



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters

May 2019

Federation Meeting, Wednesday 15th May 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Council Chambers, City Chambers, Royal Mile

Our next Federation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 15th May 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Council Chambers, City Chambers, Royal Mile**. Councillors from the City of Edinburgh Council's Housing and Economy Committee will be in attendance to discuss the various ways the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) is tackling homelessness in the city. There will also be a discussion on Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) continuing with the Housing Rights work. 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 High Flats Meeting, Monday 27th May 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Birnies Court Community Room, Muirhouse View

The next ETF High Flats Meeting will take place on **Monday 27th May 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Birnies Court Community Room, Muirhouse View**. The guest speaker will be Tracey Lawrie, Team Leader, CEC who will be speaking about the lift installation programme for high rise flats across Edinburgh. There will also be an opportunity to give an update on what is happening in your local area. 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.

UK Volunteer Week 2019

The Inspiring Volunteer Awards is part of Celebrating Volunteers' Week which will take place from **Saturday 1st June 2019 – Friday 7th June 2019**. The Rt. Hon Lord Provost, Frank Ross, will honour some of the dedicated volunteers who give their time, energy and commitment to the people of Edinburgh at a Special Awards Ceremony on **Wednesday 5th June 2019, 7.00pm, City Chambers, Royal Mile**. If you know an individual or team within your organisation that has exceeded expectations and deserves recognition, nominate them for an Inspiring Volunteer Award. There is a Tenant Participation Volunteer Award which has been designed to highlight the contribution made by volunteers in the housing sector. You can nominate someone by going to <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/training-and-events/awards-nominations/>. For more information please contact Tom Goode at Volunteer Edinburgh by emailing events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk or phone 0131 225 0630. Nominations will close on **Sunday 5th May at 10.00pm**.

Membership Renewals

The procedures and deadlines for ETF's AGM have changed slightly as we are now working under the constitution brought in as a result of becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). ETF has written to all our member groups, associate individual members and associate organisation members inviting them to re-join the Federation for the coming year. If your group would like to vote on any issues raised at the Annual General Meeting and/or put forward a nominee from your group to be on the Federation's Executive Committee (EC), your annual membership renewal form must be completed and returned to the Federation Office by **Friday 31st May 2019**.

Recruiting New Executive Committee Members

Would you like to play a part in helping to make a difference in tenant's lives, help influence policy and gain a wider experience and knowledge of current housing and environmental issues? If you have answered yes, why not become a member of the Federation's EC? We are keen to have more people involved in the work we are carrying out here at ETF. **To become an EC member, you need to be a member of a Tenant's and Resident's group that is registered to ETF.** If you are interested in becoming an EC member and would like more information, please contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. Nominations to the Federation's EC must be returned by **Friday 31st May 2019.**

ETF Annual General Meeting, Friday 14th June 2019, 7.00pm-11.00pm, the BMC Club, 11 Westfield Street, Edinburgh

It's always one of the highlights of the year and ETF's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on **Friday 14th June 2019, 7.00pm-11.00pm, the BMC Club, 11 Westfield Street.** 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.

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 7th June 2019.**

Fireworks Consultation

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on the use of fireworks in Scotland. This is a great opportunity to express your views on the subject, including what action can be taken to ensure fireworks are enjoyed safely and responsibly. You can find out more information about the consultation by going to <https://consult.gov.scot/safer-communities/fireworks/>. Alternatively please phone 0300 244 3995 or email FireworksConsultation@gov.scot. The closing date for responses to the consultation is **Monday 13th May 2019.**

Travis Perkins Managed Services Communities Awards

Do you know of a Project, individual or group that is helping to make a difference in a community? Then why not apply to the Travis Perkins 'My Community Awards?' There are a number of categories including:

Group Awards

- Employment & Community Skills Award;
- Community Engagement Award;
- Building Safer Communities Award;
- Community Health & Wellbeing Award.

