



EDINBURGH TENANTS  
FEDERATION

# Federation Matters

## June 2021

### Update from ETF

As restrictions across the country start to ease, it's great that we are able to return to a bit of normality. However at the present, the Federation Office remains closed and staff continue to work from home. ETF is still operating Monday to Friday, during this time, and staff can be contacted via email at [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or phone 0131 475 2509.

The Albion Trust continues to have ongoing discussions with the Scottish Government, other Norton Park service users and ourselves. ETF staff and volunteers will shortly be meeting to discuss how the Federation will operate once restrictions have been lifted and we will keep you updated. In the meantime, stay safe and take care.

### Working online

As we are still unable to meet in person, all of our work is online and we hold our meetings on Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Although restrictions are beginning to ease, it is likely that online work will remain in place for ETF for the foreseeable future. Therefore, one of the biggest continuing priorities for the Federation as we move forward, is digital working and training. If you are uncertain about how to go online for meetings, don't worry as ETF will be able to offer any support you need. If you have a smartphone, tablet or computer and would like to take part or know more, please email ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry at [mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or phone 07918 742468.

### Federation Meeting, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Zoom

The next Federation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Zoom**. The topic for the meeting is '*Review of the Scottish Social Housing Charter*' and you will have the chance to:

- Find out about the review of the Charter and help formulate ETF's response;
- Hear about the work of ETF over the last few months;
- Discuss ETF's quarterly Progress Report.

To book a place please email [mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or phone 07918 742468 by **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 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.

### 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 so, we would love to hear from you. The deadline for material for the next issue is **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**, 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](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk). Alternatively, give us a call on 0131 475 2509 if you'd like help to pull an article together.

A copy of the March edition of *Tenants Voice* is available online at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/tenants-voice-march-2021/>.

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## ETF Blog

Are you a tenant, employed in the housing sector, enthusiastic about where you live or interested in community development, then why not become a guest blogger? For this month, we have a blog from Nicola Hazelton, Edinburgh Community Hub Manager, Shelter Scotland and her topic is Shelter's campaign '*Fight For Home*'. You can read Nicola's blog at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/the-fight-for-home-starts-here/>. If you wish to discuss Nicola's blog with her in more detail, please phone 0344 515 1368 or email [Nicola \(underscore\) Hazelton@shelter.org.uk](mailto:Nicola_underscore_Hazelton@shelter.org.uk).

If you're interested in contributing a blog or would like more information, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk). Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog/>.

## Inspiring Volunteer Awards 2021

This week, (**Tuesday 1st June 2021 to Monday 7th June 2021**) is Volunteer's Week. As part of Volunteer's Week, nominations for the Inspiring Volunteer Awards 2021 are open. Run by Volunteer Edinburgh, organisations are able to nominate:

- Up to three individual volunteers;
- One team of volunteers;
- Three nominations for the Ian McInnes Award;
- One nomination for the new Paul Bennett, Volunteer Manager of the Year Award.

Organisations can complete the online nomination form and find out more at <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/training-and-events/awards-nominations/nomination-form/>.

If you require any further information, please contact Jason McCann, Volunteer Edinburgh by calling 07587 034535 or email [events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk](mailto:events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk). Nominations close on **Friday 4th June 2021**.

A planned date of **Wednesday 28th July 2021** has been pencilled in for the Awards Ceremony. It is hoped this will be a live in-person event. However this is subject to change as a result of any restrictions which may be imposed as a result of the pandemic. Watch this space for further details.

## Utilita

Utilita is a pay as you go energy provider that works with social landlords across the UK. As part of its work with the City of Edinburgh Council, Utilita is providing funding to help support community-based projects. One of the first projects included planting trees in a green space at Firrhill Crescent, in South West Edinburgh. Three beautiful birch trees and three cherry trees were bought and planted by the Council to benefit future generations.

Plans are also underway to provide new computers to sheltered housing residents and community event equipment to a community group in North East Edinburgh. What about your area? Do you have ideas for a community project that would benefit tenants? If so, please phone 0131 529 7805 or email [tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:tenant.panel@edinburgh.gov.uk).

## IT Equipment

The University of Edinburgh IT re-use project 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](mailto:SRS.Department@ed.ac.uk), phoning 0131 651 3000 or go online at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/news/2020/it-reuse-project>.

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## Diary Dates

### June 2021

4 <sup>th</sup> June	Deadline for nominations for Volunteer Edinburgh Awards
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Bookings to be made for Federation Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Federation Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Zoom
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Deadline for <i>Tenants Voice</i> articles

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](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk). Do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.



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