



CUNNINGHAME
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

More than just a landlord

DECEMBER 2020

CUNNINGHAME

Share Members' Edition

WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION?

Virtual Annual General Meeting

New CHA Website

Long Service Awards

Making Our Communities Better Places Fund

New Build Developments

...and much more!

CHA'S e-CHRISTMAS CARD



This year CHA has an e-Christmas Card to wish all our customers and visitors the compliments of the season. You can access our e-Card via following link: -

<https://www.cunninghame-housing.org/merry-christmas>

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

All CHA's office staff will finish on
Thursday 24th December 2020 at 5.00 pm
and re-start on
Wednesday 6th January 2021
at 9.00 am

We wish you all a
Merry Christmas
and a very
Happy New Year!

WELCOME to the Christmas 2020 edition of our Share Members' newsletter which will give you details of the Association's news. A particular welcome to our new Share Members – we hope you enjoy the newsletter and will enter our competition.

Virtual Annual General Meeting

CHA's first virtual Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 2.15pm via Microsoft Teams which was a tremendous success. The Board of Management and Office Bearers for 2020-2021 is as follows:-

Office Bearers



John Kelly
Chairperson



Lesley Keenan
Vice Chairperson



Janet Strang
Company Secretary

Board of Management



Willie Gibson



Brenda Johnstone



Liam Loudon



June Fenelon



John Nisbet



Brian McCabe



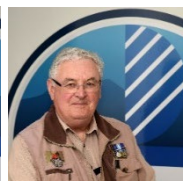
Drew Hall



Elizabeth
Shedden



Margaret Davison



Councillor Jimmy
Miller
North Ayrshire Council
Rep



Councillor Jim
McMahon
East Ayrshire Council
Rep

GENERAL NEWS

First Virtual Cunninghame Housing Association Special General Meeting & Annual General Meeting

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic Cunninghame Housing Association held its first ever virtual Special General Meeting & Annual General Meeting via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 9th September 2020 which proved to be a resounding success. The Association held the SGM to allow all in attendance to adopt small amendments to its constitutional Rulebook. The changes to the rules were accepted with a copy being sent to the Scottish Housing Regulator, OSCR, The Financial Services Authority and all CHA financial lenders.

At the AGM, the election of members of the Board of Management saw the re-election of William Gibson, Lesley Keenan, Janet Strang and Liam Loudon and the election of Margaret Davison who had previously been a co-opted member.

After the AGM the following Office Bearers were elected:

- John Kelly – Chair
- Lesley Keenan – Vice Chair
- Janet Strang - Secretary

The feedback was very positive although it is hoped to be able to go back to normal next year with face to face contact.

New East Ayrshire Council Representative to Board of Management

Unfortunately, Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of East Ayrshire Council has had to stand down from being the Council's representative on the Association's Board of Management. We are glad to announce that his place has been taken by Councillor Jim McMahon.

Councillor McMahon represents Ward 8 – Cumnock and New Cumnock and is Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Older People and Community Safety and sits on the following committees:

- Cabinet
- Local Government Licensing Panel



East Ayrshire Council Rep: Councillor Jim McMahon

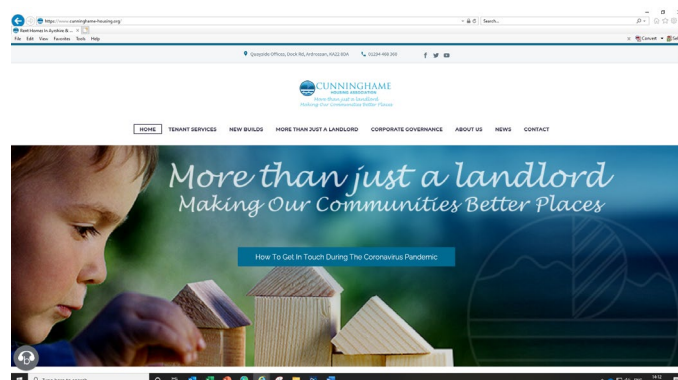
New Cunninghame Housing Association Website

The Association was pleased to launch its new website on Friday 2nd October 2020. The website enables tenants to navigate around the site easier and provide information 24hours a day. Tenants can now make a rent payment online and access contact details for repairs they require to be done. Coming soon, tenants will also be able to review their rental account and updates on any outstanding repairs by logging into their tenant account online.

