



EDINBURGH TENANTS  
FEDERATION

# Federation Matters December 2016



*Seasons Greetings from  
everyone at  
Edinburgh Tenants Federation*



## **ETF Repairs Meeting, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, 5 Moredunvale Place**

The next meeting of ETF Repairs Group will take place on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, 5 Moredunvale Place**. Maud Wylie and Sharon Robertson from ETF's Tenant Led Inspection Team will be giving a talk about the recent inspection of the City of Edinburgh Council's Approach to Insulating External Walls. You can book online via [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk), by phoning the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509 or email [mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk).

## **Neighbourhood Partnership 'Meet the Funders' Event, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 11.00am-2.00pm, Heart of Midlothian Football Club, Gorgie Road**

Would you like to discuss ideas with potential funders and collect information about possible sources of grant aid? If so then why not come along to the Neighbourhood Partnership 'Meet the Funders' event for voluntary groups. This is a free informal drop in session and everyone is welcome to attend. The event will take place on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 11.00am 2.00pm, Heart of Midlothian Football Club, Gorgie Road**. For further information, contact Maureen Thompson on 0131 469 3595 or email [maureen.thompson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.thompson@edinburgh.gov.uk).

## **A New Constitution for ETF**

As the Federation is considering becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), a new ETF constitution is being developed which includes options for individuals to be more involved in the Federation. Member Groups will be send an options paper in mid December outlining some of the ways individuals could be included in the constitution. Groups will be asked to respond to this survey by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017**. The Federation Meeting on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017** will consider the options preferred by Members. Please contact Clare on 0131 475 2509 or email [clare@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:clare@edinburghtenants.org.uk) if you would like to discuss this.

## **Have Your Say**

Would you like to have your say on what the priorities are for your local area and do you have any thoughts on what can be done to improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood? The City of Edinburgh Council is asking for your **input** to determine what the most important issues are and ETF would like to encourage as many tenants as possible to take part in this exercise. The City of Edinburgh Council will use your priorities, ideas and comments to help create a Locality Improvement Plan for your area. If you are interested in taking part, log onto <https://edinburgh.dialogue-app.com/>. You must have a registered email address to take part.

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## **Tenants Voice: Call for Articles**

All groups will shortly be receiving a copy of the latest edition of *Tenants Voice*. If you would like extra copies, please contact the Federation office. The deadline for material for the next issue is **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**, so if there's anything you'd like to say, please speak up! Articles and letters for publication should be sent into the Federation office at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY, or emailed to [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk). Alternatively, give the Federation office a call on 0131 475 2509 if you'd like help to pull an article together.

## **ETF Membership Survey**

Thanks to those of you who completed the ETF annual membership survey. Although the deadline has passed, please feel free to send us your survey as wish to gather as many views as possible on the work of the Federation. Your comments will help us to set our work priorities for 2017 and will help us improve our services. A summary report will be sent out to Members when ready.

## **ETF Blog**

ETF's blog is on our website and e-newsletter and includes articles, contributions and opinions. If you are a tenant, work in housing, interested in community development or just plain passionate about where you live, then why not become one of our guest bloggers? For this edition, Natalie Hancox, Affordable Warmth Advisor, Changeworks will be our guest blogger and will be focussing on "Getting ready for Winter", which raises awareness of the energy advice service available to tenants and information about energy saving. Natalie's blog can be found at [www.edinburghtenants.org.uk](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk). If you're interested in contributing a blog or would like more information, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk). Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog>.

## **ETF Learning Session: Getting Your Message Across, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 5.15pm-9.15pm, venue to be confirmed**

Would you like to learn tips about how to tell your group's story, including how or how to write a press release or article? ETF is holding a half-day learning session on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 5.15pm-9.15pm, venue to be confirmed**. The learning session will look at:

- How to use social media to great effect;
- Picking up good practice tips on producing press releases and newsletters.

Full details on how to book a place will be available soon but for now please put the date in your diary if you're interested. Housing Association tenants are required to pay a nominal fee, please contact your landlord before booking a place. **Places must be booked in advance.**

## **ETF Learning Session: Balancing the Books, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 9.30am-3.30pm, Volunteer Centre, 222 Leith Walk**

Are you terrified of finance or just not sure how to keep your group's accounts? ETF is holding a one day learning session on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 9.30am-3.30pm, Volunteer Centre, 222 Leith Walk**. The learning session will look at:

- Good record keeping;
- How to lay out your group's finance statements.

It's not just for Treasurers though – it's everyone's responsibility to know about their group's finance, so come along and take the plunge. (Lunch will be provided at this session)

Full details on how to book a place will be available soon but for now please put the date in your diary if you're interested. Housing Association tenants are required to pay a nominal fee, please contact your landlord before booking a place. **Places must be booked in advance.**

## Help to get 'oot the hoose' with LOOPs

As we get older, the risk of social isolation becomes greater, which can also affect our mental and physical health. LOOPs (Local Opportunities for Older People) was set up to combat this. They run a city-wide phone line which helps over 65s to get out the house, meet like-minded people and enjoy everything Edinburgh has to offer. Over 65s, their families, friends and healthcare professionals can call **0131 603 8311** for free, to speak to a friendly LOOPs advisor about clubs and activities in their local area. Tailored to your individual requirements and interests, LOOPs has already connected over 600 older people to laughter, fun and friendships.

### Diary Dates

**Here are dates for upcoming events that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.**

#### **December 2016**

- 7 December      ETF Repairs Group Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, 5 Moredunvale Place
- 8 December      Neighbourhood Partnership Meet the Funders, 11.00am-2.00pm, Gorgie Suite, Heart of Midlothian Football Club, Gorgie Road

#### **January 2017**

- 19 January      Getting Your Message Across Learning Session, 5.15pm-9.15pm, venue to be confirmed. **Places must be booked in advance.**

#### **February 2017**

- 4 February      Balancing the Books Learning Session, 9.30am-3.30pm, Volunteer Centre, 222 Leith Walk. **Places must be booked in advance.**
- 27 February      Federation Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, venue to be confirmed

Please use public transport where possible. If required, assistance with transport and childcare may be available on request. Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information or to book a place.

The Federation Office closes on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016** for the Christmas and New Year holidays and re-opens on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 9am.**

*We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and all the best for 2017.*

