

Tenants Today



E-Newsletter – Autumn 2017

Welcome to the first edition of Midlothian Council's Tenant e-newsletter.

This edition includes:

Midlothian Council Tenant's Garden Competition 2017



The efforts of green fingered Lewis Bassindale and his wife Jean have been rewarded with three awards in this year's garden competition for Midlothian Council tenants.

The couple won the gold award for the best overall garden, top spot in the best floral garden category and runners up prize for the most improved garden.

They were presented with their certificates along with vouchers for Dobbies Garden Centre by the Midlothian Provost at their home in Roslin.



Two year old Cain Hay from Loanhead, is dwarfed by the plants that won him a special prize for this year's tallest sunflowers.

Cain and the Bassindales weren't the only winners this year. For a full list of who won what please see click here:

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200277/tenancy/224/tenant_participation/4



Tenant's Day 2017

Summer fun at Midlothian Tenants' Day

Midlothian Council Housing services held its annual Tenants Day on Friday 8th September in Dalkeith Arts centre.

A number of fun events were available including a prize raffle, bingo, the smoothie bike and a prize quiz.

The theme of this year's event was 'Auld Midlothian' with plenty of local photos, dressing up outfits and memory boxes supplied by the Scottish Mining Museum.

Tenants had the opportunity to ask pose questions to housing staff and we had three talks covering antisocial behaviour, repairs and our new build programme.

Some photos of the event -





Many thanks to everyone for coming and we look forward to seeing you at next year's event.



Update from Midlothian Council's Tenants and Residents Groups

Bonnyrigg North Residents Forum

Last meeting was held on 23rd August 2017 at the Pitcairn Centre, Bonnyrigg High Street. Issues discussed – consultation on new schools in Midlothian, parking issues around Lasswade primary school, potholes in Pendreich Avenue, mess from birds in Bonnyrigg High Street and concerns regarding parking in Bonnyrigg Medical centre.

Agreed actions -Walkabout scheduled for 20 September at 11am (completed and outcomes to be discussed at next meeting)

Next meeting scheduled for 25 October at 6.30pm in Pitcairn Centre.

Cowan Court Tenants Group

Last meeting held on Tuesday 12 September in Cowan Court. Issues discussed – internal repairs, communal garden, and road traffic issues.

Next meeting – Tuesday 7th November at 11am in Cowan Court.

Esk Place Tenants Association

Last meeting held on Tuesday 5th September in Esk Place. Issues discussed – constitution of Esk Place Tenants Association, social events, repairs issues and internal issues.

Next meeting – Tuesday 5th December at 6pm in Esk Place

Poltonhall Residents Group

Last meeting held on 2nd August in Lasswade Rugby Club. Issues discussed – recycling, dog fouling, parking issues around Lasswade High school, council window replacement scheme, and environmental issues.

Agreed actions – Litter pick arranged for 27th September at 12noon.

Next meeting – Wednesday 4th October at 2pm in Lasswade Rugby Club.

Woodburn Tenants Group

Last meeting held on 31 August in the Dalkeith Miners Club. Issues discussed – antisocial behaviour, alleged criminal activities, messy gardens and fly tipping.

Agreed actions – ‘Crime’ theme with relevant speakers for next meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 26 October at 6:30pm in the Dalkeith Miners Club.

No group in your area?

If you would like to start a tenant group in your area please phone Lesley or Greig on 0131 271 3611 or 0131 271 3629.

Midlothian Council Tenant Satisfaction Survey 2017

Congratulations to Mr Laird from Penicuik, he was selected by raffle after completing the 2017 Tenants Satisfaction Survey. Mr Laird won a £50 shopping voucher.



Mr Laird and his daughter Alex.



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Home Fire Safety Visit

Get your FREE home fire safety visit and FREE smoke alarm now!

As part of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We can also fit smoke alarms free of charge if your home requires them.

Get in touch with us, it's so easy to arrange:

- call 0800 0731 999
- text "**FIRE**" to 80800 from your mobile phone
- complete our online form at <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/home-fire-safety-visit.aspx>
- call your local fire station

A note about cladding on our council low rise buildings

In our low rise properties with cladding we are not carrying out invasive inspections. We do not have high rise tower homes.

Further information about cladding materials

We use Wetherby's EpsiTherm (EPS) for the low rise housing cladding and, in common with all organic materials, EPS is combustible.

If installed correctly, it will not be an undue fire hazard

However, provided it is specified and installed correctly, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and BS 6203 guidance, it will not present any undue fire hazard.

We have followed recommended practice

The standard recommends that for all applications, the material should be protected by either a laminated facing layer, or fully enclosed by the form of construction, which is the case with our system.



