

Lister Newsletter - October 2021

A very successful AGM in a lovely hall

The AGM was held in the very large room at Lauriston Hall, a community resource owned and managed by the Jesuit Church in Lauriston Street.



Image © Google 2021

We were very pleased to welcome 42 tenant members (and thanks to the six people who sent in a proxy form too). We think people were keen to gather socially (and safely) and network (at a distance) with friends and neighbours.

Although for Covid reasons we were not holding any social with refreshments, we were able to have our raffle and prizes were won by new and long-standing tenants - well done to the winners.

This was our Director's last AGM and he was thanked by the Chair and the meeting for his 32½ years of dedication.

At the Management Committee elections we were very pleased to welcome a new person standing - Joanna Dydak of Lauriston Place. Also two re-standing members were re-elected - Louise Alexander and Jacque Leith.

TREE MAINTENANCE

Every 5 years or so we get a specialist firm of tree surgeons to keep our trees in reasonable shape.

Whilst most of the work is in the Main Site back green, they will be trimming and shaping the trees on the New Site back green for the first time. They will also trim a tree in the front garden near the corner shop to keep it neat. They are not doing the frontage trees on Lauriston Place this time.

No trees will be felled. The taller trees will have more work done to reduce the spread of branches, open up the canopy to let more light through, and generally give trees that need it a trim and shape.

The work will be done w/c 8 November, probably Monday 8th.



This birch in the New Site in 2012 - it now reaches up to roof gutter height.

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2021-22

At the first Management Committee after the AGM, the Office-Bearers were elected and they are as follows: Chair: Louise Alexander. Secretary: Colleen Littlewood. Treasurer: Angus McDonald.

Thanks were given to Jennifer McCuaig who was the chair for the last year. Thanks were also given to Michele who had been on the Committee and decided not to re-stand this time.

The full Committee is as follows:

Louise Alexander, Angus McDonald, Colleen Littlewood, Jean-Luc Addams, Lucille Bald, Susan Baxter, Joanna Dydak, Carol Goodwin (co-opted), Jacquie Leith, Jennifer McCuaig, Maureen Midgley, Jennie Renton, Detelina Todorova.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The SGM was held in late September immediately after the AGM, in the same large hall at Lauriston Hall. The SGM was to consider and decide upon new Rules (constitution) for the co-op to bring this important document up to date with the latest recommendations.

The main change is that Lister would now have the ability to hold a future AGM or SGM online, should another emergency situation arise, i.e., a pandemic. The meeting, after consideration, agreed unanimously to approve the new rules.

These now go to the Financial Conduct Authority for final approval before they actually come into effect. This may take a couple of months.

Thank you to all those who attended the SGM or sent in a proxy form.

Attached is a Landlord Report for 2020-21 produced from figures on the Scottish Housing Regulator website.

New Chief Executive

Lister has recruited John Rankin as the new CEO following Alistair's retiral.

There will be an overlap/handover period. John will introduce himself in the next main newsletter.

Welcome, John.

COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL

PROBLEM SOLVING AT NEW SITE

There have been issues impacting upon New Site tenants from diesel back-up generators for the Quatermile 3 office building which backs onto the New Site. They require a monthly run-off and full maintenance twice a year, always on Saturdays.

During lockdown, Lister residents became very concerned about visible diesel exhaust fumes spilling over to the garden area and contacted their local councillors. A site visit was arranged later in the summer by the City of Edinburgh Environmental Health Officer, who liaised with and advised the building managers. It took almost a year to implement, but Quatermile 3 have now fitted diesel particulate filters to the machinery. As a result, the emissions have reduced and the adverse impacts lessened.

The Council officer and the lead Lister resident have also been proactive in providing information to NS tenants about the timings of these monthly test firings. Well done to all, and thanks.

WARM HOME DISCOUNT

You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2021-22 under the Warm Home Discount Scheme.

Visit: www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme