



Federation Matters

August 2021

Update from ETF

As the country moves into level 0 and restrictions continue to ease, it's great to be able to carry out some of the activities we used to do before lockdown started. Despite this, there are still no changes to ETF's arrangements, with the Federation Office remaining closed and staff continuing to work from home. ETF is still operating on a daily basis during this time and staff can be contacted via email at info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509.

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

Working online

Although restrictions are easing, all of ETF's meetings and events continue to take place online using Zoom and Microsoft Teams. It is likely that all of the Federation's work will remain online for the foreseeable future. As a result one of the biggest ongoing priorities for the Federation is digital working and training.

If you are unclear about how to go online for meetings, don't worry as ETF can offer you any support you may need. If you have a smartphone, tablet or computer and would like to take part or find out more, please email ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry at mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468.

ETF's Annual General Meeting (AGM), Friday 29th October 2021, Zoom, time to be confirmed

Here we go again - it seems no time at all since the last one but we are busy planning our AGM for 2020/21. The event itself will take place on the evening of **Friday 29th October 2021** using **Zoom, time to be confirmed**, so please put this date in your diary. There are a few important dates before then that might also be worth noting in your diary. The process for all the procedures that we must follow has a few stages.

The first mailing of papers took place in the middle of July and contained an invitation for your member group to submit any resolution directing the Executive Committee to take any particular step (or directing the Executive Committee not to take any particular step) and any proposed amendments to ETF's Constitution. Any resolutions or proposed amendments to the Constitution must be received in the Federation Office by **27th August 2021** for them to be considered at the AGM.

A second mailing will take place around **31st August 2021** and will contain the papers for the AGM. Applications to become a member of ETF and nominations to become an EC member must be received in the Federation office by **Friday 15th October 2021**.

If anyone in your group is interested in becoming an EC member and would like a chat about what is involved, please contact us and we can explain what the role involves.

We are busy planning the event and more details will be available soon. In the meantime if you would like to discuss anything mentioned here please contact us on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and helping us to celebrate another successful year of your Federation.

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

☎ **0131 475 2509** ✉ **info@edinburghtenants.org.uk** 🌐 **www.edinburghtenants.org.uk**

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

Scottish Housing Day, Wednesday 15th September 2021

Scottish Housing Day will take place on Wednesday 15th September and this year's topic will be housing and the climate emergency. As this is such an important topic, ETF will be holding an awareness raising session on **Wednesday 15th September 2021, Zoom, time to be confirmed**. As this session is still in the planning stages, more information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

To find out more or to book a place, please email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468 by **Tuesday 14th September 2021** and you will be sent an email invitation with the link to join the meeting. 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.

Federation Meeting, Wednesday 22nd September 2021, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Zoom

The next Federation Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 22nd September 2021, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Zoom**. The topic for the meeting is '*All about the money: Tenant rents, services and investments!*'. At the meeting you will have the chance to:

- Find out what City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC's) tenants' rent money pays for;
- Find out how tenant priorities are agreed and delivered on;
- Be given details of advice and support provided to tenants about paying their rent;
- Discuss ETF's quarterly Progress Report for April-June 2021.

To book a place, please email mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 07918 742468 by **Tuesday 21st September 2021** and you will be sent an email invitation with the link to join the meeting. 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.

Review of Scottish Social Housing Charter

The Scottish Government is currently carrying out a review of the Scottish Social Housing Charter. This document contains the outcomes and standards that all Council and Housing Association Landlords are required to meet on behalf of tenants and other customers, such as applicants, homeless people, factored owners and Gypsy / Traveller Communities. All Social Housing Landlords must report to the Scottish Housing Regulator annually on how they are performing under each of the Charter Outcomes

All tenants, tenants' organisations and landlords are invited to give feedback to the Scottish Government on the current Charter and what changes or improvements they would like to see. ETF will be submitting a response to the consultation and we would like to encourage you to find out more about the current Charter and respond to the consultation.

You can find out more about the current Charter on the Scottish Government's Website at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-social-housing-charter-april-2017/>.

You can respond to the consultation and give your views on the Scottish Government's website at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/charter-review-consultation/>. The closing date for responses to the consultation is **Thursday 9th September 2021**.

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 Noel Joseph, who is a student from the University of Glasgow studying for a Postgraduate Diploma in Adult Education and Community Development context. Noel is currently on placement with Tollcross Community Action Network and the blog explores Noel's

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experiences with the organisation and is called 'Self-Reflection'. You can read Noel's blog at <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/self-reflection/>.

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. Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog/>.

Utilita

Utilita is a pay as you go energy provider that works with social landlords across the UK. As part of its work with CEC, 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 CEC 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.

Diary Dates

August 2021

27th August Deadline for any resolutions or proposed amendments to ETF's Constitution for consideration at the AGM

September 2021

9th September Deadline for responses to review of Scottish Social Housing Charter

14th September Deadline for bookings for ETF's event on Scottish Housing Day

15th September Scottish Housing Day and ETF event

20th September Public Holiday – Office closed

21st September Deadline for bookings for Federation Meeting

22nd September Federation Meeting, Zoom, 7.00pm-9.00pm

October 2021

4th-10th October Poverty Alliance's Challenge Poverty Week

5th-7th October Tenants Information Service National Housing Conference

15th October Deadline for applications to become a member of ETF and nominations to become an EC member

29th October ETF's AGM, Zoom, time to be confirmed

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.

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