

Help us build it



Help us keep it!

Lochfield Park
Housing Association

Lochfield Park Housing Association CHRISTMAS 2020 NEWSLETTER



CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELLED!!!

IT'S JUST GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR.

Unfortunately due to the Scottish Government's Restrictions in relation to the covid-19 pandemic, we are unable to host our Santa's Grotto this year.

However, Santa will still be making a special appearance at the Association on DAY DATE TIME.

Make sure you follow us on Facebook to watch Santa making some magical announcements.

[@LochfieldParkHousingAssociation](#)

See inside for more information....

Merry Christmas!



Welcome from the Chairperson – Ann Whitley

My name is Ann Whitley and I am the new Chairperson of Lochfield Park Housing Association for this year.

I would like to welcome you all to our Christmas newsletter which we hope will bring some festive cheer into what has been a terrible last 10 months for the whole Country.

Our sympathies go out to everyone who has lost someone during this time and our best wishes to those who are still suffering or recovering from the virus.

The Association would like also to thank all of our tenants, local residents, Contractors and Consultants for their understanding and support during the last 10 months when our office has been closed to the Public.

Despite these difficulties, the staff team has managed to maintain almost normal services and support to customers through working from home and via a rota system in the office.

As a way of saying thanks to our tenants, the Management Committee has agreed to some very positive initiatives, which we hope in some small way will support people in these difficult times.



RENTS FREEZE FOR 2021/22 -

0% INCREASE IN RENTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2021

Normally at this time of year we consult tenants on the Annual Rent Review to decide what the rent increase should be for next year.

The Management Committee has decided that in the current circumstances it would be unfair to ask people to pay increased rents next year and therefore, rents will not increase in April 2021!



GOOD NEWS!

SANTA'S GROTTO 2020

Santa normally visits Lochfield Park at Christmas time to meet all the boys and girls, however, it is not possible for us to set up his Grotto this year.

The GOOD NEWS is that Santa will be making a special appearance on Facebook at TIME AND DATE with some very important announcements and 12 'Extra Special' Christmas Hampers will be won by tenants.

So don't miss out!!

Make sure to follow us on our Facebook page to see if you are one of our lucky winners:

@LochfieldParkHousingAssociation



LOCHFIELD PARK – HELP FOR KIDS

Normally at this time of year Cash For Kids the well-known Charity gives money to children throughout Glasgow, including our own area, however this has not been possible this year.

Cash For Kids ran an unprecedented Covid-19 food campaign from May to July distributing 116 food vouchers. Each voucher was worth £35 per child. Unfortunately, however, there will be no Christmas Cash for Kids applications this year as the charity will not be able to fund raise due to the restriction imposed by Covid-19 guidance.

The Management Committee, agreed therefore to give a £20 Morrison's voucher to each child in our area who was eligible under the scheme for this year.

Please ensure the office has your most up to date contact number so that we can contact you to arrange the collection of the vouchers.

Please notify the Association in advance if you are shielding or self-isolating.



LOCHFIELD PARK – HELP FOR PENSIONERS 2020

In partnership and through joint funding with EHRA, every pensioner in our area aged 65 years and over will receive a £20 gift voucher for Morrison's to help towards Christmas.

This is another example of the Housing Association's in Easterhouse supporting their communities during these tough times.



FARE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Everyone in the area knows the great work done by FARE to provide help, support and community services locally and to Greater Easterhouse.

Part of their commitment has been to provide residents over 60 years of age with a food hamper at Christmas and Lochfield Parks's Management Committee agreed to donate £2000 towards the cost of this initiative.

We would like to thank FARE along with Jimmy and the whole staff team for their continued great work in our area!

Thank you!



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We are excited to announce that work is well underway with the new development at Phase 10—Abbeycraig Road.

This new phase will include 84 houses.

Keep an eye on our social media pages, website and next newsletter for ongoing updates.



Kids Competition

Count all the Christmas Gnomes throughout this newsletter and send the total number you can find to LMullen@lochfield.co.uk or send a message via Facebook @LochfieldParkHousing Association or Twitter @LochfieldParkHA.

Don't forget to include a contact number so the winner can be contacted.

Here's one to get you started...Good Luck!



