



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters November 2020

Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) update on office closure

In line with the restrictions laid down by the Scottish Government, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Federation Office remains closed and staff continue to work from home. However ETF continues to operate on a daily basis and staff can be contacted by email to info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or by phoning 0131 475 2509 and they will do their best to help you.

The Albion Trust is in communication with the Scottish Government, ourselves and other users of Norton Park and will keep us informed as to when Norton Park offices will re-open, and we will provide an update when we have more information.

On behalf of everyone at ETF, stay safe and take care.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Annual General Meeting (AGM), Friday 27th November 2020, 7.00pm, online

Due to the current circumstances, we are unable to hold our AGM in a community venue this year and will therefore hold it online on Friday 27th November, 7.00pm, via Zoom. The AGM will be followed by a fun social event and we hope you will be able to join us. The guest speaker will be Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) who will be giving an update on what CEC has been doing to tackle COVID-19 and future plans for the city. To book a place at the AGM, please email to info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509 by **Friday 20th November 2020**.

Our Ordinary Member Groups and Non-Voting individual members will have received an application form to renew your membership with ETF. This is particularly important for Ordinary Member Groups as you must have renewed your membership to entitle your nominated representative to vote on agenda items at the AGM.

Groups will also have received a form inviting them to nominate a member from within their Registered Tenant Organisation to be nominated to our Executive Committee (EC). These forms must be returned to the Federation office by **Friday 13th November 2020**.

This year the Executive Committee have submitted proposals to amend the constitution, details of which have been circulated in recent mailings. To find out more or to request a copy of the proposals please email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

CEC Rent Consultation discussion, Wednesday 11th November 2020, 3.00pm-4.30pm, online

It's that time of year again, when CEC consults tenants on the proposed rents for 2021/22. To give you a chance to find out more and give your views, ETF is hosting a special meeting with CEC officers on **Wednesday 11th November 2020, 3.00pm-4.30pm, online**. To book a place at the meeting, please email to mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468. Tenants rents pay for the services they receive, improvements to their homes and help CEC build new homes for rent across the city – so your views matter.

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

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CEC is currently carrying out their budget consultation which runs until **Monday 30th November 2020**. This is an ideal opportunity for tenants to help shape the future of housing in Edinburgh and ETF would encourage tenants to have their say. This can be done in a number of ways:

- Online at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/6fc5c962/>;
- Email housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk;
- Complete the paper copy of the survey contained in the Tenants' Courier which tenants will be receiving shortly.

City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) Repairs Service Update

As COVID-19 continues to play a significant part in our everyday lives, Housing Property Services will continue to prioritise the safety of our tenants and workforce during this challenging time.

As part of our ongoing recovery plan we have started to carefully introduce some additional services and will now consider carrying out some non-emergency repairs on an appointment basis. Appointments will be offered on a full day, AM or PM basis to begin with and will be dependent on our ability to keep up with the number of emergency repairs needed. Currently we are unable to carry out non-emergency repairs that would require two operatives to be in your home at the same time.

In addition, if the number of requests gets too high or starts to impact our emergency repair service we will stop accepting new non-emergency repairs until we can secure our most vital services.

We all have our part to play in living under COVID-19 and would ask you to think carefully about the things you need repaired, and whether or not they are truly urgent. Every non-emergency repair means one less craft operative to handle emergencies. Please also remember that tenants are responsible for a number of repair issues themselves, refer to your repair policy for further information.

All our craft operatives have been fully trained in safe working practices. You should maintain social distance, even within your own home. Our operatives will wipe down all surfaces they come into contact with and will be wearing a face covering when they enter and leave your home. If you can move to another room during the repair, you should do so, if you cannot then you and any other residents or visitors should stay a minimum of 2 meters away from our operatives, and if willing, please also wear an appropriate face covering to help protect our staff so they can continue to deliver the service they do.

If anyone in your household develops symptoms or you have been asked to self-isolate by the government's Track and Trace Service you should reschedule your appointment immediately as our operatives will not enter the property.

