

Happy New Year and welcome to the third newsletter for residents in the Moredun high rises and maisonettes.

In this edition we'll update you on where to get support if you're struggling with energy bills, improvements to smoke controls and communal areas in the high rise flats, plans to improve public spaces in the surrounding area and top tips for preventing damp and mould.

## Keep up to date online

We've created a web page to keep you up to date with the planned improvements in Moredun. Please check it regularly as it has important information about what's happening and how it affects you  
[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/improvingneighbourhoods](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/improvingneighbourhoods)



## Keep cosy and save money

With home energy costs rising, many of us are worrying about our gas and electricity bills. We're working in partnership with Changeworks and Home Energy Scotland to help keep you and your home warm for less.

Their friendly advisors are on hand to give you:

- free energy saving advice to help save money on your bills
- support with fuel debt
- help to find out if you're eligible for any grants or funding for energy efficiency home improvements.

If you're a Council tenant you can contact the Energy Advice Service for free by phoning 0800 870 8800, emailing [warmth@changeworks.org.uk](mailto:warmth@changeworks.org.uk) or visiting [www.changeworks.org.uk](http://www.changeworks.org.uk)

If you're a home owner or private renter you can contact Home Energy Scotland for free advice on 0808 808 2282 or visit [www.homeenergyscotland.org](http://www.homeenergyscotland.org)

## Temporary pause to repairs service



Our repairs team has been working hard during the pandemic, but we're experiencing some staff shortages due to the spread of Omicron. As a result, we're unable to book any new non-essential appointments\*. If you already have an appointment scheduled, we will attend as normal and aim to carry out your repair as quickly and safely as possible.

The safety of tenants and our teams is our priority and we really appreciate your patience and support. If you're a council tenant and need an emergency repair, or someone in the house is vulnerable, please phone 0131 200 2345.

We hope to be able to accept new bookings soon - please check our website regularly for updates  
[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/repairsdirect](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/repairsdirect)

\* If you're a Council tenant and think there's damp, mould or condensation in your home then you can still report this via our repairs service.

## Update on improvements to the high rise blocks

We're carrying out repairs on the six high rise blocks in Moredun to improve fire safety. We're also planning to upgrade some communal areas, fire doors and facilities.

The safety of tenants, residents and Council employees is our priority and all work will be carried out strictly in line with the latest coronavirus guidelines. You can find out more about coronavirus at [www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19) and [www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)



## New smoke control vents

The repairs include replacing automated opening vents (AOVs), which help disperse smoke in stairwells and corridors if there's a fire and we're now ready to appoint a contractor to carry out this work.

If you own a flat in one of the high rise blocks we'll write to you soon to explain how this work will affect you, what you need to do and to provide a cost estimate for your share of the repairs. In the meantime, please visit our website where you can find out more detailed information [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/improvingneighbourhoods](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/improvingneighbourhoods)

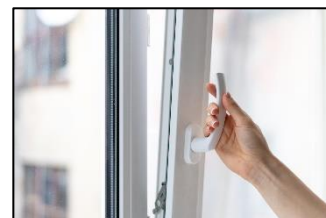
We're also finalising plans to replace the common fire doors to make sure they stay in good condition.

## Better access for everyone

We recently installed new access ramps and handrails to the rear of the high rise blocks. Soon we'll be making the rear doors in these blocks automated for anyone who needs extra assistance. We'll be issuing access controllers to wheelchair users and anyone who needs a bit of help to open the doors.

## Window repairs

In our last newsletter we updated you on plans for upgrades or repairs for windows for Council tenants in the high rise blocks. We're now waiting for the results of a survey and air tightness tests which were carried out within several properties within the blocks before the turn of the year. The results will help determine where repairs and upgrades are required.



## Revamp planned for shared areas

We're working with architects to look at ways we can improve the common areas and stair wells in the high rise blocks. The improvements would make the common areas safer and improve the overall environment for residents. The plans are at an early stage and we'd like to involve residents in the process to understand what improvements you'd like to see. We'll be in touch over the coming months to get your feedback on any proposals.

## Getting creative

We want to improve the outdoor space in Moredun by investing in paths, play equipment, bins, seating and picnic areas, as well as looking at ways to develop unused land to turn it into greener spaces for plants and growing areas.

We're currently in the process of appointing a freelance artist to create proposals. It's important that the local community is involved in shaping the plans for the area so, once appointed, they'll work with a steering group made up of residents' groups, Council officers and the design team. Part of the artist's role will be to organise arts led engagement with local residents to make sure your feedback and ideas are included in the final plans. Keep an eye out over the next two to three months for information on how to get involved.

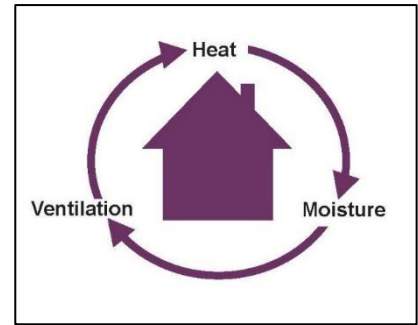
While the above project is being progressed, some shorter terms environmental projects to benefit the local neighbourhood have been identified. These are currently being designed and will improve both soft and hard landscaping around the blocks, including existing growing areas. We'll update you with more details soon.

## Help your home breathe

Avoid condensation, dampness and mould by ventilating your home and letting moisture out. Day to day activities such as drying clothes, cooking and taking a shower add moisture to the air inside your home. It's important to let this moisture out.

Follow these tips to help stale air escape and let fresh air in.

1. Air rooms regularly by opening windows – aim for at least ten minutes a day.
2. Open windows when drying clothes indoors.
3. Keep rooms above 15 degrees Celsius if you can.
4. Use extractor fans when cooking or bathing or open a window.
5. Keep trickle vents in windows open.



If you're a Council tenant and think there's damp, mould or condensation in your home then contact our repairs team online [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/repairsdirect](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/repairsdirect) or by phone 0131 200 2345.

## Get in touch

If you have any questions or issues about your tenancy please contact your local housing officer:

### Castleview House and Little France House

Maryann Stanton • Email: [maryann.stanton@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maryann.stanton@edinburgh.gov.uk) • Tel no. 0131 529 7873

### Marytree House and Moredun House

Stephen Belal • Email: [stephen.belal@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.belal@edinburgh.gov.uk) • Tel no. 0131 529 5180

### Moncrieffe House and Forteviot House

Margaret McBride • Email: [margaret.mcbride@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.mcbride@edinburgh.gov.uk) • Tel no. 0131 529 5118



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