

# Stirling Tenants Assembly Newsletter



Spring Edition 2020



## Rents Rise by 3.2%

Stirling Council tenants' rents have risen by 3.2%. This was the decision made by Stirling's Councillors at their Meeting of the Environment and Housing Committee on 27th February 2020.

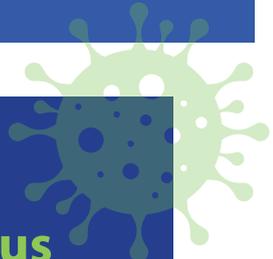
The figure was approved following a rents consultation held in December 2019, which showed clearly that, of the two options presented (4% and 3.2%), tenants preferred the lesser charge. The Budget presented by the new Chief Housing Officer (Stephen Clark) showed a shortfall of £630,000 to protect existing services and to allow for solar panel installation on 500 homes.

## Council Tax Rise is 4.84%

Councillors at the same meeting also agreed a Council Tax rise of 4.84%. By this time you should have received your rent and Council Tax notices explaining the rises.

Stirling Tenants Assembly would advise tenants that if they have financial difficulties in paying their rent/Council Tax then they should consult the Welfare Benefit team or Income Maximisation Officers who can assist you in making a claim.

**Do not suffer in silence...Call 01786 404040**



## Coronavirus disrupts tenants meetings and activities

As we are all well aware, the country is in the grip of the dreaded Coronavirus.

As with the guidance issued by the UK & Scottish governments and Stirling Council, all meetings, gatherings and activities of the Stirling Tenants Assembly have been postponed until further notice.

However the group is still able to connect via telephone and email and will be involved with the Housing Dept. as and when required to do so on tenants' behalf. Should you have any queries then please contact our Tenant Participation Officer on **01786 237661**.

## STA Secretary attends Housing Festival as guest of Stirling Council

Anna Johnston, Stirling Tenants Assembly Secretary, attended the Scottish National Housing Festival, on 4th March, organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing, as a guest of Stirling Council. Anna (*pictured*) was very pleased to be received at the Festival at a stand organised by the Tenant Participation Advisory Service amongst others, and during the day attended a number of Breakout Sessions, discussing varied subjects.



The Festival is organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland and is a three day festival of debates and breakout sessions where many issues depicted within Housing are discussed, some later may lead to changes in policy decisions affecting Housing Services.

Anna said "I found the day helpful and interesting and was very pleased to attend."

We would thank Stirling Council for supporting Anna's attendance, as part of their Tenant Participation Strategy, which gives tenants valued experience.

---

## Michael retires from active participation



Michael Griffiths has decided to retire from tenant activities. His membership of the STA began in 2003 and in that time he has served on a number of ad-hoc groups representing tenants' interests. His commitment included involvement with the Homelessness Partnership dealing with issues experienced by that group. We wish Michael well in his retirement and thank him for his efforts on tenants' behalf.

## Want to become involved?

We are on a quest to recruit new members with an interest in Housing matters. It involves taking part scrutinising Housing Policy and working with Stirling Council to improve the Housing Service. To do that, there is one meeting per month, except July, but may also include a few smaller meeting groups. All is voluntary and expenses are reimbursed for travel (with provision of a receipt). We can also consider cover for childminding or carer costs. Interested? Call our Tenant Participation Officer, Leza Lafferty on Stirling 237661, or email : [laffertyl@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:laffertyl@stirling.gov.uk) .

More details on our website at [www.stirlingtenantsassembly.co.uk](http://www.stirlingtenantsassembly.co.uk)  
or like us on **Facebook** 