

Dear Neighbours

We hope you had a wonderful festive period and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Information about your Community Centre

The Centre

The Community Centre building is owned by Fife Council. However, the day-to-day running is managed by Dean Acres Community Centre charity.

Anything outside of the day to day running of the centre, within Comrie, remains the responsibility of the Council. The general enquiry contact number is: 03451 55 00 00 and emergency contact: 03451 55 00 99.

The Oakley & Comrie Community Council can be contacted using the following email: oakleycomriecc@hotmail.co.uk

Aside from basic decoration and upkeep, any changes within the centre must be agreed by the council and their approved contractors used. The centre is currently awaiting a replacement boiler to be installed, and this has been promised by March 2025.

At the request of residents, the barrier to the carpark was installed by Fife Council and is also managed by them. Requests for the key to open the barrier can be made to Oakley Community Centre during working hours 01383 602369 and by calling the Fife Council Cluster Supervisor on 07432 674344 outside of hours. In an emergency, the fire brigade should be contacted - they have the tools to break the lock.

Whilst the building is owned by the Council, the charity must pay for all running costs including utilities, insurance, recycling/waste collection and a council supplied cleaner/caretaker.

The Charity – Dean Acres Community Centre - Registration Number SC052517

In 2022, due to the possibility of reduced funding, Fife Council suggested that becoming a charity would enable the committee to access other sources of funding and apply for a significant reduction in water charges.

The charity is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR), complies with all requirements and regulations and currently has 9 Trustees, all of whom are volunteers. You can find further information about the charity, accounts and governance at www.oscr.co.uk.

A registered charity has the advantage of being able to apply for grants to run certain activities e.g. the warm welcome café, keep hire costs at a reduced rate and contribute to one-off events and projects in accordance with the governing document. The charity has been successful in obtaining several grants with all funding reported on to ensure compliance and best practice.

When registering the charity, OSCR refused the use of “Comrie” in the name, due to an existing charity in Comrie, Perth. A re-application was submitted using the new name which was chosen in reference to the builder of the Centre who also built the Dean Acres scheme. It is understandable that it will still be referred to as Comrie Community Centre; however, when applying for any benefits or grants, the name on the application must match with the name registered with OSCR.

Should the charity be wound up, all existing grant money would have to be returned and, in accordance with OSCR regulations, any surplus funds distributed to other charities with similar aims and objectives. The day to day running of the centre would then be handed back to Fife Council.

Current Hires/Activities

Monday	10:00 -12:00 Craft Group		
Tuesday	10:30 -11:30 Yoga Jemma 07775 611102	14:30 – 16:30 Fitness Class Natalia.Kucharczyk@fifeleisure.org.uk	18:15-21:15 Slimming World (from 7 th Jan) Dawn 07910 809797
Wednesday	12:00 – 14:00 Warm Welcome Cafe		19:00 – 20:00 Pipe Band Practice
Thursday		13:00 – 15:00 – Glass Fusion Group	
Friday	9:30-11:30 Parents & Toddlers	13:30-15:30 – Book Club - fortnightly (from 10 th Jan)	

All hire groups have their own insurance cover.

The Centre is available for private hire. The current cost is £10 per hour for community hire and £15 per hour for commercial. The room capacity is 50 and there are tables and chairs available, as well as a small kitchen.

If you have an activity or project that will benefit the Comrie Community, the charity may be able to help with start-up funding or resources. This could be a one-off event e.g. a children's Easter event or a weekly / monthly group.

Volunteers

A big thank you to all the current volunteers keeping everyone fed at the warm welcome cafe and the gardeners who tend to the planters around Comrie.

Volunteering really does make a difference in the community, together with the opportunity to learn new skills and meet neighbours. If you have some spare time and would like to help, please get in touch.

Website / Social Media

It has been highlighted that not everyone in the community has access to social media. To address this and strengthen/streamline communication, the website will be improved over the next year to enable better access to information. Facebook will still be used as an information only platform.

There are other useful resident run Facebook Groups including “Comrie community – what's going on” and “Oakley and Comrie Billboard”. These are information sharing and discussion groups for the area.

If you need to get in touch or have any questions regarding the centre, please use the contact form available on the current website: www.deanacrescommunitycentre.org.uk

With best wishes
The Trustees – Dean Acres Community Centre
January 2025