Housebuilder McTaggart is delivering a new programme at Lochend High which will see S4 to S6 pupils put through a training scheme for the next 32 weeks. The developer will make use of their nearby Abbeycraig Road site and work closely with Tigers Training.

Ross Hammell, McTaggart Construction's sustainable communities programme manager, said: "This programme seeks to offer young people from one of Glasgow's most disadvantaged areas the opportunity to gain meaningful skills and qualifications.

"We're delighted by the strong interest shown by the students at Lochend High School and their enthusiasm for the programme so far." *(Article taken from Evening Times)*

A Glasgow City Council spokeswoman said: "The pilot programme will allow young people to achieve a work-based learning qualification at an earlier stage in their learning.



Let It Snow

Annual Assurance Statement 2020

Lochfield Park Housing Association's Management Committee confirms compliance with all relevant requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Framework.

The assurance relates to the standards detailed below:

- Assurance and Notification
- Scottish Social Housing Charter Performance
- Tenant and Service User Redress
- Whistleblowing
- Equality and Human Rights
- Statutory Guidance
- Organisational Details and Constitution
- Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management



The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the way the Association conducts its business and has required its Management Committee and staff to adapt to a digital format. We are confident that the measures we have put in place and the contingency planning that we have implemented have ensured that we are able to continue to meet our responsibility to our tenants, service users, regulators and funders.

We continue to monitor our Business Plan, budget and financial assumptions in the context of the ongoing emergency situation and associated business interruption. Our Business Plan reflects the regulatory guidance that was current at the time of its preparation and we will take account of updated regulatory advice.

The Management Committee has actively scrutinised and assessed all of the evidence and data required to ensure that the Association meets all regulatory requirements and standards.

The Management Committee used both the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and the Scottish Housing Network toolkits as a way of evaluating the available evidence base.

The Management Committee are now sufficiently assured that we comply with the regulatory framework and can confidently assure our stakeholders that there are no areas of material non-compliance.

Last year our Assurance Statement identified a number of areas where we wanted to improve or enhance our governance and processes. However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic delayed some of these being completed. None of the areas identified are considered material or significant and the Association aims to finalise these improvements over the coming year:

- Review committee and staff appraisal processes
- Enhance equalities and human rights policy
- Review committee and staff training processes

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of being able to communicate and engage with our service users. As a result, the Association will be developing a digital inclusion strategy for the next 12 months to ensure that all members of our community are able to access services and assistance.

We will publish this Annual Assurance Statement and share this with our service users and other stakeholders. We will inform the Scottish Housing Regulator of any material changes in our level of assurance.

Paying Your Rent at Christmas

Lochfield Park relies on you paying your rent to maintain the level of service we provide. It is therefore, essential that you pay your rent on time. We realise that Christmas is an expensive time for everyone, however to stop you falling into arrears and putting your tenancy at risk you must pay your rent.

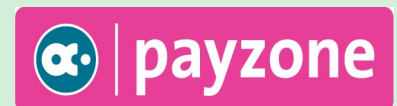
If you do not have a rent card, please contact the office as soon as possible to arrange for a card to be issued.

The Association recognises that some people may have trouble paying as a result of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. If this situation is affecting your ability to pay, we would ask that you contact the office, where we can discuss your circumstances and offer you the appropriate advice and assistance.

If you are experiencing difficulties please contact our office for assistance or make an appointment to speak with Paul our Welfare Rights Officer.

We offer easy and convenient ways to pay rent:

- Any PayPoint or Payzone outlet
- At the Post Office
- Online at www.allpay.net
- Telephone payments by calling the office on 0141 771 2228
- Standing Order
- Direct Debit



Universal Credit

It is important to remember that any communication with your Job Coach is done through the Universal Credit Journal. Your Journal should be checked for messages from your Job coach at least once a day otherwise you are at risk of having your benefit suspended or incur sanctions.

Discretionary Housing Payment

If an Under Occupancy Charge (Bed Room Tax) has been applied to your Housing Benefit or Universal Credit Housing Element complete an application online at Glasgow City Council's web site.

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Rebate

Any changes to your circumstances can be made on line. Furthermore, if you want to make an application to Council Tax for a rebate, this can also be done online.

Scottish Welfare Fund

The Scottish Welfare fund is still open for Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants to help with essential living costs or essential living goods.

