

**A very Happy New Year and best wishes for 2020 from everyone at ETF.
Please share this newsletter with others in your organisation who may be interested.**

Sleep Walk for Shelter

ETF representatives were delighted to support Shelter Scotland's 'Sleep Walk for Shelter' campaign in December. On a cold and wet December night, representatives of ETF and other organisations from across Edinburgh walked from Shelter Scotland's Edinburgh Hub in South Charlotte Street to the Scottish Parliament. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness of homelessness in Edinburgh and show support for people without a home. Well done to everyone involved.

Rents

In October 2019, ETF submitted a response to the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC) Budget Consultation and will shortly be making plans to present a deputation to Councillors concerning tenants' rents. If you have any key messages that you wish ETF to present to elected members or would like to help in planning the deputation, please contact ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry by emailing mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. A copy of ETF's response to the Budget Consultation can be downloaded at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/etfs-response-to-city-of-edinburgh-councils-housing-budget-consultation/>

Federation Meeting, Wednesday 5th February 2020, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

Our next Federation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 5th February 2020, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road**. The guest speaker will be Rachael Craik, Community Justice Development Officer, CEC who will be speaking about CEC's forthcoming Community Safety Strategy. Members will also have the chance to discuss the work ETF has carried out 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 Repairs Group Meeting, Wednesday 19th February 2020, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

Our next ETF Repairs Group Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 19th February 2020, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road, EH7 5QY**. The guest speakers will be Carol Reid, Operations Manager, CEC and Robyn Barrie, Programme Manager, Housing Service Improvement Plan. They will be giving an update on the work of CEC's Housing Service Improvement Plan with a specific reference to repairs. 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.

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

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

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 material for the next issue is **Monday 24th February 2020**, 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 edition of *Tenants Voice* can be downloaded at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/tenants-voice-december-2019/>.

City of Edinburgh Council Draft Tenant Participation Strategy 2020-2023

The City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC's) final stage consultation on its new draft Tenant Participation Strategy for 2020-2023 is currently on CEC's website. Tenants can have their say in a number of ways:

- Online at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/tenantparticipation/>;
- Email tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk;
- By phone on 0131 529 7805.

Through the draft Tenant Participation Strategy, CEC wants to ensure that tenants really:

- Know the different ways they can become involved;
- Can take part and influence decisions if they want to;
- Have the support and resources they need to take part;
- Can help to develop quality services.

The closing date for responses is **Friday 10th January 2020**.

Poverty in Edinburgh: The Key Issues

The Poverty Alliance recently carried out research on experiences of poverty in Edinburgh on behalf of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. The report can be downloaded at <https://www.povertyalliance.org/report-calls-for-action-to-loosen-the-grip-of-poverty-in-edinburgh/>. The Poverty Alliance has launched an online survey with the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University to find out what people who live and work in Edinburgh think about solving poverty in the city. The survey can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Edinburgh_Poverty_Barometer_2019 and the deadline for responses is **Friday 10th January 2020**. For more information, contact Laura Robertson, Research Officer, Poverty Alliance by email at laura.robertson@povertyalliance.org or phone 0141 353 0440.

Reporting Repairs Online

Research by CEC has indicated that more and more tenants are taking up the option of reporting their repairs online. If you are interested in this method of reporting repairs this can be done by following these three steps:

- 1) Visit www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councilhouserepairs and click on the button 'Request a Council home repair';
- 2) When you click on the button the first thing you need to input is your housing property number (UPRN). If you don't already know what it is, you can find it at <https://osg.scot/portal/>;
- 3) You type in your address (or just postcode and select your address) and then click on your address to find your UPRN, which you will then have for future repair reporting.

Reporting repairs online is designed to be quicker and to cut out telephone waiting time.

Feedback on reporting repairs online should be emailed to RepairsDirect@edinburgh.gov.uk.

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ETF High Flats Meeting, Monday 2nd March 2020, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Birnies Court, Muirhouse View

The next ETF High Flats Meeting will take place on **Monday 2nd March 2020, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Birnies Court, Muirhouse View**. The topic and guest speaker for the meeting will be confirmed in due course and there will also be an opportunity to give an update on what is happening in your area. Further details on how to book a place will be available in due course.

Diary Dates

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

January 2020

10th January

Deadline for responses to CEC's Tenant Participation Strategy

10th January

Deadline for responses to Poverty Alliance's Survey

February 2020

5th February

Federation Meeting, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

19th February

ETF Repairs Group Meeting, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

20th February

ETF deputation to full Council, 10.00am, City Chambers, Royal Mile

24th February

Deadline for *Tenants Voice* articles

March 2020

2nd March

ETF High Flats Group Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Birnies Court Community Room

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. That's all for this month - do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.

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