

Ayrshire Housing Website

In March, we launched our new and improved website, which can be found at www.ayrshirehousing.org.uk. On the site you can apply for a transfer using our online application form, view houses being offered for Mutual Exchange, report a repair, ask questions about the organisation and keep up to date with everything that's happening at Ayrshire Housing. If you're really keen, you can even subscribe to our "blog" so that you never miss any new information, developments or content being posted on the site!

The website has received coverage in both the local press and on the internet, and we would love to know what you think of it. Why not log onto www.ayrshirehousing.org.uk, and post your comments.



Affordable housing & social enterprise

Welcome to the online home of Ayrshire Housing. Our innovative group structure provides for a wide range of [high quality housing](#) and [social enterprise](#). We are committed to working in partnership with public and voluntary agencies, and the communities of Ayrshire.

We are a major builder of affordable housing with a substantial and varied pipeline of projects. Our commitment to quality has been recognised with several awards and commendations, and we carry this reputation forward by providing a friendly and responsive service to tenants, applicants and the wider community.

Find out how to apply for housing, or read about recent developments on our blog. If

LATEST BLOG ARTICLES

- [New tenants and residents association launched in Lochside](#)
- [Teeing off at Fairway View!](#)
- [What do you think?](#)
- [Firm Foundations](#)
- [Design Awards for Greenan](#)

GET IN CONTACT

Telephone: 01292 880120
Email: info@ayrshirehousing.org.uk
Office: 119 Main Street, Ayr, KA8 8BX
[Submit an enquiry](#)

Ayrshireinitiatives

Our partner [Ayrshire Initiatives](#) complements our work with a wide range of housing support, community development and training projects.

Our website also has several accessibility features which you may find useful including being able to listen to it being read by "Heather" in a rather posh Edinburgh accent!

We can supply this document in a print size to suit. It is also available in Braille, audio and other formats, and in other languages.

Ayrshire Initiatives People and Place Recording Project

March saw the opening of an exciting photography exhibition at Wills Road in Lochside. The People and Place Recording Project, organised by Ayrshire Initiatives, is a unique scheme where tenants and residents are invited to take part in recording the regeneration works currently being undertaken in the area.

Part of this project involves participants being lent digital cameras, and taking photos which show the ongoing changes of the area. The participants have met on a number of occasions with respected photo-journalist Gerry McCann, who has provided support and guidance, with participants being encouraged to show their opinions through the photos they take.

The Exhibition at Wills Road was a great success, with visitors, including Mr McCann commenting on the quality of the photographs.



New Lochside Tenants and Residents Association



Ayrshire Housing were invited to give a presentation on the new development at Lochside at the first General Meeting of the New Lochside Tenants and Residents Association on 12 May. The meeting was attended by over 40 local tenants and residents keen to hear the latest on this project. Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd. have been awarded this contract and will be starting on site in June.

Ayrshire homestake

Homestake is a scheme which helps people with modest incomes who want to own a suitable home but who cannot afford to pay the full price. Homestake is aimed not just at first-time buyers but also at others whose life circumstances have changed, for example, people affected by a relationship breakdown. The scheme has been designed flexibly so that it can also be used to help disabled people and older people access more suitable housing.

A Homestake owner generally pays for between 60 and 80 per cent of the price of a property through a home loan or savings. The remainder is funded by an interest free loan from Ayrshire Housing. We are about to start building 25 houses for sale through this scheme in Lochside, Ayr. If you would like to be alerted to their release, please contact us.

Anti-Social Neighbour Disputes Policy and Procedures

We are currently reviewing our Anti-Social Neighbour Disputes Policy and Procedures in order to help maintain tenant satisfaction in their homes and ensuring that appropriate support is provided.

It is important that our tenants have an input into these documents and we would be grateful for your views on how these matters are currently dealt with by our officers and what suggestions you may have to improve on this service.

