

# Lister Newsletter - April 2021

## Lots of news from your co-op

### HEADLINE NEWS ITEMS - READ MORE IN THIS ISSUE

- The Management Committee commissions an Options Appraisal - your views sought
- Kitchen programme on the Main Site about to start - *overleaf*
- Alistair Cant (Director) announces his retirement at the end of the year - *overleaf*
- Fuel Support Fund and Goody Bags - still available - don't lose out, get in touch now

### We Need Your Help

After a long and happy career with the Co-operative, our Director Alistair Cant has decided to retire in December 2021.

In line with requirements of the Scottish Housing Regulator, Lister are carrying out an Options Appraisal, a chance to review what we do and consider whether we should operate in a different way. Are we always acting in the best interests of our tenants, and do we need to change our current approach?

We want to find out how well you think we are doing and if you think there are things we need to change.

As part of our considerations of our future, we have appointed TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service) a tenant led independent organisation to help us understand what is important to you, our tenants.

TPAS want to find out what you think of Lister Housing Co-operative, what we do well and how we can improve, tell them what is important for you:

- \* Are our rents affordable?
- \* Do you have any outstanding repairs?
- \* What is the quality of your kitchen, bathrooms, windows etc.?
- \* Does the local office and staff provide you with a good service?
- \* Do we need to change the way we operate?

TPAS want to meet with tenants to find out your views and make sure tenants are driving the future direction of Lister.

Can you spare us some time to have a one-to-one chat, over the phone, by email or have a discussion with other tenants over a video call?

If you would like to help, please contact Tony Kelly at TPAS 07810 304503 or by email

[tony.kelly@tpasscotland.org.uk](mailto:tony.kelly@tpasscotland.org.uk) You can also contact the Lister office on 0131 229 6176 or by email [info@lister.coop](mailto:info@lister.coop) and they will pass on your details to Tony. Thanks.

## Main Site Kitchen programme - about to start

The contract has been decided and we have just entered a 2-week 'stand-still' period before it actually takes effect (due to tendering regulations). Once that period has ended, we will plan the contract with the successful contractor and the kitchen unit supplier.

The programme will run in the following general order: Heriot Place, Keir Street, then Lauriston Place. We aim to keep a good momentum and the Committee and the Maintenance/Kitchen Sub Group have set a high standard for components, options and workmanship.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we cannot hold open general information evenings, like we have done in the past. We will have a display in the Lister office and those tenants in the batch of addresses to be planned will be invited to make an appointment to come in and see the display, one by one. *Please stick to your household bubble and do not bring non-household members with you into the office - please keep safe.* If you are shielding or have symptoms then please do not come in, but ring us to make alternative arrangements.

We shall publicise more details once the contract is up and running.

## The Retiral of our Director

Alistair will reach the grand old age of 65 in December and he will retire then, after a fulfilling time here.

As mentioned on the front of this newsletter, it is standard, when the senior staff member of a housing association or co-op departs or retires, that the Regulator seeks an Options Appraisal to be done, to help the organisation plan for the future. The Management Committee are in control of the process and they will make any decisions about the future of Lister.

Alistair knows how much is involved in this process and planning for Lister's future so he has given a long period of notice of retiral to allow this to be done in good time.

Hopefully restrictions currently in place will have eased by then and allow a good farewell to Alistair.

We can refer tenants for specialist Welfare Benefits advice and for Debt/Money Advice - ask Fiona at Lister.

## Goody Bag and FSF

**Lister has a goody Bag and Fuel Support Fund funding for every tenant. Many have made contact but there are a good many people yet to.**

**There is £150 in funding plus an exciting and useful Goody Bag available for you at the office (or else delivered by arrangement).**

**Please contact the Lister office to make an appointment 0131 229 6176.**

## HERIOT'S SCHOOL TRAFFIC ISSUES

The Committee are very concerned about the congestion, pollution and dangers to children from all these parents' cars accessing Keir Street and Heriot Place. The next newsletter will give details about how you can help us press to get this issue tackled.

SPRING - lovely blossom on the trees and new growth. Thanks to our Gardener, Sam, as we have new plants already arrived and some arriving soon. We also wish to repair and revamp the New Site back green planters soon.