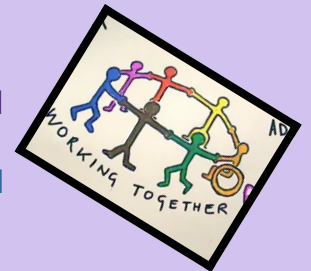




In line with Government guidelines and the ongoing Covid-19 virus, we have closed our office until further notice.

Patsy, Alex and Sue are operating as 'business as usual' where possible, and have already met with various people via Zoom and Skype. If you would like to do the same or would like more information please get in touch—always happy to help.....

The Executive Committee are currently phoning tenants for a wee blether and to make sure they are getting all the support. If you would like one of our committee to give you a call, let us know by phoning Sue on 07946 449 362 or Patsy on 7584 474 934 and they will arrange for someone to give you a ring. if you need to speak to a member of the team we can be contacted as follows:



Jim—jimherron1@aol.com

Alex – tenantspanel@hotmail.com

Patsy – pking@tis.org.uk or 07584 474934

Sue – scairns@eastlothian.gov.uk or 07946 449362



Help with your Council Tax and Rent Payments

Due to the uncertainty at this time, if you're worried about paying your Council Tax or Council Rent, **contact the Rent Income Team as soon as you can** and we'll do what we can to help.



Officers can accept reduced payments or defer payment to a later date if that helps. Officers can also liaise with other Council services and Agencies on your behalf if you're struggling.

If you've lost your job, or your income has reduced, the Council has a Welfare Rights team who can provide advice about what benefits and other financial support you may be entitled to. For example:

You may be entitled to **Universal Credit**, including an element for your housing costs (your rent).

If you're claiming Housing Benefit or Universal Credit, but still can't afford to pay your rent, you may be eligible to claim a **Discretionary Housing Payment** (DHP) from the Council.

If you're on a low income or claiming certain benefits, you may be entitled help from the Council to pay your Council Tax. This is called a **Council Tax Reduction** (CTR).

If you're in crisis, you may be eligible for support from **The Scottish Welfare Fund**.

If you've been affected by COVID-19 and need advice, information can be found at **www.eastlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus**

Rent Income	Council Tax	Welfare Rights
T: 01620 827528 E: rentin-come@eastlothian.gov.uk W: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/paytostay	T: 01875 824314 W: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/counciltax	T: 01620 827827 E: welfarerights@eastlothian.gov.uk W: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/welfarerights

LOCAL GROUP INFORMATION



Ormiston West Tenants and Residents Association

have been helping the most vulnerable in their community by doing shopping, cooking meals and contacting tenants and residents by phone to maintain communication, and ensure that they have everything they may need. Mark Ormiston, Chair of the group, has been collecting wood for those that still have coal fires and helping to keep the stock piles up.

Lime Grove Association and other residents did a leaflet drop for all local residents. They have set up a WhatsApp group of volunteers, and have organised people to shop etc. for those that are self-isolating. They follow Sandy Baptie's updates daily, and share relevant information from it on the WhatsApp group. If you are living in this area and need help, please contact Chair of the group Tim at Tim.Harding@lineone.net



Port Seton - one of our EC members, Diane update - We have a Facebook group with all house holds being members. We all look forward to Thursday nights clapping for our front line workers where we all give each other a wee wave from one end of the street to the other! On Friday's we have "dance in the garden" where we all get involved from the toddlers to the very, very old; we have a loud speaker in the middle off the street !!! My kind neighbour shared her family BBQ with us by passing food over the fence. We make sure every single house hold is ok daily either through our Facebook page or a wave whilst out on our daily exercise, or a quick text or call. We also share practical info like a company who kindly came & emptied our brown bins. It's a great feeling for everyone, knowing we are all apart but together.

Other information

CHANGES Community Health Project are a community mental health project local to East Lothian who work with people experiencing mental health issues. If you are struggling or would like to find out more contact 0131 653 3977 (Mon-Fri 10am-2pm) or email info@changeschp.org.uk.

Mental Health First Response Service appt 07966 526452

Breathing Space—0800 83 85 87

The Samaritans—08457 909090 **NHS 24**—111



Wash your hands.



Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes.



Avoid touching your face.