If you would be interested in participating in this review please contact Margaret Woods at 119 Main Street, Ayr KA8 8BX, by telephone on 01292 880120 or by email at info@ayrshirehousing.org.uk by 14 June 2008 so that an appropriate venue and time can be booked for this purpose.



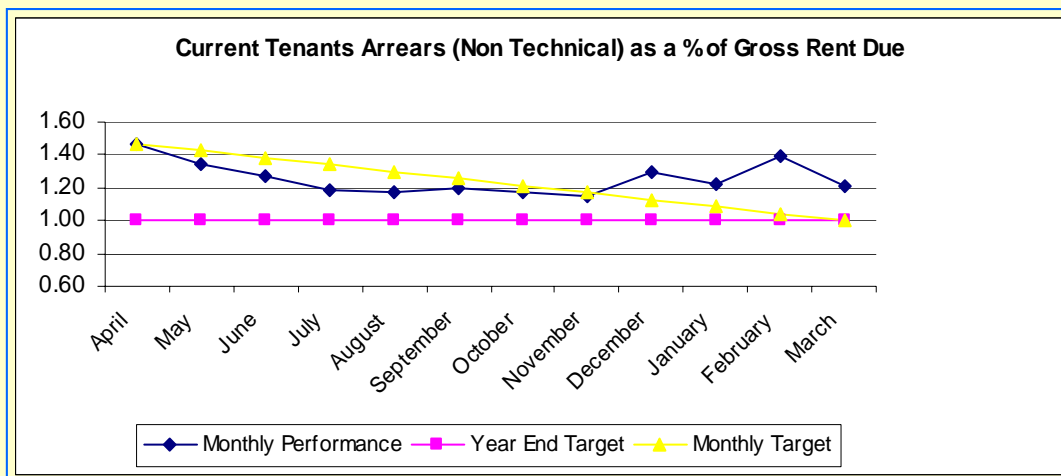
Ayrshire Household Recycling Scheme

Are you moving home and have some furniture to spare? Or do you have an older, good quality item that you no longer require? If so, why not contact Ayrshire Household Recycling? This charitable company, based in Kilmarnock but working throughout Ayrshire aims to reduce waste by providing furniture free of charge to people in need.

The scheme can be contacted directly by calling 01563 573363, or alternatively you can visit their website at www.ayrshirehouseholdrecycling.org for more information.

Performance Monitoring

At Ayrshire Housing we are keen to ensure that our tenants are given information about the organisation's performance. Here are some key facts and figures for year 2007-08.



- **Average relet time** for void properties is currently at 19 days, below our target of 20 days.
- **Current tenant arrears** (non-technical) as at 31/3/08 was 1.2% of all rent due, slightly above our target of 1.0% of rent due.
- **Percentage of tenants owing more than £250 or 13 weeks rent** was at 3.79% as at 31/3/08, below our target of 4.5%
- **Application form processing time** for 2007-08 was on average 5 days, below our target of 15 days.
- 92 % of **Urgent and Routine repairs** were completed on time, (within 3 working days and 15 working days respectively) less than our 96% target.
- 99% of **Emergency Repairs** were attended within our given timescale of 4 hours.

Development Update

Fairway View, East Road, Prestwick



Councillor Hugh Hunter presented Mrs Claire Taylor with her keys to her new home. Claire is moving to Fairway View with her husband Raymond and four year old twins, Daniel and Callum. The twins suffer from cerebral palsy. We were delighted to be able to respond to a request from one of the Council's occupational therapists and design a house especially suited to their needs. It includes a hoist system to aid the bathing of the boys as they grow.

The scheme is of 12 houses with a variety of house types suitable for both the elderly and families. It is built on land transferred to Ayrshire Housing from Miller Homes as a consequence of the Council's affordable housing policy. The overall cost was £1.4m and its construction was supported by a Scottish Government grant of £900,000.

The houses were designed by Dr Roan Rutherford of Austin-Smith:Lord and it was built by Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd who have their main base in Prestwick.

Straiton

Councillor Nan McFarlane, Chair of South Ayrshire Council's Regulatory Panel was delighted on Friday 30 November 2007 to present Mr George and Mrs Georgina Watson with the keys to their new home in Knockbreck Road, Straiton.

The 12 house project cost over £1m was supported by a generous grant from the Scottish Government through Communities Scotland. It was designed by ARP Lorimer and Associates and built by Moulds of Kilmarnock.



Design Award for Greenan



Our 24 house development at George Place on the southside of Ayr picked up a string of awards in 2007. At the Scottish Design Awards, the project received a commendation. This was followed by a "silver" at the Roses Design Awards held each year in Manchester which is open to UK projects outside of London. Finally in November, it received a commendation from the Saltire Society. In its 70th year, the Saltire Housing Design Awards are Scotland's premier housing awards. As a mark of their importance, the presentation was made by Linda Fabiani, the Scottish Government's minister for culture.

In other development news, our long delayed development in Kirkmichael is expected to be handed over soon, while works at Viewfield in Ayr have begun on site. Our major development at Lochside is due to begin in June.

Blackfriars Court Tenants' Association

Ayrshire Housing tenants in Blackfriars Court in Ayr have decided to form their own tenants' association. The Association has now formally met three times, discussing a wide range of issues with staff from Ayrshire Housing. Since forming the association, the tenants have agreed upon and requested a number of small items to improve the development which have now been implemented. Typical meetings have involved the tenants, staff from Ayrshire Housing and other invited guests including Community Policemen.

Tenants' Associations are an excellent way of discussing common ideas and issues, and we are keen to provide assistance and support to anyone who is interested in forming such a group. For more information on this, contact your **Housing Officer or Ross Morris at the office** on 01292 880120.

Pay your rent at Woolworths



WOOLWORTHS

This month, **Ayrshire Housing**, is pleased to announce that you can now pay your rent at any branch of Woolworths in the UK.

All you have to do is hand over your allpay rent card, together with your payment in cash or with a debit card, at any till in any of their 800+ UK stores. This is a major addition to allpay's existing outlets

PAYING YOUR RENT BY DIRECT DEBIT

Ayrshire Housing can now offer tenants the opportunity to pay their rent by Direct Debit. If you are interested in using this payment method please contact Zoe McGrady or Caroline Donald on **01292 880120** to receive a Direct Debit form.

Staff News.....

Ayrshire Housing is delighted to welcome back **Sharon Ritchie** following a period of absence due to ill health. Sharon is settling back in very well, and is currently getting to grips with the changes that have taken place during her absence.



Development Projects Manager **Rose Estelles** also returned recently following the birth of her son Morgan, and has been working alongside, **David Bruce** on a number of projects. David left Ayrshire Housing in May, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to him.



Our Finance Assistant **Jennifer Bain** moved on to permanent employment in April, and **Paul Mitchell** has been brought in to cover reception on a temporary basis. Paul is already learning the ropes quickly, and we wish to take this opportunity to welcome him to the organisation.