Also, if you have been asked to Self- Isolate by Track and Trace following a positive test or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive and, as a consequence, will suffer financial hardship you may be eligible for the £500 grant.

Contact the Welfare Fund for financial assistance on 0141 276 1177. You can also call the National help line for further advice on 0800 111 4000.



Scottish Child Payment

This new benefit can be applied from 9th November 2020 and will be open for payment on Monday 15th February 2021. It is a payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 for each child every four weeks and that child in under 6 years on 15th February 2021.

For further information contact 0800 182 2222 or mygov.scot/benefits.

Future Benefits To Be Rolled Out

The Scottish Government have plans to roll out further help in benefits over the coming months. By the end of 2020: A winter heating payment for children in receipt of the high rate of Disability Assistance. Disability Assistance will open for older people over 65 yrs and this replaces Attendance Allowance.

Early 2021: Disability Assistance will open for people of working age. This replaces Personal Independence Payment. An additional payment for carers who look after more than one disabled child.

COVID—19 Funds

Many Tenants have received direct financial assistance from Organisations who Lochfield Park Housing Association work in partnership with. Since April this year, 65 households received an average of £43 to help with gas and electricity courtesy of the MEGA fund. A further 41 Households received an average of £31 per household through the generosity of the Covid19 Energy fund.

This was a total of £8096 in financial gains for households to assist with gas, electricity and food costs since April.

Remember to apply to the Warm Home Discount Scheme if you have not already done so. The £140 payment will be credited directly to your electricity account. Criteria and opening and closing times of each Scheme depends on your supplier.

Welfare Rights Community Service

The Welfare Rights Service had a total of 961 service user enquiries from April to September and an annual projected financial gain of £530m from all benefit types for service users. The Scottish Welfare Fund awarded 17 different types of essential household items to applicants.

If you need any help with any of the topics discussed above or any other matter, contact Paul at the office.



We're here for you.



Flat Pack Meals is a volunteer led, not-for-profit, food project aiming to provide local communities with affordable and healthy recipe packs to cook at home every week. Each meal and soup pack contains all the ingredients required to cook the recipes along with detailed instructions.

SOUPS £1.50
MEALS £3.00

By offering these food packs they hope to not only make it easier to have a low-cost and healthy home cooked meal every week but to also teach, motivate and inspire confidence in their customers to cook for themselves.

They believe this will help individuals to continue and also enjoy, making affordable, healthy choices throughout the week for themselves and their families.

Find them on Facebook @eastendflatpackmeals

07460131826

eastendflatpackmeals@gmail.com

Looking after your mental health during COVID-19

We're living through unfamiliar times right now and the coronavirus outbreak has changed how we live day to day. If you feel confused, stressed or anxious at some point, you're not alone.

Whether you have been directly affected by the virus, or are struggling to cope with the restrictions, it is important to look after both your physical and mental health.

If things are becoming a bit much, it's important to talk to someone about how you are feeling. This could be a family member or friend, your GP or by calling a helpline. There is help available.

The Scottish Government Clear Your Head Campaign which highlights things people can do to look after themselves during the coronavirus outbreak.

Find practical tips on how to stay positive and feel better at

www.clearyourhead.scot



If you need to talk to someone, you can call:

NHS 24 on 111

Monday - Sunday 6pm to 2am

Breathing Space on 0800 83 85 87

Weekdays: Monday - Thursday 6pm to 2am

Weekend: Friday 6pm - Monday 6am

Samaritans on 116 123

24 hours a day, 365 days a year



The Committee & Staff
would like to wish everyone
a very Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year!!



OFFICE CLOSED:

The office will close from
**1pm Thursday 24th of December and reopen on
10am on Wednesday 6th of January 2021.**

During this period our “Out of Hours” Emergency Service will be
in operation:

EMERGENCY NUMBER

0800 595 595



Contacting Us...

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Email: info@lochfield.co.uk

Web: www.lochfield.co.uk

Twitter: [@LochfieldParkHA](https://twitter.com/LochfieldParkHA)

Facebook: [@LochfieldParkHousingAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/LochfieldParkHousingAssociation)



We are always looking for ways to improve services to our tenants,
if we have missed anything that you would like to see in your newsletters,
do not hesitate to contact the office.