Individual Awards

- Community Hero Award;
- Young Community Hero Award.

You can nominate someone by going to <https://www.tpmanagementservices.co.uk/mycommunityawards/>. Alternatively, please phone 0800 169 2200. The deadline for nominations is **Sunday 30th June 2019.**

Strengthening Fire Safety for High Rise Domestic Buildings Consultation

The safety of people living in high-rise flats across Scotland is the focus of a new public consultation launched by the Scottish Government. As a result of the Grenfell Tower fire in London nearly two years ago, the consultation calls for views on how to simplify the guidance available to everyone who lives in high rise flats or is responsible for fire safety in high rise flats. You can find out more about the consultation by going to <https://consult.gov.scot/fire-and-rescue/fire-safety-consultation-2019/>. Alternatively please phone 0131 244 0896 or email FireSafetyConsultation2019@gov.scot. The closing date for responses to the consultation is **Wednesday 17th July 2019**.

Neighbourhood Networks

Since last year, the Edinburgh Partnership has been looking at ways to become more open and transparent. At the beginning of April, 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.

Cash Handling in Locality Offices

Changes are being made to how tenants can pay their council tax and rent. The method that CEC recommends as being the safest and easiest is by Direct Debit. Tenants can also pay online using the CEC's website at www.edinburgh.gov.uk or using the automated 24-hour telephone line 0800 7831 719 (option 2). To pay by direct debit go online www.edinburgh.gov.uk/counciltaxdirectdebit or drop into your Locality Office to set up your direct debit today. To pay online go to CEC's website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/pay.

The Locality Office at Craigmillar no longer takes cash payments and from 7th June 2019 cash payments will no longer be accepted at the Locality offices at Kirkliston, South Queensferry, Captain's Road, Pilton and Drumbrae. For now, tenants can still pay cash at the Wester Hailes and High Street offices and this will be reviewed next year. Tenants who wish to pay by cash can continue to do so at any PayPoint outlet. There are over 230 PayPoint locations within Edinburgh and almost every home in Edinburgh is within 1 mile of their nearest outlet. Many of these outlets have longer opening hours than your Locality Office. Please go to <https://paypoint.com/> and enter your postcode to search for your closest PayPoint outlets. Most PayPoint outlets will also take debit card payments. Tenants will need a Rent card and/or a Council Tax card to make payments, using their separate card for each payment. Rent cards can be ordered from your Housing Officer or via CEC's website. Council Tax cards can be ordered by phone on 0131 608 1111 and Customer Advisors at the Locality offices can also order both.

The Locality Offices will continue to take debit and credit card payments using self-help kiosks for tenants to use. If tenants need support to use these devices CEC's Customer Advisors will be able to offer assistance. CEC is aware that any change can be unsettling for Tenants and anyone who wants assistance or support in using a new method of payment is welcome to contact their Locality Office where the Customer Advisors will be able to help.

Diary Dates

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

May 2019

5 th May	Deadline for nominations for Inspiring Volunteer Awards
6 th May	Public Holiday – Office Closed
13 th May	Deadline for responses to Scottish Government Firework Consultation
15 th May	Federation Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Council Chambers, City Chambers, Royal Mile
20 th May	Public Holiday – Office Closed
27 th May	ETF High Flats Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Birnies Court Community Room, Muirhouse View
31 st May	Deadline for return of: Membership applications and EC nominations

June 2019

5 th June	Inspiring Volunteer Awards Special Ceremony, 7.00pm, City Chambers, Royal Mile
7 th June	Deadline for bookings for ETF's AGM
14 th June	ETF AGM, 7.00pm-11.00pm, the BMC Club, 11 Westfield Street
30 th June	Deadline for nominations to Travis Perkins Managed Services Communities Awards

July 2019

17 th July	Deadline for responses to Scottish Government Consultation on Strengthening Fire Safety in High Rise Domestic Buildings Consultation
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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.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC048236, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

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