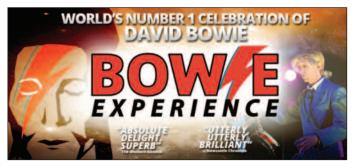
What's on at the forum this Spring/Summer



Tuesday 11 April 12pm & 2pm Tickets £6/£4 conc



Andy Parsons Saturday 22 April 8pm Tickets £15





Tiger Who Came to Tea Saturday 10 June 11am & 2pm Tickets £12.50





The forum Barrow

Duke Street | Barrow-in-Furness | LA14 1HH Box office: 01229 820000 www.theforumbarrow.co.uk





CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY

Elections to elect councillors to Cumbria County Council will be held on Thursday, 4 May. Polling Stations will be open from 7am to 10pm.

Poll Cards will be sent out at the beginning of April advising of your Polling Station as long as your name is included on the Register of Electors. If you do not receive a Poll Card at your current address or you get a blank Poll Card please get in touch with this office (details below) and you will be given advice on how to register to vote. Your date of birth and National Insurance number is needed to do this.

New Polling Station for Hindpool Residents

Grange & Cartmel Crescent Community Centre is no longer a polling station. Residents who used to vote there will now vote at a Polling Station in The Forum on Duke Street, opposite the Town Hall. Again if you find you are not registered please get in touch with this office.

Make Sure You Have Your Say

Your name must be included on the Election Register of Electors to be able to vote. So if you are not on the Register and do not receive a Poll Card, or you have moved address recently, register now – it takes less than five minutes. The deadline for registering is Thursday, 13 April. You only need your date of birth and national insurance number. Register by either:

- visiting Government website www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
- contacting the Electoral Services Office details below

Registering for Council Tax or a council house does not include your name on the Register of Electors – you must take the action shown above to register.

Voting By Post or Proxy instead of going to a Polling Station

do not need to re-apply.

If you're unable to get to a Polling Station because for example you have a disability, working away, going on holiday or not able to get to the Polling Station between 7am and 10pm you can apply to vote by post or proxy. Electors who currently have a postal arrangement permanently in place

Receipt of new applications for Postal and Proxy voting in the Electoral Services Office, Barrow Town Hall must be no later than the following times:

Postal Votes deadline: 5pm on Tuesday, 18 April

Postal Votes will be sent by first class Post on Thursday 20 April, so any elector who is going away on holiday before Saturday 22 April may not get their Postal Vote delivered to their home address before they go away – although postal votes can be despatched to any alternative address given on the application form.

If a Postal Vote is not going to be suitable for you it doesn't mean you cannot vote in the election and in this case you can arrange to vote by proxy, which is where someone you appoint goes to your Polling Station on Election Day to cast a vote on your behalf.

Proxy Votes deadline: 5pm on Tuesday, 25 April

The person appointed as a proxy does not need to live in the same area as the Elector, but they must be registered under the IER system of registration for the address where they live and this will have to be checked before any application will be valid.

Emergency Proxy Vote deadline: 5pm on Election Day – Thursday 4 May, 2017

Anyone who becomes ill, gets a hospital appointment/admission or is called away for work reasons <u>after 5pm on Tuesday, 25 April</u> may apply for an Emergency Proxy Vote – although this is <u>only</u> for the Elector and not for anyone accompanying the Elector. Please be aware that you need to make this type of application as soon as practicably possible <u>after 5pm on 25 April</u> as the application has to be signed by the applicant and countersigned by a person relevant to the type of application e.g. Illness/Hospital Appointment e.g. doctor/nurse and work related e.g. employer.

All Postal and Proxy Application Forms are available from the office below or on the Council website: www.barrrowbc.gov.uk under Democracy and Elections.

Election results will be put up on the Town Hall notice board on Market Street and online at – www.barrowbc.gov.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

Electoral Services Office, Barrow Borough Council, Town Hall, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 2LD

- Phone: 01229 876318
- Email: elecreg@barrowbc.gov.uk
- Or call in during normal office hours 9am to 4pm



TENANT/RESIDENT ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

Listed below are Council-recognised tenant/resident associations and street voices within the Borough.

Also given is a contact name for each association.

North Walney Residents' Association Steve Thornton - 07856 753 482

Raglan Court & Corporation Terrace Tenants' & Residents' Association Mandy Anderson - 07514 417 606

Devonshire Road Residents' & Tenants' Association Jennifer Lord - (01229) 835165 - Griffin Community Hall

Four Groves Tenants' & Residents' Association
Pauline Charnley - 07872 464768
Four Groves Resource Centre, 46/50 Suffolk Street

Leaseholders Forum Currently vacant

Ormsgill Youth & Community Association - (01229) 343405

Tenants with Disabilities Forum

Meetings currently suspended. If any tenants with a disability would like to get involved with the forum please contact us on (01229) 876462.

Hindpool Community AssociationPaul Bibby - 07874 649 200

Street Voice for Barrow Island Allan McIntosh - (01229) 828669

Street Voice for Lord Street area of Dalton Alison Davies - (01229) 467301

Street Voice for Devonshire Road Lisa Webb - (01229) 219787

Street Voice for Broadway Eddie Lynch - (01229) 812122

Street Voice for Eamont CloseDavid Rollinson - d.rollinson43@gmail.com

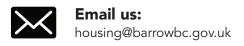
Street Voice for Grange & Cartmel Crescent Mervyn Gray - 07510 159 721

HELPING YOU FIRST TIME ON (01229) 876 578

Our aim when you call the Housing Service is to help you report or fix your problems or get you the right answer first time.

So we have introduced one number - (01229) 876 578.

All calls to this number will be answered by a member of our Housing team.







Write to us:

Housing Service, Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness I A14 2I D

REPORTING REPAIRS					
Office hours Out-of-hours emergency					
NON-GAS	(01229) 876578	(01229) 833311			
GAS-ONLY REPAIRS	0800 031 6578 (Freephone)	0800 031 6578 (Freephone)			

Feedback:

Your questions or comments regarding this newsletter are very welcome. Please send your feedback to:

Housing Department, FREEPOST RTLL-XUYS-JHZT, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, Cumbria Email: housing@barrowbc.gov.uk Tel: (01229) 876578

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

BARROW BOROUGH COUNCIL 01229 876543 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE National Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247 **HIGHWAYS HOTLINE** 0845 6096609 **HOUSING BENEFIT ENQUIRIES (LIBERATA)** 404242 **SAMARITANS** FREEPHONE: 116123 TRADING STANDARDS **CONSUMER ADVICE** 08454 04 05 06 FOR GENERAL TRADING STANDARDS ENQUIRIES 01539 713594

COMMUNITY CENTRES FOR HIRE

The following community centres are available to hire from local community groups, by local residents:

Four Groves Community Association

Contact: Pauline Charnley 07872 464 768

Ocean Wave Community Centre

Contact: Glenda Fullard 839927

Ormsgill Community Centre

Contact: User Group 877220

Griffin Community Hall

Contact: Barbara Lavender 829773

Abbotsvale Community Centre

Contact: Karen Dodding 830900