The website will also keep everyone up to date with current and future developments in North & East Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway.

Here is the link for the new website below:

<https://www.cunninghame-housing.org/>



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Long Service Awards 2020

The Association was due to hold its fourth Long Service Awards ceremony on Thursday 10th December at the Waterside Hotel, Seamill to recognise the Board of Management and Staff members who had achieved continuous service. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Board of Management and Staff members achievements of 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-years continuous service with the Association was still marked by issuing Awards to everyone concerned. Fourteen members of staff qualified for the long service awards in total. Below are some examples of the Awards being received by staff members.



Making Our Communities Better Places Fund

The CHA Making Our Communities Better Places Fund was first set up 25 years ago and to date has administered approximately £150,000 to local charity, groups and individuals.



Each financial year £20,000 of sponsorship is made available to North & East Ayrshire and £10,000 to Dumfries & Galloway. Unfortunately, this year due to COVID-19 and lockdown the Board of Management made the difficult decision to freeze all applications.

North Ayrshire Foodbank contacted the Association with a request for financial assistance to contribute towards a Christmas campaign, providing hampers and festive boxes to support the community in the difficult times that have been created due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board of Management decided that in light of the difficult times it would be happy to make the donation to spread some Christmas cheer and help the local community and donated £5,000 to North Ayrshire Foodbank.

On 10th December 2020 a cheque for £6509.05 was presented to Craig Crosthwaite, Coordinator of North Ayrshire Foodbank. A total of £1509.05 came from the Association's staff, Healthy Working Lives Group who had collected the money by holding events last year pre Covid and the other £5000 as agreed by the Board of Management in November 2020.

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Left to right: John Kelly, CHA Chairperson, Max the CHA Bear and Craig Crosthwaite, North Ayrshire Foodbank Coordinator

Craig Crosthwaite commented, “North Ayrshire Foodbank is once again grateful to Cunningham Housing Association’s Board of Management and staff for their generosity and many blessings spread throughout our communities, As always, CHA is living up to being More than just a Landlord”.

Foodbank Donation

In May 2020 Cunningham Housing Association donated £10,000 to North Ayrshire Foodbank following a request for financial support.



Agreement was made by the Board of Management to donate £5,000 to assist with administration costs and an additional £5,000 to go towards the purchase of food supplies.

Frank Sweeney, Group Chief Executive commented “The Board of Management agreed to donate a further £5,000 towards the ongoing administration and running costs of the North Ayrshire Foodbank each financial year from 2021

onwards. On behalf of the Association, may I take this opportunity of wishing the Foodbank every success with their fund-raising efforts and future of the group.”

Ardoch Court, Stevenston

Councillor Jimmy Miller carried out the official closing ceremony on Friday 27th November 2020 to mark the end of Cunningham Housing Association’s new build project at Ardoch Court, located in the Ardeer Peninsula area of Stevenston. Limited numbers were in attendance to mark the occasion due to Scottish Government restrictions.

The site has delivered a total of 24 houses and 4 cottage flats on a Design and Build basis with 2 of the flats being specifically designed for wheelchair users.



Pictured left to right: Councillor Jimmy Miller, Frank Sweeney, CEO of CHA

The last remaining block was handed back to the Association in July 2020 which was over schedule due to construction sites being closed during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown (original completion was planned for March 2020).

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Pictured left to right: Paul McLaughlin, D McLaughlin & Sons, Willie Gibson, Board Member CHA, John Kelly, Chair CHA, Councillor Jimmy Miller, Frank Sweeney, CEO of CHA, Councillor John Sweeney

The Design Team involved with this new build project were:

- McMillan & Cronin Architects
- TCS Construction Consultants
- ATK Partnership

The total works costs of £3.86m was funded by £2.2m in Housing Association funding towards this project. The Association borrowed £1.6m of private finance.



Ardoch Court, Stevenston

View drone footage and internal 360° walk through videos on our website: www.cunninghame-housing.org.

Corrie Crescent, Saltcoats

The Association was due to acquire this site from the developer in April 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown this was delayed until June 2020.



Corrie Crescent, Saltcoats

Clyde Coast Contracts began work on site at the end of June 2020. This site will deliver a total of 11 houses and 2 amenity flats on a Design and Build basis.

Janet Strang Court

The Association are pleased to announce that the Corrie Crescent development in Saltcoats has been named Janet Strang Court, after the former Chairperson and now Company Secretary of CHA.

Janet is a prominent local figure, who previously worked as a Community Councillor and joined the Association in 1994. She has served as a voluntary Board Member on Cunninghame Housing Association's Board for 25 years.

Over the last 5 years as the Association's Chairperson she has contributed thousands of

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hours of voluntary time to Cunninghame Housing Association and the community at large.

Congratulations to Janet in receiving this recognition.



Pictured from left to right: Frank Sweeney, Group CEO of CHA and Janet Strang, CHA Company Secretary

Janet was also presented with an EVH 25 years Continuous Service Award at this years Annual General Meeting. The Group Chief Executive Officer thanked her on behalf of CHA and the rest of the Board for her time and dedication.

William Gibson Wynd

The Association are delighted that one of the streets at the new Persimmon site, Sharphill, Phase 4 in Saltcoats is being named William Gibson Wynd, current Board member and Chair of the Development Sub committee at CHA. Willie is a former Depute Head Teacher and former Leader



of North Ayrshire Council and has now retired from his role as a local councillor.

Congratulations to Willie in receiving this recognition.

£15m Funding Agreed with RBS

The Association is pleased to announce it has agreed a £15 million funding programme with Royal Bank of Scotland to create a new social housing programme for Ayrshire and the Borders.

The long-term facility, which builds upon an existing relationship with the bank, will fund 236 new homes across the West of Scotland and will see socially rented properties constructed in North & East Ayrshire as well as Dumfries & Galloway.

Frank Sweeney, Group Chief Executive said, “the funding will ensure the Association continues to deliver much needed affordable social rented housing in North/East Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway. My thanks to all respective teams who worked very hard to ensure completion.”

The arrangement with Cunninghame Housing Association is one of RBS’s most significant deals within the Scottish Housing sector for 2020.

Alan Newlands, Director of Housing & Finance, Commercial & Private Banking at RBS added, “supporting the delivery and maintenance of housing in Scotland is vital to both the economy and importantly, families and individuals in communities across the country. As a long-standing customer of RBS, the bank is delighted to have been able to provide Cunninghame Housing Association with an additional £15m of funding to deliver energy-efficient, modern homes for the social rent sector and we look forward to working with the Association in the years ahead as they deliver this much needed development programme.” He added, “as a bank, we are acutely conscious of the impact that the Covid-19 crisis is having on the people and the businesses in the

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country and we view housing as a critical sector for us to support.”

Annual Tenants Conference

Following government guidelines in relation to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, sadly the Association had to announce the cancellation of the Annual Tenants Conference that was due to be held at the Seamill Hydro on 8th July 2020.

On a positive note, hopefully next year the Association can hold the Tenants Conference and is successful as it always is with record numbers in attendance. Below, is a picture from last years' 10th Annual CHA Tenants Event.



Tenants & Residents Groups

The 7 tenants and residents' groups have been meeting virtually during the Covid-19 restrictions using Zoom conferencing.

This has proved to be invaluable in enabling everyone to keep in touch with each other and stay in direct contact with the Association. Most of the group members had never used Zoom before and were given all the support and advice they needed and were delighted to learn this new skill.



Cunninghame Scrutiny Group – Winners at the TIS National Excellence Awards 2020



The Cunninghame Scrutiny Group was selected as a finalist at the TIS National Excellence Awards 2020. The virtual award ceremony took place on Thursday 19th November via Zoom. The evening involved a comedy set from Stuart Mitchell, live music performances from the Wakes and interactive challenges.

The group were delighted to announce that they won '**Most Inspiring Scrutiny Group**' and enjoyed the whole experience. This was a remarkable achievement for the group and well deserved.

