



October 2009

## Clackmannanshire Tenants & Residents Federation

# Newsletter

Keeping Tenants in the Clackmannanshire Area Up to Date on Housing Issues

### About the Federation

Clackmannanshire Tenants and Residents Federation (CTRF) was set up in 1994. The Federation aims to promote the rights of tenants and tenants and residents groups in Clackmannanshire in the maintenance and improvement of their housing conditions and communities.

Currently we have 10 group and 6 individual members who have joined the Federation to bring together tenants and residents groups and community groups as an umbrella organisation, resulting in a strong and influential voice in Clackmannanshire.

The Federation is run by representatives from the different member groups, who are elected onto the Management Committee each year at our Annual General Meeting to manage the Federation's affairs.

### The Management Committee

#### Office Bearers

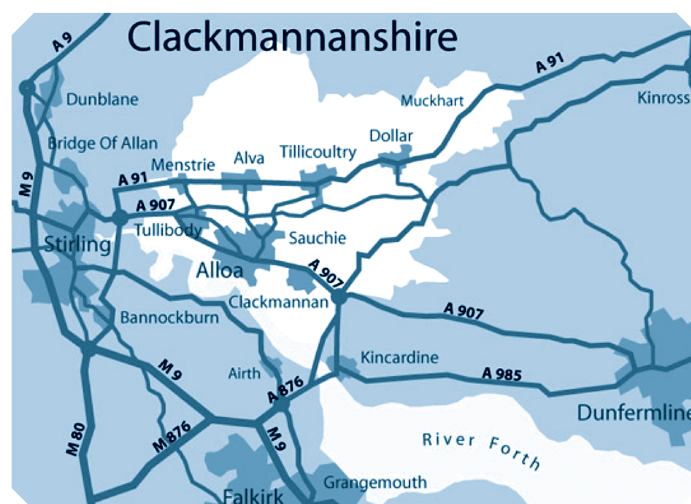
Catrina Mackey, *Chairperson*  
Jane McTaggart, *Vice Chairperson*  
Helen Forrest, *Secretary*  
Susan Robertson, *Treasurer*

#### Committee Members

May Barker, Evelyn White, James Barr,  
Rae Christie, Jack Hardman

We note with regret the sad and sudden death of Sheila Wynne, an active member of the Federation. Sheila was also a member of other community groups and organisations and worked hard to improve her community.

### Members of the Clackmannanshire Tenants and Residents Federation



- Braes & Banchory Residents Association, Tullibody
- Chapelle Residents Association, Tillicoultry
- Charriers Residents Association, Menstrie
- Clackmannan Community Council,
- Delphwood Residents Association, Tullibody
- Gaberston Residents Association, Alloa
- Hawkhill Community Association, Alloa
- Hutton Park Residents Association, Alloa
- Sauchie Community Group
- Tullibody Cambus & Glenochil Community Council
- Individual Members  
Alva, Menstrie, Alloa and Sauchie

## Why the Federation is a Good Idea

The Federation is able to represent tenants and residents groups and individual tenants in discussions and negotiations with Clackmannanshire Council, Ochil View Housing Association, Paragon Housing Association and other Registered Social Landlords across Clackmannanshire.

This provides an opportunity for you to influence the decisions taken about the housing conditions and services provided by our landlords. It also enables you to have a say on landlord policies, business plans, investment and improvement plans.

As a Federation working together with YOU we can make sure tenants and residents get a LOUDER VOICE. We are particularly interested in having our say on things such as; tenant participation, allocations, repairs, rents, anti-social behavior, capital programme investment and much, much, more...

We wish to make sure that tenants' views are represented when decisions are made both locally in Clackmannanshire and nationally across Scotland.



## Our Work Over the Last Year

Over the last year the Federation has been involved in many activities to further develop the organisation and ensure that tenants have their say. This work has included:

- Review of the Council's lock up and garage policy
- Review of the Council's eviction policy
- Assisting with the organisation of and participation in the Joint Tenants Conference for tenants of Ochil View Housing Association, Paragon Housing Association and the Council
- Monitoring the implementation of the Council's Business Plan and Investment Programme
- Providing feedback to the Scottish Government on a draft new Housing Bill – this will introduce new housing legislation early 2010 if agreed by the Scottish Ministers
- Attending the Tenants Information Service Annual Conference and AGM – providing us with an opportunity to increase our knowledge and skills and meet with tenant representatives from all over Scotland



*Joint Landlord Tenants' Conference 2009*

## The Benefits of Getting Together in Your Community

There are many reasons why you and your neighbours may consider starting a tenants and residents association including:

- To organise around issues that affect many people in your community i.e. some tenants may be unhappy about the standard of the repair service, estate management, anti-social behavior or environmental maintenance
- To have a representative voice
- To give accurate advice and information to the community
- To concentrate on tackling one particular issue and / or a range of issues over a longer time

If you and your neighbours feel that a group may assist you in dealing with issues or concerns in your community, please contact the Federation on the contact details on page 4.

## The Rights of Tenants and Residents Groups

In 2001 the Government introduced "The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001". This Act gave rights to tenants and residents groups to have a bigger say on the housing services provided by Housing Associations and Local Authorities. This means that tenants and residents associations have the right to:

- take part in decision making
- influence decisions about:
  - housing policy
  - housing conditions
  - housing related services
- Have a say on how to improve housing conditions & services

## As part of this Act, all Local Authority and Housing Association Landlords must:

- Ask tenants & residents associations what issues they want deal with
- Obtain and consider their views
- Let them know about proposals they are going to make
- Give them information on request about proposals under consideration
- Allow them time to consider draft proposals

## To Get These Rights Tenants & Residents Associations Must:

- Have a constitution (set of rules)
- Have an elected committee made up of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and other committee members
- Seek and represent the views of its members
- Keep its members up to date on the work of the committee

All of this allows tenants and residents associations to become registered with the landlords in the area and gives access to funding from the landlords to assist the groups operate.





# Clackmannanshire Tenants & Residents Federation

## Annual General Meeting Announcement

The Federation's AGM will be held on

**Monday 12th October 2009 at 7pm**, in **The Bowmar Centre, Alloa**  
Refreshments will be served.

If you require transport to the AGM contact

**Helen Forrest on Tel 725757**

## Tenant Participation Support

Clackmannanshire Council, Ochil View Housing Association and Paragon Housing Association all strive to provide support to further develop tenant participation opportunities and activities with their tenants and tenants and residents groups.

In addition, Clackmannanshire Council appointed the Tenants Information Service (TIS) to provide independent information, advice and training to the Federation to assist us further develop our organisation and to ensure that we have the information we need to influence the decisions made by the Council's Housing Service.

If you wish to find out more about how you can get involved and have more of a say in how your housing service is provided please see the contact details below:

## Federation Contact Details

**Clackmannanshire Tenants and Residents Federation**

**Unit 6/7, Alloa Business Centre, The Whinns, Alloa, FK10 3SA**

**Tel: 01259 725757 Email: [clackstf@btinternet.com](mailto:clackstf@btinternet.com)**

## Clackmannanshire Council Housing Services

Limetree House, Alloa, FK10

**Tel: 01259 450000 or 0845 055 7070 Email: [housing@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:housing@clacks.gov.uk)**

## Ochil View Housing Association

Ochil House, Marshall, Alloa, FK10 1AB

**Tel: 01259 722899 Email: [enquiries@ochilviewha.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ochilviewha.co.uk)**

## Paragon Housing Association

Invergrange House, Station Road, Grangemouth, FK3 8DG

**Tel: 01324 664966 Email: [enquiries@paragonha.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@paragonha.org.uk)**