



Midlothian Tenants' Newsletter



Welcome to the Midlothian tenants' newsletter which focuses on important issues for our tenants.

Midlothian council Allocation Policy Review Consultation Throughout January our housing team held 8 allocation policy review consultations in the libraries in Midlothian.



The sessions were for Midlothian Council tenants and housing applicants. This was an opportunity to have your say on the new allocation policy review. The consultations were held in the libraries as a drop-in and to complete a survey either online or as a paper copy. A member from the housing department and a tenant participation officer were present to answer any questions and get your feedback on what matters to you. The results are being finalised and will be made available by end of March 2024.

- Tuesday 9th January:** Newbattle library 5pm – 7pm
- Thursday 11th January:** Penicuik library 10am – 12pm
- Monday 15th January:** Dalkeith library 1pm – 3pm
- Thursday 18th January:** Loanhead library 1pm – 4pm
- Monday 22nd January:** Pathhead Pavilion 12pm – 2pm
- Tuesday 23rd January:** Danderhall library 9.30am – 12pm
- Thursday 25th January:** Gorebridge library 5pm – 7pm
- Thursday 31st January:** Bonnyrigg library 10.30am – 12.30pm

Council housing: new-build developments

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



- Danderhall
- Dalkeith
- Roslin
- Newtongrange
- Bonnyrigg



The supply of more affordable homes of the size, type and location people want to live in, 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 to 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.



Save energy

We know it's a challenging and worrying time, with bills going up and uncertainty over the future. We're here to help and try to put your mind at ease. Get in touch for assistance with any issue related to your fuel bills and we can help keep you warm.

Request a call back or find out more at:
warmth@changeworks.org.uk



Energy saving tips:

www.changeworks.org.uk/resources/advice-sheet-top-ten-energy-saving

Freephone **0800 870 8800**
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



New Passivhaus housing development in Dalkeith and Bonnyrigg



There are several benefits to these new homes. Many are interconnected – creating a catalyst for positive effects such as low energy bills, constant fresh air, superior internal comfort, peaceful and low noise interiors.

www.midlothian.gov.uk/accessible-homes



Buccleuch Wind, Dalkeith

Have your say on housing

The Midlothian Tenant Panel is made up of Midlothian Council tenants who have volunteered to help improve our housing service.



The panel is perfect for people who want to be kept informed about housing service activities but don't feel comfortable attending public meetings. All panel activities can be carried out in a tenant's own home, via phone or email.

For further details or to join please email:

Tenantparticipation@midlothian.gov.uk

or call **07502918630**.

Walkabout:

Have your say of what matters to you in your local area.



Walkabouts will be taking place monthly throughout the Midlothian area starting March 2024. These can give you the opportunity to discuss what matters to you with housing officers and councillors.

- Mayfield: 19th March, 10am – 12pm, Stone Place & Chester Square
- Loanhead: 16th April, 10am – 12pm, Academy Court & Station Road
- Dalkeith: 14th May, 10am – 12pm, Jean Amour Drive & Clarrinda Gardens & Pankhurst Lone
- Gorebridge: 18th June, 10am – 12pm, Braeside Road North & Braeside Road South & Hillside Crescent North & Hillside Crescent South
- Penicuik: 16th July, 10am – 12pm, Ladywood Court & Eastfield Farm Road

What is happening in Midlothian?

Communities, lifelong learning and employability (CLLE)

Midlothian Council's Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability (CLLE) service can help you and your family develop your skills for learning, life and work through various opportunities. They:



- work with adults who want to improve their reading and writing skills and improve their English language skills.
- offer flexible adult learning opportunities. Brush up your old skills, or learn new ones, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, including certificated and non-certificated courses.
- provide all age employability support for Midlothian residents 15½ years and over.
- deliver youth work opportunities across Midlothian
- work with parents to access or progress in employment through 1-to-1 support.

To find out more about any of these services please email CLL@midlothian.gov.uk or call **0131 271 3713**.

Midlothian and East Lothian Drugs (MELD)



Promoting Recovery from Drug and Alcohol Use

MELD aims to provide a confidential and non-judgemental service, to promote recovery and reduce harm associated with alcohol and substance use across Midlothian for those aged 18 and over.

They have a dedicated team of core workers who use a counselling-based approach in a way that is locally accessible. If you require MELD support, there is a phone line open 9am – 9pm Monday to Friday, where their knowledgeable Contact Service team will determine the most suitable support available to help you on your recovery journey.

Please call **07843 339 958** or visit

www.meld-drugs.org.uk for more information.

Horizons recovery café at Dalkeith Baptist Church is open Mondays and Fridays 10am – 2pm for SMART meetings and hot food, for anyone in the recovery community looking for advice and a warm space.

Useful numbers



- Emergency repairs
0131 663 7211
- Police Scotland Non-Emergency
101
- Scottish Women's Aid
0800 027 1234
- Age Scotland Friendship line
0800 12 44222
- Gas Emergencies
0800 111 999
- Electric (power cut)
105 or 0800 3163105
- LGBT Helpline Scotland
0300 123 2523
- Samaritans
116 123