If you are interested and wish to find out more about how you can get involved, please contact Ian Macpherson, Community & Engagement Officer on 01294 606012 or imacpherson@cha.org.

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Cunninghame Housing Association have been announced winners at the UK Housing Heroes Awards 2020

The Association's HR Team were shortlisted for the Central Service Team of the Year award.



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no live Housing Heroes awards ceremony took place. The Awards Ceremony was held virtually on Thursday 10th September 2020 and CHA are delighted to announce that their HR Team won the Central Services Team Award.

Frank Sweeney, Group Chief Executive Officer of Cunninghame Housing Association said: "We are proud that the continued commitment and hard work of the Association's HR Team to deliver key services to all organisations within the Group and that this has been recognised in this year's Housing Heroes Awards. It's a great achievement for CHA and our HR Team."

The Investor in People Awards 2020 – Employer of the Year: Platinum

The Cunninghame Group of Companies are proud to have been identified as one of the **Top 20 UK Platinum organisations** this year for IIP and were also shortlisted as a finalist for the Investors in People Awards 2020 for the **Employer of the Year: Platinum** (50-249 employees' category.)



A virtual ceremony took place on Tuesday 24th November 2020 but unfortunately, the Association did not win the award in this instance.

To be recognised as one of the Top 20 UK Platinum organisations and shortlisted for Employer of the Year: Platinum, recognises that the CHA Group of companies put their people first and demonstrates the hard-working staff that are employed with the Association.

Annual Scottish Home Awards 2020

Cunninghame Housing Association were delighted to have been



shortlisted for various awards this year at the Scottish Home Awards:

- Housing Association of the Year
- Affordable Housing Development of the Year (Large, social rent) at the Halcrow Stadium Development in Gretna
- Affordable Housing Development of the Year (Mid-sized, social rent) Longpark, Phase 7 Development in Kilmarnock
- Housing Regeneration Project of the Year, Longpark, Phase 7 Development in Kilmarnock.
- Housing Regeneration Project of the Year, High Street, Annan Development.

The awards ceremony was due to take place in Glasgow however was cancelled due to Scottish Government restrictions. The ceremony was held virtually on Thursday 29th October 2020 and was presented by Des Clarke. CHA is delighted to announce that we won the category for **Affordable Housing Development of the Year (Mid-sized, social rent)** for the Longpark Phase 7 new build project. Frank Sweeney, Group CEO commented "this is a fantastic result and is reflective of the quality accommodation provided by the

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Association via our Development Services Department, sub-committee and design teams.”

Dumfries & Galloway Business Awards 2020

The Association was shortlisted for the **Outstanding Social Enterprise Award at the 2020 D&G Business Awards**.

The Awards Ceremony was due to take place on Friday 20th March 2020 at the Easterbrook Hall in Dumfries. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this was postponed to a virtual ceremony which took place on Friday 6th November 2020.

CHA was the main sponsor this year for the Dumfries & Galloway Business Awards.

Unfortunately, in this instance the Association did not win the award.



Cunninghame Housing Association was shortlisted for Landlord of the Year at the UK Housing Awards

Cunninghame Housing Association was shortlisted for the **Landlord of the Year** at the UK Housing Awards. The ceremony was held online on Thursday 3rd December.

Unfortunately, CHA did not win at the Awards ceremony.

However, when you look at the calibre and size of the competition, it was a tremendous achievement to make the final. CHA won the award in 2014 and finalists in 2020. Therefore, are still in the top tier of Social Landlords in the UK.



FINALIST

Summer Newsletter Competition Winners

All correct Summer newsletter competition entries received were put in a hat and the first three winners were pulled as follows:

1st Prize - £30.00 – Moira Bingham, Saltcoats

2nd Prize - £20.00 – Jim Donnelly, Ardrossan

3rd Prize - £10.00 - John Steele, Ardrossan

Why not have a go at our Christmas newsletter competition!



Get Social with us!

To stay updated on all that's going on at CHA, please like & follow our Facebook page and check out our website. It's updated regularly with news, events and our new build developments in North & East Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway.

