

You should have all received a copy of the Panel News which is full of information about the different ways we support our members during the lockdown. You can find out about the hard work and activities undertaken by the groups, Executive Committee and our priorities going forward.

To see the Panel News, visit www.eltrp.co.uk/panel-news.html.

ELTRP held a Zoom QUIZ to get together with tenants and residents and test our knowledge on different topics. It was a great opportunity to lift our spirits up and to engage with the digital world.

ELTRP continues their meetings online. We have upgraded our 'Zoom' package and Sue is available to create and facilitate meetings with Office Bearers, TRAs and any wider TRA meetings. If you need Sue's help, please contact her at scairns@eastlothian.gov.uk.

ELTRP is also putting together a leaflet with 'Hints and Tips' about using various platforms for online meetings. We are open to help tenants and residents to set up and use Zoom, Skype and Microsoft Teams. If you need any help, contact tenantspanel@hotmail.com.

Membership forms - We are still open for new members to join ELTRP until 31 July 2020. If you'd like to become a member of ELTRP, contact us at tenantspanel@hotmail.com

Please remember to renew your membership as it terminates at the end of July.

Working together to make a difference in the Nungate

Haddington East TRA has been working with Cllr Akhtar to develop and upgrade their local park.



Together they have attained enough funding for a complete overhaul.

This is what Cllr Akhtar had to say "as a Councillor I passionately believe in working alongside your local community to help make a difference.

And this was a perfect example of a local issue that needed to be addressed and the local community deciding how best to take it forward.

Our starting point was a large park area with some of the play equipment having to be removed due to its safety. This left a big park space and a clear message from the local community to improve the local facilities for the children and families in the area. In this situation, Haddington East Tenant's & Residents Association (HETRA) and the Nungate Gala were the perfect local organisations for me to work with to take this forward.

I was delighted to work with Alan Dunton, Chair of HETRA who organised an open community meeting. At the first meeting there was a great turn out and the opportunity to talk to local residents who told us what they would like to see in the playpark. HETRA worked with the local community to come up with ideas as to what they wanted to see in their local area. This gave me enough evidence for an application to the Local Housing Partnership who agreed to fund £50,000 towards the play equipment. The playparks team produced a number of options for the local community to decide upon. For the next stage I'm hugely grateful to Liz McDougal from the Nungate Gala who let me hold a stall at their Santa's Grotto and Christmas tree lighting ceremony. I put the options on display and hundreds of children and families told us their views. The playpark options were also at the Library in Haddington to enable anyone who missed the Christmas event. This helped to determine which option to take forward and it being very clearly decided by the local community. And here we are a new playpark that will be ready over the next week for children to enjoy during the summer holidays. That's how to engage with the local community and make a difference."

Cllr Shamin Akhtar, Haddington & Lammermuir Ward
sakhtar@eastlothian.gov.uk 07718 669 395

Haddington East TRA would like to thank Cllr Akhtar for all her hard work and they are looking forward for the playpark to be completed over the coming months.



Beach Lane TRA are holding their first 'Zoom' TRA meeting on Thursday 30th July at 7pm. The group have a full agenda including cameras, bins storage, cupboards, antisocial behaviour and much more. To join contact beachlanetra@gmail.com or check out their Facebook page: @BeachLaneTRA.



If you're struggling to pay rent, speak to your landlord straight away and let them know your situation. Emergency legislation has been passed to prevent tenants of private and social landlords being evicted for up to 6 months.

If you're a council tenant and you need help or advice, contact the Rent Income team straight away. ELC officers can accept reduced payments or defer payment to a later date. Please continue to pay your rent if you can.

Phone ELC dedicated helpline on 01620 827528

Email rentincome@eastlothian.gov.uk

or visit www.eastlothian.gov.uk/rent

It's also worth checking you're claiming all financial support you may be entitled to:

- Pensioners on a low income may qualify for Housing Benefit (HB) to help towards rent and some service charge costs.

Apply online at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/applyforhb

- Working age people out-of-work or on a low income may be entitled to UC, including some help towards your housing costs.

Apply online at www.gov.uk/universal-credit

- Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) may also be available. You must be entitled to HB or the housing costs part of UC to get a DHP.

Apply online at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/dhp

- Local Housing Allowance has increased in line with market rent in your area. This will help anyone who already claims UC or HB.

Private landlords can apply for a three-month buy-to-let mortgage holiday if tenants are struggling to pay. While they don't have to pass this on to tenants, many will. Speak to them if you need help.

ELTRP staff and EC members continue to work from home and meet through Zoom and Skype, if you need to speak to a member of the ELTRP team we can be contacted as follows:

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

Alex – tenantspanel@hotmail.com

Jim - jimherron1@aol.com

Sue - Scairns@eastlothian.gov.uk or 07946 449362



Website - www.eltrp.co.uk Twitter - <https://twitter.com/EastLothianTRP>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/EastLothianTRP/>

Please stay safe and be assured of our very best wishes at this time from all at



east lothian tenants and residents panel