

# Barrhead MATTERS

Barrhead Housing Association



Barrhead Housing Association  
Limited  
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC 036265

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS...HO...HO...HO!

WINTER 2018

## Proposal to Build New Homes



Barrhead HA is pleased to announce that plans are continuing for more new homes in the Barrhead and Neilston areas over the coming three years. This is part of East Renfrewshire Council's overall proposal to build 600 new homes and this is now subject to approval by the Scottish Government. It is therefore hoped that we will provide the following:

**2019 – 12 new affordable rented homes,** 2 and 3 bedroomed houses, at Neilston Road in partnership with Taylor Wimpey. The developer has already started on this new site and the affordable homes will be completed next year.

**2019 – 10 new affordable rented homes,** 2 and 3 bedroomed houses, at Grahamston Road, Barrhead in partnership with Bellway Homes. This is part of the second phase at this site and hopefully the affordable homes will be on-site next year.

**2019 – 8 new affordable rented homes** at Dealston Road, Barrhead. This is at a very early planning stage but Barrhead HA has

been appointed the partnership housing association to deliver the new homes.

**2019 – 30-40 new homes at Walton Street,** Barrhead. Again this is at early stages and would be a partnership with a local developer. Part of the site is privately owned and part is owned by the Council and plans are also to include the re-alignment of the Levern Waterway at this site to smooth out the 'bend' as part of flood prevention measures being undertaken by the Council. However, this is a great central site for new homes with easy access to the amenities within Barrhead so could lead to some provision of much needed accommodation for older people and some wheelchair flats as well as small family homes.

For later, we are still waiting on the masterplan for Barrhead South to be taken forward at the top of Auchenback and in partnership with Taylor Wimpey and Avant Homes, we could be providing a further 37 new homes for rent.

## Connor Road awards success!

Connor Road Young Persons Support Service was shortlisted for the Tenant Participation Advisory Service Best Practice in Youth Involvement Award. The awards ceremony was held in Aviemore on 16th November and they were delighted to win the runners up award. Susan O'Neill, support worker, commented "We have put in a lot of hard work around engaging with the young people here, and we have seen real benefits in reducing isolation and increasing their participation in how we run



the service". Connor Road is owned by Barrhead Housing Association.

## Festive Opening Hours

**Open** Monday 24th December 2018  
9.00am to 2.30pm

**Closed** Tuesday 25th – Thursday 27th  
December 2018

**Open** Friday 28th December 2018  
9.00am to 4.00pm

**Open** Monday 31st December 2018  
9.00am to 2.30pm

**Closed** Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd  
January 2019

**Open** Friday 4th January 2019  
9.00am to 4.00pm

Normal working hours will resume  
from Monday 7th January 2019

## Emergency telephone numbers during the festive period

In case of emergency, as outlined below, you should contact the Call Centre on:

**0800 652 0633**

An emergency is one of the following:

- Total loss of power in property.
- A burst pipe or tank which is causing flooding.
- A flat entrance door which has been broken into.
- A broken window that requires to be boarded up.
- A choked toilet which is un-useable (with no other toilets in the house).

In case of a gas heating emergency, you should contact the Call Centre on:

**01294 468113**



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GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? • CONTACT US AT: Tel: 0141 881 0638 • Web: [www.barrheadha.org](http://www.barrheadha.org) • Email [enquiries@barrheadha.org](mailto:enquiries@barrheadha.org) • or follow us on





## Fairytale ending to arts project as young people deliver nursery workshops

A fairytale took place in Barrhead this month, as young people working on a project in partnership between Impact Arts and Barrhead Housing Association donated fantasy-themed artwork and handmade toys.

The young people, who have been working at the ARC Centre in Auchenback since August, visited children at the nursery to present a handmade fairy garden and plant pots created from recycled wood.

They also taught the children how to make their own fairies from glitter, string,

wool and clothes pegs, while showing them how to plant flowers for their new garden.

It marked the end of a 12-week block of Impact Arts' Creative Pathways, where unemployed young people have worked with artists on creative writing and craft projects, while getting help to find work.

Funded by Barrhead Housing Association and the Big Lottery Fund's Our Bright Future initiative, the young people also learned more about their community, their environment and how to reduce waste.



John Wilson (left) Beth Welsh (centre) David McCready (right).

## CU SLA

Pioneer Mutual Credit Union are working in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council and Barrhead Housing Association to provide a free Money Management Account where the official launch of this joint venture took place on 29th November.

Any tenant of East Renfrewshire Council or Barrhead Housing Association who is in receipt of Universal Credit will get their membership fees covered by their respective landlord. This includes the costs to open the Account and also become a member of the credit union and there are no ongoing fees.

Tenants will benefit from getting their housing costs paid directly to their landlord by using this account and will also benefit from a range of Account features, which include:

- Free Life Savings and Loan Protection\*
- Saving for a rainy day
- Access to Pioneer Mutual low cost loans\*
- Christmas Savings Club
- Personal Service
- All savings protected under FSCS

*\*subject to conditions*

David McCready, Chairperson of Barrhead Housing Association stated "We are delighted to be working in partnership with local agencies to ensure we can provide local services to all of our residents. Since Universal Credit went onto full service in September we have seen a surge in the number of our tenants who are moving onto Universal Credit. It is therefore crucial that we can offer as many options as possible to help tenants have their rent paid directly to the landlord"

Beth Welsh, business Development Manager added "The Money Management Account is about supporting all residents on Universal Credit, and not just those without bank accounts by giving claimants peace of mind that their rent is paid while also providing a budgeting tool for their other expenses."

Councillor Danny Devlin, Convenor for Housing and Maintenance at East Renfrewshire Council said "This account, offered by our partners at Pioneer Mutual Credit Union, not only provides tenants with the peace of mind that their housing costs will be paid automatically, but also a host of other benefits that will make managing their money a little easier."

## Cash 4 kids 2018

In September we sent out letters to ask households with children to make an application for Cash 4 Kids 2018. Many households got in touch and we are delighted to announce that all 109 applications we made on behalf of residents have been successful! Did you know that over the last five years we have secured £9325.00 and helped 373 children?

We are all too aware of the cost of Christmas and we hope that through our help this may have eased the financial burden for many families over the festive period. Each child will receive a £25 voucher to spend at Silverburn Shopping Centre.

Vouchers will be available to collect from the office on Friday 14th December

between 10:00 am and 16.00pm. If you are unable to come please contact the office and we can arrange another suitable date with you. We will issue an email or text to you and would ask that you bring this confirmation along with you, as identification, when collecting voucher.



## Paying your rent over Christmas and the New Year

Christmas is fast approaching and we know that there can be a great deal of pressure to spend a lot on presents and the cost of food and drink over Christmas and New Year. However, you should prioritise your rent payments – having a home is more important than any gift.

Missing payments during December and January means that you will start the New Year with arrears and we will take action against you that may result in losing your home.

We want to make sure that you are able to enjoy Christmas without having to worry about money problems so here are some sensible steps you can take to ensure that this Christmas you stay out of debt:

- Make sure all your priority bills are being paid – including rent, gas, electricity, water and council tax.
- It is a condition of your tenancy that your rent is paid in advance and in full at all times.
- Make sure that you inform the relevant authorities such as Department of Work and Pensions and Housing Benefit department of any change in circumstances that may affect your benefit entitlement and do so promptly to avoid any overpayments which you will then need to repay.
- Decide how much you can afford to spend at Christmas in advance and stick to it – you will still then be able to make payments on essential bills such as rent.

See our website for all the ways you can pay your rent.



## Aged 16-25? Not in work or education? Join our Creative Pathways programme!

Barrhead Housing and Impact Arts are looking for applicants aged 16-25 to join a new block of their Creative Pathways programme, which will run between January and March 2019.

Over the course of 12 weeks, 15 participants will work with artists and environmental designers to develop a green space in partnership with the local community in Dunterlie.

Those taking part will earn £55 a week as a training allowance, plus necessary travel expenses.

You will have the opportunity to learn skills in digital art and design, meet new people, explore environmental issues and help out your community.

Those taking part will also get support from Impact Arts' dedicated employability staff who will support you to complete SQA accreditation, develop your confidence and interview skills, and discuss your next steps in employment or education.

The programme will run from January 8th 2019 until March 29th 2019, with workshops taking place Tuesday until Friday each week between 10am and 4pm.

The workshops are based at Dunterlie Community Centre (Stewart Street, Barrhead G78 1AL).

For more information, please contact Heather Gault, Project Co-ordinator, on **0141 575 3001** or **07530916360** or email [heather.gault@impactarts.co.uk](mailto:heather.gault@impactarts.co.uk).

The project is funded by Barrhead Housing Association, the Big Lottery Fund's Our Bright Future initiative, Inspiring Scotland, and the Scottish Government's People and Communities Fund.



## Impact Arts young people donate Barrhead collage to sheltered housing residents

A vibrant Barrhead-themed collage artwork created by young people at Impact Arts was donated to residents at Barrhead Sheltered Housing Complex.

The handover of the mosaic-style artwork – created using pens, paint and digital projection – took place Wednesday 7th November at the Complex on Barrhead Main Street.

As well as running young people's programmes, Impact Arts run free Craft Café sessions for over 60s at the Complex, 113 Main Street, Barrhead G78 1SB, every Wednesday between 1pm and 4pm.

Call **Daniella Rossi** on **01294 273 051** or email [Daniella.rossi@impactarts.co.uk](mailto:Daniella.rossi@impactarts.co.uk) for more information.

## Repairs Satisfaction Surveys

At Barrhead Housing Association we want to improve the quality of the repairs service. When you report a repair to us, we automatically send out a Survey which allows you to tell us your views about the repairs we carried out.

