



# Midlothian Council Tenants' Newsletter

## Summer 2023

**Welcome to your latest tenant newsletter** - This is just one of the ways we keep in touch with you. This issue explains how our housing services operate and how you can contact us.

### Midlothian Council Housing Drop-in

**Our housing teams are hosting a drop-in session at Dalkeith Library**

The session is for Midlothian Council tenants, service users and residents enquiring about housing issues. You can speak to staff from different housing areas at this event for assistance with your housing enquiry.

There's no need to book, just turn up. Please spread the word if you know anyone who could benefit!

**Date:** Thursday 8 June, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Venue:** Dalkeith Library, main building,  
2 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE



### Get involved in your Housing Services

**Are you a council tenant who'd like your say on Housing Services?**

**Perhaps you don't like public meetings or can't attend them?**

**Join the Tenant Panel**

It's a consultation tool which gives everyone a fair and equal opportunity to participate and be heard.

If you join you'll receive occasional emails asking you to complete a short optional surveys on a specific housing matters that you can complete when it suits you. Every response counts. For further details or to join email [tenantparticipation@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:tenantparticipation@midlothian.gov.uk) or call **07785382170**



### Council housing new-build developments



**Midlothian Council's multi-million-pound house building programme has seen 505 Council homes built for social affordable rent since 2013.**

The council's house building programme has delivered new homes in town's right across the region.

The supply of more affordable homes of the size, type and in the location people want to live, is one of the main priorities of the Midlothian Council Housing Service.

Our new affordable homes are all built to the highest standards in areas where there is a shortage of affordable housing.

A range of energy-efficiency measures such as solar panels are included in our new-builds to keep tenants' energy bills as low as possible, and minimise the carbon footprint of homes.



Wheelchair accessible and specialist housing is part of many of the new developments, allowing tenants with specific housing needs to live independently in the local community.

In our next tenants newsletter we will feature our new Passivhaus housing development in Dalkeith and explain the many benefits these homes offer to the tenants.

Council sets target for new homes accessible for people in wheelchairs:

**[www.midlothian.gov.uk/accessible-homes](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/accessible-homes)**

### Mid Market Rent Homes (MMR)

**Do you have family or friends seeking housing; have you heard of MMR homes?**

MMR is affordable housing, where rents are lower than the private market, but higher than council or housing association rent.

#### Who is MMR for?

MMR helps households on modest incomes that have difficulty accessing social rented housing, buying their own home, or renting privately.

#### Eligibility

The criteria for MMR varies between providers but usually tenants must be employed (or have a job offer)

with a gross yearly household income between £20,000 - £40,000.

#### Properties in Midlothian

MMR properties are usually let and managed by sister companies of Housing Associations.

#### Further Information

Contact the providers listed to find out more about MMR and properties available.

**[www.midlothian.gov.uk/mmr](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/mmr)**

## Are your household details up to date?

To ensure your tenancy rights are protected it is very important that you advise us of changes to your household.

This includes telling us about anyone who moves in or out of the property.

If you need to let us know about changes or if you're unsure if you have already told us, please enquire by email:

**housing.enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk**

or mail:

**Midlothian House, 40-46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 1DN**

## House Exchange

Midlothian Council changed our Mutual Exchange scheme provider a few years ago to House Exchange.



Thinking about moving home? Maybe for a new job, more space or to be closer to friends and family. Whatever reason, House Exchange can help!

House Exchange brings people together who are interested in swapping their homes. There are thousands looking to swap properties throughout the UK, so your ideal home may only be clicks away.

Enter your details & register at **www.houseexchange.org.uk**

The site will match you with other would-be house-swappers.

It helps you search, find matches and contact other council or housing association residents who want to swap homes.

There's also a free House Exchange App available from Apple App and Google Play stores; so you can search on the move!

### Important things to consider:

- **Add photos:** You can have up to five photos of your property on your advert. This increases your chances of finding a swap because it allows potential swappers to see throughout your home. Make sure each room looks its best.
- **Include a description:** House Exchange has a fantastic tool that allows you to create a description by selecting options that apply to your home, or if you prefer you can get creative and write your own. You can find both these options in the "Update my advert" section, where you can also add key features such as a garden or balcony. The more details you add to your description the better the advert will stand out.

## Security for households in flats

With the warmer weather it is tempting to keep your home cool by leaving your door open. However we would kindly request everyone particularly in flats to ensure that doors are not left or jammed open. By leaving the doors open you are leaving yourself and neighbours open to theft, vandalism or more seriously a fire risk.

## Safeguard your property: reduce house breaking



### Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

With many of us going on holiday in the coming months, we could all do with a reminder of measures we can take to keep our homes and possessions safe. The link below also has details of Neighbourhood Watch Scotland with practical tips on enjoying the internet safely for yourself and other family members.

**www.midlothian.gov.uk/home-security**

## Money Worries?

Financial advice and support is available if you're struggling to make ends meet.



Follow these steps to find help in Midlothian:

**www.midlothian.gov.uk/money-worries**

## Volunteers needed

### Central Dalkeith & Woodburn Pantry

Central Dalkeith & Woodburn Pantry is a community-run food initiative, set up by members of the local community in response to the cost of living crisis. They provide an affordable weekly shop to their members as well as free fruit and vegetables, period products, pet food and bakery items.



### Volunteer Roles at the Pantry

The team of volunteers is essential to the running of the Pantry in helping set up, move stock, greet customers, operate the till, assist with shopping and packing, and tidy at the end of the day.

### Where and When

The Pantry operates from the MARC building at 10 Woodburn Road, and is open every Friday from 1.30pm - 5.30pm. They set up from 9am on a Friday and have several time-slots during the day which volunteers can choose from. The minimum commitment is approximately 3 hours per fortnight.

### How to get involved

If you would like to help out please send an email to Alex at **cdwpsvolunteer@gmail.com**, introducing yourself and saying why you'd like to get involved.