



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters September 2019

Federation Meeting, Wednesday 4th September 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

Our next Federation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 4th September 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road**. The guest speaker will be Carol Reid, Operations Manager, City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), who will be giving a talk on CEC's forthcoming Service Improvement Plan and how tenants can become involved. Members will also have the chance to discuss what ETF has done over the past few months as we talk about our quarterly Progress Report. Please use public transport where possible. Assistance with transport and childcare may be available on request. To attend please book your place online at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk, email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509.

ETF Annual General Meeting, Friday 13th September 2019, 7.00pm-11.00pm, Boroughmuir Rugby & Community Sports Club, 2 Meggetland Wynd

It's always one of the highlights of the year and ETF's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on **Friday 13th September 2019, 7.00pm-11.00pm, Boroughmuir Rugby & Community Sports Club, 2 Meggetland Wynd**. The evening will consist of:

- Presentation of ETF's Annual Report for 2018/2019;
- Appointment of Executive Committee Members;
- Presentation of Financial Accounts and appointment of auditors;
- Adoption of Work Plan for 2019/2020;
- Informal Social Event with a disco and buffet.

Please use public transport where possible. Assistance with transport and childcare may be available on request. To attend please book your place online at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk, email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. Places must be booked in advance no later than **Friday 6th September 2019**.

Improving Rent Collection with Tenants

At the beginning of June, ETF and CEC held a Rent Collection Communication Workshop. The workshop followed on from the Tenant Led Inspection on Rent Collection Communication and allowed the Inspectors and tenants in attendance to review the letters that CEC use to communicate with tenants regarding their rent. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry by email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk, or phone on 0131 475 2509. A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/rent-collection-communication-workshop-note-july-2019/>.

CEC Service Improvement

CEC is currently reviewing its Housing Service with a view to making meaningful changes which will improve the service, focus their attentions on the right things and deliver a service which is tenant led. In order for this to really work, CEC want to put tenants at the centre of the service design and are seeking tenants' views. If you are interested in helping to shape a better housing service, please email allan.tinto@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0131 529 5409.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Norton Park 57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

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Community Council Elections

Edinburgh's Community Councils are looking for new recruits. The nomination period starts on **Monday 9th September 2019** and closes on **Monday 30th September 2019, 4.00pm**. Elections, where required, will take place on **Thursday 31st October 2019**. You can apply as an individual or as a Registered Tenant Organisation (RTO). A Community Council gives local people a say on decisions that affect their area and consults with local people on issues that will impact on the community. Nomination forms will be available from **Monday 9th September 2019** on the Council's website at

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20133/community_planning/730/community_councils. For more information email community.councils@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0131 469 3126.

Housing Roadshow, Monday 21st October 2019, 9.30am-2.30pm, Morrisons, the Gyle Shopping Centre, Gyle Avenue, South Gyle Broadway, Edinburgh, EH12 9JY

Calling all RTOs; ETF and CEC will be holding a Housing Roadshow on **Monday 21st October 2019, 9.30am-2.30pm in Morrisons at the Gyle Shopping Centre**. The purpose of the Roadshow is to provide housing information to tenants, promote the support available to tenants and raise awareness of ETF. This is also an opportunity to promote the work of your group and possibly gain new members. If any RTOs can help by sending tenant representatives along to volunteer at the Roadshow, even for a couple of hours, please contact ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry by email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509.

Tenants Voice: Call for Articles

Is your tenants' group involved in an exciting piece of work, are you proud of an initiative that is taking place in your area or would you simply like to share an example of good practice? If any of the above apply then we would love to hear from you. The deadline for articles for our next edition is **Monday 28th October 2019**, 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. Alternatively, give the Federation office a call on 0131 475 2509 if you'd like help to pull an article together. A copy of the most recent *Tenants Voice* can be found at

<http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/tenants-voice-august-2019/>.