We use the results to understand what we're doing well and to identify the areas that need improving.



Did you know that all returned surveys are entered into a monthly prize draw and you could be in with a chance of winning £25 high street vouchers?

We have been running the prize draw for two months now, and pictured left, is **Ms Michalska** – the lucky winner from the October draw – picking up her £25 Asda Voucher

Please tell us how we are doing and get the chance to win £25. All you need to do is return the survey in the pre-paid envelope provided, or hand it in at the office.



## New Staff Update



In October 2018, the Association appointed two new members of staff.

Iain MacLean joined us as our new Corporate Services Manager (part time). Iain is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing and has many years of experience working in housing. He will be supporting our Governing Board, and assisting with the ongoing development of our policies and strategies. In addition, Iain will be helping senior management to further develop our approach in areas such as Equalities, Freedom of Information and Data Protection.

We also welcomed Martin Devenny as our Corporate Services Officer. Martin is a part-qualified accountant, and joined us from a Glasgow based firm of Chartered Accountants. His duties will include monitoring and reporting on the Association's financial results, and assisting with the preparation of our budgets and management accounts.

## BHA Celebrates Living Wage Commitment



Here at Barrhead we are pleased to announce that we recently became accredited as a Living Wage employer by Living Wage

Scotland.

Our Living Wage commitment will see everyone working at the Association, regardless of whether they are direct employees or third-party contracted staff, receive a minimum hourly wage of £8.75. This rate is significantly higher than the statutory minimum for over 25s of £7.83 per hour introduced in April 2018.

The real Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually and is calculated according to the real costs of living.

David McCready, Chair of Barrhead Housing Association said "We are delighted to have been accredited as a Living Wage Employer. We have paid all our staff above the living wage for a number of years, so we were keen to join the growing number of Scottish employers who have been recognised for making this important commitment. Beyond our own staff, we also have a plan in place to maximise the commitment to the Living Wage across the Contractors we use".

## Barrhead Housing Association Community Fund 2019/2020

Barrhead Housing Association is delighted to announce the Barrhead Housing Association Community Fund is now open! There is an award of £48,000 to distribute amongst Community Projects!

This year the Community Fund is split into two separate strands. The first and new strand will support Scotland's Year of Young People 2018, by encouraging project ideas from young individuals, groups and organisations (a young person is 8 to 26) and a second fund for General Community Projects similar to the previous year's format.

We are calling for project ideas from individuals, groups and organisations either delivering or proposing to deliver, operate or benefit people within the postcode area of G78.

The key criteria is that your project must benefit the BHA tenants, the local community and support at least one of Barrhead Housing Association's Community Regeneration Objectives:

- Support people into employment.
- Improve local environments.

- Recognise and reduce social isolation in our communities.
- Reduce food and energy poverty in our communities.
- Increase digital inclusion.
- Support people with welfare advice.
- Improve Health and Wellbeing.

### How much can be applied for?

You can apply for a minimum award of £1000 or up to a maximum of £4,000.

### Decision Event

The project ideas will be then presented to local residents at the Decision event at Barrhead High School on the Saturday 2nd March 2019 where local residents can vote for the projects that they think deserve funding.

### How to Apply

Get an Application Form from: enquiries@barrheadha.org or Barrhead Housing Association, 60-70 Main Street, Barrhead G78 1SB

**Please submit your application by 5pm on Monday 4th February 2019.**

## Best Start Grants

### Pregnant or recently had a child? You could be due £600!

Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment is one of the first benefits that will be delivered by Social Security Scotland. The Scottish Government has increased the payments available to lower income families for each child they have. The Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment will help children across Scotland have a fairer start by providing cash sums to families at crucial times in a young child's life.

This grant covers a one-off payment of £600 for your first child then £300 for each subsequent child. You do not need to pay this back and its provided to help you with pregnancy or baby related expenses, including clothes and nursery items.

Both the Grant and Payment will launch on 10 December 2018 and you can apply from the 24th week of your pregnancy, up until your child is six months old.

To be eligible for the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, you must live in Scotland and be in receipt of a qualifying benefit from the list below:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support

- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit If you are under 18 or 18/19 and still dependant on your parents and in full time education or training – you do not need to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit

The Pregnancy and Baby Payment will not affect your other benefits or tax credits.

You can apply online, by phone or post.

Visit [mygov.scot/pregnancy-and-babypayment](http://mygov.scot/pregnancy-and-babypayment) or call **0800 182 2222** to find out more.

Alternatively you can contact our Welfare Rights Officer

**Vivien Betteridge** on **0141 881 0638** if you wish advice on how to apply.



If you have any comments or complaints to make about any of our services, please contact the office:  
**Barrhead Housing Association Ltd**  
58-70 Main Street, Barrhead G78 1SB  
T: 0141 881 0638  
E: enquiries@barrheadha.org  
W: www.barrheadha.org