Midlothian Council News and events

Upcoming events

Tenant surgeries: Penicuik

Date: Tuesday 3rd October 2017

Location: Penicuik Library, 39A Carlops Rd
Penicuik
EH26 9EP

Time: 13:00 - 17:00

A housing officer will be available to answer your housing queries

Tenant surgeries: Penicuik

Date: Wednesday 4th October 2017

Location: Penicuik Library, 39A Carlops Rd
Penicuik
EH26 9EP

Time: 09:30 - 13:00

A housing officer will be available to answer your housing queries

Poltonhall Residents Group meeting

Date: 4th October 2017

Location: Lasswade Rugby Club,
Rosewell Road
Bonnyrigg
EH19 3PR

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Come along to our residents group meeting for all Poltonhall residents.

The meetings are held every two months and all Poltonhall residents are invited.

Guest speakers will discuss tackling dog fouling and waste services. Just come along, or phone us on 0131 271 3611 for more information

Midlothian Community Council Training Day

Date: 7th October 2017

Location: Lasswade Centre, 9 Eskdale Drive
Bonnyrigg
EH19 2LA

Time: 10:00 - 14:30

Cost: Free but booking required

Are you a current or prospective community councillor? Or are you a local resident looking to get more involved with your community council? Then why not join in with our annual training day.

For more information, contact Catherine Duns on 0131 270 5769 or email catherine.duns@midlothian.gov.uk

Bonnyrigg North Residents Forum meeting

Date: 25th October 2017

Location: Pitcairn Centre,
72 High Street,
Bonnyrigg,
EH19 2AE

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Come along to our meeting for all residents of Eldindean, Pendreich, Viewbank and Rae's Gardens areas.

The meetings are held every two months.

Just come along, or phone us on 0131 271 3629 for more information.

Woodburn Tenant Group meeting

Date: 26th October 2017

Location: Dalkeith Miners Club,
Woodburn Road,
Dalkeith,
EH22 2AT

Time: 18:30 – 20:00 Come along to our tenant group meeting for all Woodburn tenants.

The meetings are held every two months and all Woodburn tenants are invited.

Guest speakers will discuss tackling crime. Just come along, or phone us on 0131 271 3611 for more information

News

Well done to the Poltonhall litter pickers!

The Poltonhall Residents Group held a community litter pick on Wednesday 27 September and in just one hour, managed to tidy up eight bags of rubbish. The Residents Forum received help from the Unpaid Work Team and Waste Services who provided extra helpers, materials and took the rubbish away to be disposed. Many thanks to all who helped out!



Midlothian Tenant Panel

Want to be kept up to date about housing in Midlothian but don't have the time to go to meetings? Want to have your say without having to speak out in front of others? Our panel might be just for you!

Our panel members give us their opinions from the comfort of their own homes. To find out more phone 0131 271 3611, email tenantparticipation@midlothian.gov.uk or message us on facebook (search for 'Midlothian Council Housing Information').

Scottish Housing Day was sweet!

To celebrate Scottish Housing Day on 21 September we held an information stall in Buccleuch House and gave away freebies and sweeties to everyone who came over to say hello!

We also celebrated building our 1000th new home since we began our new build programme in 2006. Thanks to everyone who helped out on the day.



Estate Walkabouts

Why not take part in a walkabout in your neighbourhood and help inspect the area for issues such as dog fouling, fly tipping and messy gardens? Join council officers on the day or report any issues in advance by phoning 0131 271 3611 or 0131 271 3629.

Meeting point will be in local area and will be confirmed closer to walkabout.
Meeting time – 11am

See below for dates of the next scheduled walkabouts –

Penicuik	Wed.25/10/17
Woodburn	Wed.22/11/17
Bonnyrigg	Wed 20/12/17

Useful contact numbers

Housing	0131 270 7500
Housing repairs	0131 662 7211
Rents and payments	0131 271 3201
Rent arrears	0131 271 3499
Antisocial behaviour	0131 271 6677
Mediation	0131 271 3617
Housing Benefit	0131 271 3201
Council Tax	0131 271 3201
Welfare rights	0131 271 3781 or 0131 270 8922
Scottish Welfare Fund	0131 270 5600
Rubbish and recycling	0131 561 5284
Dog fouling	0131 561 5284
Animal welfare and pest control	0131 561 5284
Environmental health	0131 271 3345
Roads and pavements	0131 663 1103
Adult and Social Care	0131 271 3900
Children and Families	0131 271 3413 or 0800 731 6969
Homelessness	0131 271 3397 or 0131 663 7211

Other useful contact numbers

Police Scotland	999 or 101 (non-emergencies)
Scottish Water emergencies	0845 600 8855
Scottish Water enquiries	0845 601 8855
Gas emergencies	0800 111 999
Scottish Power	0800 092 9290 (for powercuts)
Citizens Advice Bureau	Penicuik – 01968 675259 Dalkeith – 0131 660 1636
Home Energy Advice Scotland	0808 808 2282

More Information

If you would like information on our tenant groups, or on any of our tenant participation activities please contact us on the details below:

Lesley Connell

Tenant Participation Officer

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Greig Henderson

Tenant Participation Officer

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0131 271 3629



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Housing Information'

