

Tenants Today



E-Newsletter – Winter 2018

Happy New Year and welcome to the second edition of Midlothian Council's Tenant e-newsletter.

This edition includes:

- An update on our rent consultation for 2019/2020 – 2021/2022
- Updates from Midlothian Council's Tenants and Residents Groups
- Our Estate Walkabout schedule for 2018
- Looking back at 2017 and forward to 2018
- Fire safety information
- Tenant news and events
- Information on our Midlothian Council Tenants Panel
- Useful contact numbers

Rent consultation 2019/2020 – 2021/2022

Throughout December and January we have been asking all our tenants and waiting list applicants what they think about our future rent levels and how this will affect our housing investment and new build programme.

Thank you for all the responses which are now being assessed. Once this is done, a report of the findings will be sent to Councillors before the rent levels for 2019/2020 – 2021/2022 are decided. (Please note that the rent increase for 2018/2019 is 5% following our previous consultation exercise in 2015).

One lucky person will win a £50 shopping voucher once we pick a name out of the hat but we would also like to thank everyone who took the time to complete their survey or come in to see us at one of our drop-in sessions.



Update from Midlothian Council's Tenants and Residents Groups

Bonnyrigg North Residents Forum

Last meeting was held on 25th October 2017 at the Pitcairn Centre, Bonnyrigg High Street.

Issues discussed – environmental issues, traffic issues and consultation on the Community Safety and Justice Partnership.

Agreed actions – Liaise with Planning Department regarding traffic issues.

Next meeting scheduled for 24 January 2018 at 6.30pm in Pitcairn Centre. Tenants of Eldindean, Pendreich, Viewbank and Rae's Gardens areas invited to attend.

Cowan Court Tenants Group – meeting for tenants of Cowan Court only.

Last meeting held on Tuesday 7 November in Cowan Court.

Issues discussed – consultation on Community Safety and Justice Partnership, update from Police Scotland, and road traffic issues.

Next meeting – Tuesday 13th February at 11am in Cowan Court.

Esk Place Tenants Association – meeting for tenants of Esk Place only

AGM held on Tuesday 5th December and rent consultation meeting on 19th December.

Issues discussed – election of new committee, repairs, road traffic issues and rent consultation.

Next meeting – Tuesday 6th March 2018 at Esk Place.

Loanhead Tenants Group

Last meeting held on Monday 15 January 2018 in the Loanhead Centre.

Issues discussed – parking issues, Midlothian Council rent consultation, Estate Walkabout and tenancy issues.

Next meeting on Monday 19 March 2018 at 6pm in the Loanhead Centre. All tenants in the Loanhead area invited to attend.

Penicuik East Residents Group

Last meeting held on 25 November 2017 in the Ladywood Leisure Centre.

Issues discussed - environmental issues and update from Police Scotland.

Next meeting – Thursday 15 February at 11am in the Ladywood Leisure Centre. Tenants from the Wyvis, Teviot, Yarrow, Vorlich and Ladywood area are invited to attend.

Poltonhall Residents Group

Last meeting held on 6th December in Lasswade Rugby Club.

Issues discussed – Update from Waste Services, creating a community garden and update from Community Safety and Justice Partnership.

Next meeting – Wednesday 7th February at 2pm in Lasswade Rugby Club.

Woodburn Tenants Group

Last meeting held on 18th January in the Dalkeith Miners Club.

Issues discussed - antisocial behaviour, Midlothian Council rent consultation, update from Police Scotland.

Next meeting – Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 6:30pm in the Dalkeith Miners Club. All tenants in the Woodburn area are invited.

No group in your area?

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



Time to reflect on 2017 and look forward to 2018!

The Tenant Participation Team had a busy old 2017 so we thought we'd share some of the things we got up to!

11 Estate walkabouts – we visited, inspected and improved Loanhead (twice), Gorebridge, Mayfield, Woodburn (twice), Bonnyrigg, Poltonhall, Penicuik (twice), and Dalkeith.