The Scottish Government 'Money Talk Team'

The Scottish Government recently launched the 'Money Talk Team', which is a service aimed at helping low income families to make the most of their household income and avoid paying the 'poverty premium'. This is where people can end up paying significantly more for goods and services due to their circumstances, e.g. being on a pre-payment gas meter, debt services or not having access to online-only deals. Citizens Advice Scotland is delivering this service on behalf of the Scottish Government and is offering free and confidential face-to-face or telephone advice. For further information or to arrange an appointment, please contact Ali Liddy, Account Director, Union Connect by email Ali.Liddy@union.co.uk or phone on 0131 625 6000. You can also contact Georgia Waters, Junior Account Manager, Union Connect by email Georgia.Waters@union.co.uk or phone 0131 625 6000. More information on the Money Talk Team can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/money-talk-team-campaign-support/>.

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Neighbourhood Networks

Since last year, the Edinburgh Partnership has been looking at ways to become more open and transparent. Earlier this year, the Partnership agreed a new structure which will support this way of working, and includes setting up 13 Neighbourhood Networks. Members of the Network will include Registered Tenant Organisations, Community Councils, Parent Councils and other voluntary groups. The final make-up of the membership will be for each Network to decide. The Networks will identify priorities and outcomes for their areas, with this informing what the Edinburgh Partnership Board, and the groups in the new structure, will do. To find out more about the Neighbourhood Networks, please go to http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20133/community_planning/391/edinburgh_partnership, or email communityplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk.

The contact details for each locality is as follows:

- North East, email Scott.Neill@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0131 529 3111;
- North West, email Scott.Donkin@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0131 529 5050;
- South East, email Andrew.Gallacher@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0131 529 5151;
- South West, email Christine.Doherty@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0131 527 3800.

Edinburgh, Poverty Commission Workshop, Thursday 19th September 2019, 10.00am-12.00pm, the Craggs Centre, 10 Bowmont Place

ETF and CEC are working with the **Edinburgh Poverty Commission** to inform its next meeting on 26th September which will look at Places – Housing, Homelessness, Transport and Community. ETF's Convenor Betty Stevenson is a valuable member of the Commission and is keen for Federation members, including CEC, Housing Association and private rented and owners to have an opportunity to have their voices heard on issues such as:

- Rent affordability;
- Fuel Poverty;
- Quality of accommodation;
- Airbnb;
- Repairs;
- Sense of community.

A Workshop is being held on **Thursday 19th September 2019, 10.00am-12.00pm, the Melting Pot Studio, the Craggs Centre, 10 Bowmont Place, Edinburgh**. The Centre is on the no 14 bus route. Places at the workshop are limited, and we would like to get an even distribution of tenures represented. Please forward this invitation to your members. We want to hear your thoughts and experiences on housing in Edinburgh. You can register to attend the workshop on the link on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/edinburgh-tenants-federation-housing-workshop-tickets-71251885307>. You will need the password Poverty. Alternatively please phone Nicola Elliot, City Strategy Team, CEC on 0131 469 6149 or email Nicola.Elliott@edinburgh.gov.uk to book a place.

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Diary Dates

Here are the dates of upcoming events that may be of interest to you.

September 2019

4 th September	Federation Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road
5 th September	Multi-Storey Owners' Group Meeting, 6.00pm-7.00pm, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street
6 th September	AGM deadline for bookings
9 th September	Nomination period starts for Community Council Elections
11 th September	AGM deadline for support/opposition to EC nominations
13 th September	ETF AGM, 7.00pm-11.00pm, Boroughmuir Rugby & Community Sports Club
16 th September	Public Holiday – Office Closed
19 th September	Edinburgh Poverty Commission Workshop, 10.00am-12.00pm, the Craggs Centre, 10 Bowmont Place
30 th September	Nomination period ends for Community Council Elections

October 2019

21 st October	Housing Roadshow, Morrisons, the Gyle Shopping Centre, Gyle Avenue, South Gyle Broadway, Edinburgh, EH12 9JY
28 th October	Deadline for <i>Tenants Voice</i> articles
31 st October	Community Council Elections if required

Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information. Don't forget that *Federation Matters* and other Federation publications can be downloaded from our website at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk.

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