

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at ETF



### ETF's Annual General Meeting – A celebration of the work of the Federation

It had been a long time coming, but ETF's first face-to-face Annual General Meeting (AGM) since before lockdown, held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Boroughmuir Rugby Club has been hailed a huge success. Here's a flavour of what took place on a night to remember for ETF:

- The Federation's Convenor Betty Stone was delighted to welcome members from across the city to the event. A huge welcome was given to the guest speaker, City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC's) Lord Provost, Councillor Robert Aldridge, who congratulated the Federation on all the great work it achieves on behalf of the city's tenants. ETF then presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Lord Provost for CEC's OneCity Trust.
- Jaslin Bhagrath from ETF's Accountants, Henderson Loggie, gave the Federation a clean financial bill of health.
- The Federation's Annual Report agreed changes to the constitution and election of the Executive Committee concluded the formal proceedings, with the evening finishing off with some lovely food, music and dancing.

Thanks again to everyone who took part, we thoroughly enjoyed celebrating a momentous year for the Federation with you all.

### Getting to Know You

ETF is delighted to invite our local Councillors to a "Getting to Know You" session with Federation Members as part of our 2023 calendar of member meetings and events. The discussion will take place on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 7.00pm-9.00pm, European Room, City Chambers, Royal Mile**. Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm onwards.

Following our recent members' meeting, topics which will be discussed include:

- Rents and Value for Money
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Housing Investment Needs and Targets
- Voids and Allocations
- New Build Housing.

We would be grateful if you can confirm your attendance by **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

Please use public transport where possible. Assistance with transport and childcare may be available on request. For bookings contact 0131 475 2509 or email

[info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk).

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

## ETF Annual Report

All groups should have received a copy of the Federation's Annual Report for 2021/2022 and is available on our website <https://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/etf-annual-report-2020-2021/>. If you would like to request an extra copy, or provide feedback on the Annual Report, please email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk) or phone 0131 475 2509.

## Tenants Voice

Everyone will shortly be receiving copies of December's edition of *Tenants Voice*. This forthcoming edition contains useful updates, interesting stories, and information, so be sure to give it a read. There's also a chance to win a £30 shopping voucher by completing a fun Christmas Quiz. If anyone would like to request extra copies, or provide feedback on this edition, please contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509 or email [info@edinburghtenants.org.uk](mailto:info@edinburghtenants.org.uk).

## CEC Rent Consultation

Are you interested to find out how CEC spends your rent money? CEC is currently carrying out their Rent Consultation which runs until **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**. This is a particularly important time as many tenants will be concerned about the cost-of-living crisis. This year's rent consultation gives CEC tenants an opportunity to give feedback on the housing service, rent levels and future plans for the housing service in Edinburgh.

This is an ideal opportunity for tenants to help shape the future of housing in Edinburgh and ETF would encourage as many CEC tenants as possible to have their say. This can be done by:

- Online at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/2023-24-council-housing-survey/>
- Email [housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:housing.research@edinburgh.gov.uk).

ETF will also be responding to the rent consultation, and we will provide an update in due course.

## Money Advice

Are you worried about money this winter? Many of us are worried about rent, bills, energy costs, debt and more this winter. These worries can have a knock-on effect on our mental health and wellbeing. So, it's important to know that there's help and advice out there. CEC has created webpages to help anyone who is struggling to access the advice and support they need:

- Debt advice
- Grants and benefit payments
- Help with school costs and nursery fees
- Housing support
- How to save on your energy bills and make your home warmer
- Grants to upgrade your heating and discounts from energy suppliers
- Community cafes, food banks and pantries.

You can find more information on CEC's website at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/costofliving) or call 0131 200 2360

## Providing support to the elderly and vulnerable this Christmas

Do you know an older or vulnerable person whose home feels cold when you visit? Winter has arrived and fuel prices are increasing. Many people may be worried about the current cost-of-living crisis and being able to heat their homes. They may feel unable to ask for help or not realise that support is available. You can support them to get in touch with Home Energy Scotland at <https://www.homeenergyscotland.org.uk> or phone 0800 808 2282 for advice on ways to reduce fuel bills.

## Feeling overwhelmed?

Anxiety and low mood can impact your social life. iThrive Edinburgh has mental health and well-being self-help apps, services, activities and advice in one place to help with:

- Anxiety and low moods
- Feelings of loneliness or isolation
- Mindfulness
- Stress
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Healthy eating.

You can find out more at [www.ithriveedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.ithriveedinburgh.org.uk) or call Breathing Space on 0800 83 8587.

## Royal Mail Strikes

As you will be aware, the Royal Mail have been carrying out a series of strikes over the past few months. At present, the Royal Mail are planning to go on strike on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**, with the possibility of more taking place during the month. This may result in Federation mailings arriving later than expected and we ask that you bear with us whilst these strikes take place. ETF would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but it's outwith our control.

### Diary Dates

#### December 2022

20<sup>th</sup> December      The Federation Office closes at 5pm for the Festive Period  
23<sup>rd</sup> December      Deadline for responses to CEC's Rent Consultation

#### January 2023

4<sup>th</sup> January          Federation Office re-opens  
17<sup>th</sup> January          Deadline for booking places for Getting to Know You discussion  
24<sup>th</sup> January          Getting to Know You discussion, European Room, City Chambers, Royal Mile, 7.00pm-9.00pm

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](http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk). Do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.

*Season's greetings and very best wishes for 2023.*

*Stay safe and take care.*