HOUSING OFFICER AREAS

ANN TOSH	ISOBEL MOORE	DAWN BIGHAM	MARGARET WOODS	CAROL YOUNG
AYR South Harbour George Place Corton Howe Duke Terrace St Leonard's Rd	AYR Forehill MAYBOLE Whitefaulds St Cuthberts Dunlop Terrace	BARR GIRVAN St Andrews Court Clyde View Dalrymple Street Rowan Rd & Lock-	AYR Backhawkhill Ferguson street Walker Road The Sandgate Fulshaw Place	AYR Thornyflat Place Crown Square Blackfriars Court Belmont Chalmers Road
DUNDONALD Kilmarnock Road Earl Crescent/ Rise Castleview &	CROSSHILL Kirkbride Cres Kirkmichael Road	Hamilton Street Glendoune Maidens	West Sanquhar Lochside Dev	Fenwickland Avenue Dalmellington Road Rockrose Park
ANNBANK Brocklehill Ave	KIRKMICHAEL Bolestyle Crescent Woodside Avenue	BARRHILL KIRKOSWALD Oswald Court		Honeysuckle Park Rush Hill Braehead Avenue
MOSSBLOWN Mossbank Place Southside Ave Afton Ave	TROON Hosiery Court Kenmore Killin Place Logan Drive	DAILLY Hadyard Terrace Eldinton Terrace Woodside Victory Crescent		Etterick Place Prestwick Road
TARBOLTON Croft Street Springfield Road	Wallacefield Road Welbeck Mews North Shore Lane	BALLANTRAE Arran Avenue		PRESTWICK Obree Avenue Fernbank Court Moor Park Crescent Newdykes Road Shawfarm Place Fairway View
COYLTON Corsehill Crescent	STRAITON			
Arthurston Glenhead Pl/Ct High Park & St Brides	DALRYMPLE Seath Road Barbieston Rd Millbank Place			
SYMINGTON Doon Place Loudoun Terrace Merrick Place Mount Avenue				
Monkton Baird Road				



From the left, Ann Tosh (Housing Officer), David McGivern, (Housing Manager), Dawn Bigham (Housing Officer), Margaret Woods (Housing Officer) and Carol Young (Senior Housing Officer)

ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION

Spring has sprung, and its time again for us to assess the horticultural talents of our tenants! As in previous years, prizes will be given for the best gardens, containers and closes maintained by Ayrshire Housing's tenants.

Gardens will be judged on their appearance, care and attention, and originality. There will also be a special award for the best new garden (in a development less than two years old).

We hope to judge entries in late July or early August, hopefully while the gardens are still in full bloom.

Happy planting!



Choice Savoy Cabbages

PET OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

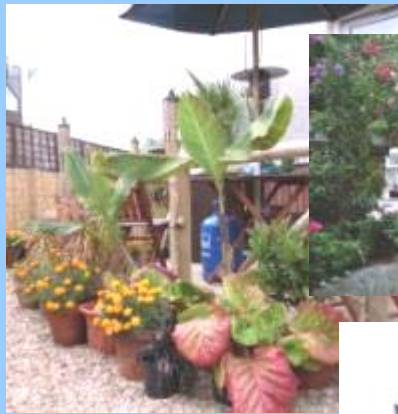
For the fourth year, Ayrshire Housing is running its ever popular Pet of the Year competition. All you have to do to enter is to send a picture of your non-human companion, along with an explanation of why he or she deserves to win. Contact us by emailing the competition organiser at Keanu@ayrshirehousing.org.uk or send in your entries by the end of July and remember to put your name address and telephone number on your entry.

Bumper prizes await the best entries. There will be a special prize for entries received from children aged 12 and under and the most unusual pet will also get a special prize.

Good Luck!
Keanu



If you wish to compete in this year's competition please complete and return the attached entry form, or write in to the association.



Setting the standards for 2008....here are a selection of some of last years' winners

Competition Entry Forms

Garden Competition 2008 Entry Form

Name:

Address:

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Telephone:

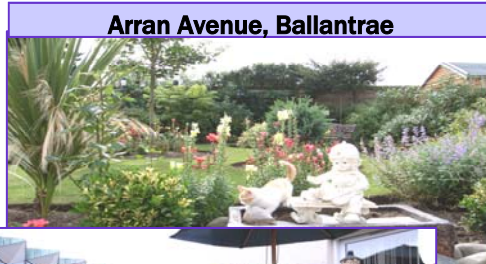
Garden Entry

Window Box Entry

Container Entry

Best Kept Close Entry

Best New Garden



Arran Avenue, Ballantrae



South Harbour Street, Ayr

Pet Competiton 2008 Entry Form

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:



Wee Sophie, was a joint winner in last years competition



Joint winner **Snickers** the rabbit with companion **Alize**

Please return your entries in the enclosed pre-paid envelope