



Housing and Technical Resources

Forth West Neighbourhood News 2019/20

Housing Services continues to work with the community, local groups, elected members and other partners to deliver local housing plans

In the last edition, we provided you with an update on the housing plan for Forth West which we continue to implement and review each year.

The housing plan sets out the priorities for the year ahead and takes into consideration the supply and demand for housing in the area, the condition and management of open space and the condition of gardens.

You will see from the update below 2019/20 has been a busy year for housing services with good progress made against the actions we agreed with some of these continuing to be a focus for 2020/21.

Progress over the last year included:

- An increase in demand for housing which has reduced the number of empty properties with 21 lets in 2019/20
- No long term empty properties at 31 March 2020
- The upgrade of roads and pathways has made a huge difference to the area

A good news story!

Your views matter

We want to continue to build on the housing plan and develop this further year on year for the future sustainment of Forth West.

Although at present we are not able to come together in the more traditional ways we are still keen to hear your views and be involved in our future housing plans.

Options may include:

- surveys/questionnaires
- online options to engage
- virtual contact with housing staff

The original plan is available should you wish a copy, or if you would like any further information or to discuss the plan or how you can get involved please contact the Clydesdale Housing Office on 0303 123 1012 or by email at housing.lanark@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Please let us know what you think and we can agree next steps together. We look forward to hearing from you and working together for the long term benefit of Forth West community.

Forth West Housing Plan

Priorities agreed in 2019	April 2019 – March 2020 update
<p>Address lack of demand for housing resulting in long term void properties and risk to longer term sustainability of area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is generally good demand for housing in Forth West and advertising of properties isn't always necessary. • During 2019/20 there were 21 lets, this is compared to 18 lets during 2018/19. • There continues to be high levels of tenancy sustainment in the area, with only 1 tenancy ending within 12 months during 2019/20. This demonstrates the area is a well settled community. • We continue to consider the longer term housing needs of the area and particularly the housing needs of older people in Forth West.
<p>Remove blight of concentrated long terms empty properties in area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had no long term empty homes within Forth West as at 31 March 2020. This is positive for the community and demonstrates an increase in demand.
<p>Ongoing maintenance and improvement of housing stock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home+ programme ongoing across housing stock to fully meet and maintain Scottish Housing Quality and Energy Efficiency Standards. • Resurfacing of footpaths was completed during 2019/20.
<p>Improve standards of individual gardens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services continued an enhanced programme of inspections, with a focus on 'hotspot' areas. • During 2019/20, 543 garden inspections were carried out with 59 garden letters issued during the year. Although there were improvements noted, this continues to be an area of focus for Housing Services and we continue to encourage residents to maintain their garden areas to an acceptable standard. • Housing Services know that the overall environment is important to the local community and hope you are supportive of our continued work in this area as we continue to manage the condition of individual gardens.
<p>Improve condition of open space/refuse disposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four weekly area inspections led by Housing Services continued in the area during 2019/2020. • Issues throughout year with fly tipping and contaminated household bins were addressed by the local officer and partner agencies.
<p>Promote community safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2019/20 there were 8 anti-social behaviour complaints received, this is compared to 9 reported in the previous year. • Housing Services continues to work in partnership with the Anti-Social Investigation Team, Police Scotland, The Noise Team and Mediation Service to resolve anti-social behaviour issues for residents.
<p>Create opportunities for community involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation continued throughout last year via one to one discussions and Clydesdale local housing forum.

If you need this information in a different format or language, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs on 0303 123 1015 or equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk