



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters

March 2021

Rent and Council Tax Freeze for City of Edinburgh Council tenants

ETF representatives are pleased with the news that City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) tenants have been given a rent and council tax freeze for the coming year. In previous years, ETF representatives had taken a deputation to the full Council, however due to current circumstances, the Federation could only submit a written deputation this year. ETF's Convenor Betty Stone commented, "It's great news that CEC tenants have been given a rent and council tax freeze. The last year, has been like no other in terms of the financial pressures tenants and other people have endured as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to continuing to work with CEC Officers and Councillors from all the political parties to ensure rents remain affordable."

Update on ETF office closure

If you have been following the work of ETF, you will know that the Federation Office has been closed since we moved into lockdown in March last year. The Federation Office remains closed and staff continue to work from home. This ensures the continued protection of both staff and service users from COVID-19. Despite these restrictions, ETF continues to operate on a daily basis. Staff can be contacted via email at info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509 and they will do their best to assist you.

The Albion Trust continues to liaise with the Scottish Government, other Norton Park service users and ourselves and will keep us informed as to when it is safe for Norton Park to re-open. We will continue to keep you updated. In the meantime, stay safe and take care.

ETF Membership Surveys

All ETF Member Groups and Individual Members should have received a survey, asking for your or your group's views on how ETF has performed in the last year. The survey and your feedback are both very important to ETF as it helps us to plan the future work of the Federation. The Federation is funded by CEC through a Service Level Agreement and ETF is obliged to seek the views of our service users as part of a monitoring and evaluation exercise. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by phoning 0131 475 2509 or email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk. We would be grateful if you could return your completed surveys to us no later than **Friday 12th March 2021**. Every Member Group and individual who returns their respective completed surveys to us on time will be entered into a prize draw for a Kindle.

Going online

As we are unable to meet in person, a priority for ETF is digital working, participation and training. Due to current restrictions, all of our work is currently online and we hold our meetings on Zoom. We recently held our High Flats and Repairs Group Meetings online and are due to hold our Federation Meeting online in the next couple of weeks.

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 mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468.

Federation Meeting, Wednesday 17th March 2021, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Zoom

The next Federation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 17th March 2021, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Zoom**. The topic for the meeting is Building More Social Housing and at the meeting you will have the chance to:

- Hear from Maddie Lou Barink, Community Organiser about Shelter Scotland's campaign to encourage more social housing to be built in Scotland;
- Learn more about CEC's Social Housing Building Programme from Tricia Hill, Development and Regeneration Manager;
- Find out more about the work of ETF over the past few months as we discuss our quarterly Progress Reports.

To book a place please email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468 by **Monday 15th March 2021** and you will be sent an email invitation with the link to join. You can also take part in the meeting by phone, just contact us as above and you will be given a number to phone in order to join at no cost to yourself.

ETF Membership Renewals

ETF is still accepting both Member Group and Non-Voting Individual applications. If you would like an application form, please contact ETF's Office Manager Mary Callaghan by emailing mary@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 660726.

Shelter Scotland Social Housing campaign

Nearly 18,000 people have signed Shelter Scotland's Petition calling for more social housing. The campaign entitled '*Build Scotland's Future*' aims to get all the major parties standing at this year's Holyrood election to commit to build 37,100 social homes.

You can sign a copy of the petition at

https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/get_involved/campaigning/build_scotlands_future. 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.

IT Equipment

The University of Edinburgh IT re-use project is back up and running after the first lockdown and is keen to donate more desktops, laptops, phones and tablets to local community organisations. You can find out more by emailing SRS.Department@ed.ac.uk, phoning 0131 651 3000 or go online at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/news/2020/it-reuse-project>.

CEC Grant Applications

CEC has 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.

March 2021

12th March Deadline for return of ETF Membership Surveys
17th March Federation Meeting, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Zoom

April 2021

2nd April Public Holiday - Office closed
5th April Public Holiday - Office closed

May 2021

3rd May Public Holiday - Office closed
19th May ETF Repairs Group Meeting. To be confirmed
24th May Public Holiday - Office closed

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.