Litter in Woodburn was uplifted by the Taskforce



The Police and Traffic Warden joined us in Dalkeith

1 Community litter pick – in September 2017 Poltonhall residents, council staff and the local Primary School worked together to tidy up the area



The Unpaid Work Team helped and took the rubbish away



Residents and council officers got stuck in

Tenant Garden Competition – Mr and Mrs Bassindale were the proud winners of last year's competition



The Bassindales won 'Best Overall Garden'

Midlothian Tenants Day 2017 – In September the Dalkeith Art Centre was our venue for our annual Tenant Day, with family fun too.



This young man enjoyed the fancy dress



People of all ages enjoyed the bingo and prize quiz

2018

So what have we got planned for this year? More tenant group meetings, establishing more tenant groups, Tenant Garden Competition 2018, Tenants Day 2018, more estate walkabouts, more community events.....looking forward to seeing you there!

Estate Walkabouts 2018

Why not take part in an estate walkabout in your neighbourhood and help resolve the 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.

Our meeting points are always in the local area and are confirmed about two weeks beforehand.

We will be in the following areas on the following dates:

Loanhead	24/01/18
Dalkeith	21/02/18
Bonnyrigg	21/03/18
Gorebridge	25/04/18
Poltonhall	23/05/18
Mayfield	20/06/18
Penicuik	25/07/18
Woodburn	22/08/18
Loanhead	19/09/18
Bonnyrigg	24/10/18
Dalkeith	21/11/18
Penicuik	19/12/18

For more information on or to confirm a meeting point, contact Lesley or Greig on 0131 271 3611 or 0131 271 3629 or email tenantparticipation@midlothian.gov.uk



The common stair is your only means of escape in the event of a fire.



Have you ever thought what you would do if fire were to break out in your stair? It may not necessarily be in your flat! A fire started in a common stair could kill you and your family. Even a small bag of rubbish can create enough smoke to fill a whole stair. Items left in a common stair are often deliberately set on fire.

Keep it clear

- Get rubbish, old furniture, etc out of the building
- Make sure storage areas are kept locked
- For advice on uplifting items contact your local Council

If fire does start

- Keep doors closed to prevent smoke filling your house
- Dial 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service, giving as much information as you can



For free home fire safety advice

CALL 0800 0731 999

or visit our website at

www.firescotland.gov.uk



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Tenant news and events

News

Festive Coffee morning in Cowan Court.

Residents in Cowan Court enjoyed coffee, mince pies, Christmas carols from the Strathesk primary school choir and a visit from Father Christmas and his helper! A big thank you to Tesco Penicuik and Greggs, Penicuik for their donations.



Scottish Housing Network 2017

Back in November we held our sixth annual Scottish Housing Network (SHN) presentation in the Midlothian Chambers. Every year the SHN compares the Housing Department's performance against other, similarly sized local authorities and every year we invite our Tenant Panel to attend. Last year saw a number of improvements being made across the board as well as some areas where improvements are needed. Thank you to the Midlothian Tenant Panel for coming along and providing us with your feedback!

Three new tenant groups

Last year we started three new tenant groups in Midlothian. Now Woodburn and Loanhead have their own tenant groups and Penicuik East has its own resident's group. If you are a Midlothian Council tenant and you think your area would benefit from having a group where the community and the council work together, please phone us on 0131 271 3611/0131 271 3629 to find out how we can help.

Upcoming events

Loanhead Tenant's Group meeting

Date: 12th March 2018

Location: Loanhead Leisure Centre, George Avenue, Loanhead, EH20 9LA

Time: 18:00 – 19:30

Woodburn Tenant Group meeting

Date: 22nd March 2018

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

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Loanhead Estate Walkabout

Date: 24th January 2018

Location: Outside Loanhead Leisure Centre

Time: 11am

Bonnyrigg North Residents Forum

Date: 24th January 2018

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

Time: 18:30 – 20:00



Poltonhall Residents Group meeting

Date: 7th February 2018

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

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Penicuik East Resident's Group meeting

Date: 15th February 2018

Location: Ladywood Leisure Centre, 14A Yarrow Court, Penicuik, EH26 8HD

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Dalkeith Estate Walkabout

Date: 21st February 2018

Location: TBC

Time: 11am





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').

Useful council 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 3860 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:

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