If you must report a non-emergency repair why not save yourself some time by making your request online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/councilhouserepairs and clicking on the request a non-emergency repair button. It's quick, you can raise the request at a convenient time that suits you 24/7 and has the added advantage of you not having to wait on the telephone.

Help us protect our vital emergency repair service, think carefully about your repair needs and, above all, stay safe.

Want to campaign for more social housing?

More than 10,000 people have signed Shelter Scotland's Petition calling for more social housing. Launched just over six weeks ago, Build Scotland's Future aims to get all the major parties standing at next year's Holyrood election to commit to build 37,100 social homes.

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This number has been calculated by academics as the minimum required to reduce the number of people living without a permanent and affordable home.

Scottish celebrities have been doing their bit to promote the online petition with actors Billy Boyd, Robert Carlyle and Mark Bonnar, and comedian Janey Godley among those sharing the link on their social media accounts.

Alison Watson Director of Shelter Scotland said, "Thank you to everyone who has signed and shared our petition. This year we've seen the value of home like never before and it's been heartening to see this response to our latest campaign. Everyone should have a place to call home but we're far from that goal. With more than 130,000 households on council waiting lists and more than 14,000 households in temporary accommodation it's clear we need another ambitious programme of social house building to make that a reality. I've been delighted to see some of the cream of Scotland's performing talent supporting our campaign by sharing the petition on social media and encouraging everyone to #BuildScotlandsFuture. Let's keep going and speak up for those who need this the most."

You can sign a copy of the petition at

https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/get_involved/campaigning/buildscotlandsfuture. If you're not online, you can sign in one of the seven Shelter shops in Edinburgh which are situated in Corstorphine, Dalry, Morningside, Stockbridge, Tollcross, Nicholson Street and Forrest Road. To find out more get in touch with [Susie \(underscore\) Rose@shelter.org.uk](mailto:Susie (underscore) Rose@shelter.org.uk) or phone 0344 515 2442.

Looking to the future

Whilst we are unable to meet in person, a priority for ETF is digital working, participation and training and are delighted that our first online Federation Meeting in September was a great success, with very positive feedback. You can read a copy of the report of the meeting at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/feedback-from-online-federation-meeting-held-on-23rd-september-2020/> or request a copy by emailing info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509.

We will be holding other ETF events such as High Flats and Repairs Group meetings online in the coming months.

If you are unsure about how to access meetings online, don't worry as ETF will be able to offer the training and support required. If you have a smartphone, tablet or computer and would like to take part or know more, please email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509.

ETF Communications Strategy

ETF is pleased to announce the introduction of our Communications Strategy, a support tool for EC members, staff and all members to act as supporters, promote key messages, and champion the good work of ETF and its local communities.

A copy of the Strategy can be viewed at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/etf-communications-strategy/>. Or to request a copy, please email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509.

Tenants Voice

The September edition of *Tenants Voice*, packed with articles we hope you enjoyed reading, was issued to everyone on our mailing list. If you would like extra copies, please contact the Federation Office by emailing to info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. A

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copy is also available to download at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/tenants-voice-september-2020-2/>

CEC Grant Applications

CEC has recently updated its grant application form and awards of up to £10,000 are available and can be used to:

- Set up and run tenants' and residents' groups;
- Support health and well-being projects;
- Help tenants to learn and use digital devices and services.

If you would like to know more, please email to tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0131 529 7805. A copy of the updated grant application form can be downloaded at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/city-of-edinburgh-council-grant-application-form-2/>

Diary Dates

Here are some important dates that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.

November 2020

11 th November	City of Edinburgh Council Rent Consultation discussion, 3.00pm, online
13 th November	Deadline for submitting ETF membership applications and EC nominations for ETF's AGM
20 th November	Deadline for booking AGM places
27 th November	ETF's AGM, 7.00pm, online
30 th November	Deadline for responses to CEC's Budget Consultation

December 2020

21 st December	Christmas and New Year holidays will be from Monday 21 st December until Tuesday 5 th January 2021
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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. Do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.

This is our last edition of *Federation Matters* for 2020, and we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and all the best for 2021. Stay safe and take care



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