

NEW FLATS AT CLOVENSTONE



In December 2006 we completed the new build of the following 8 flats to add to our existing stock in Clovenstone Park:

- 2 x 2 person, 1 bedroom flats (one flat is wheelchair accessible)
- 3 x 3 person, 2 bedroom flats
- 3 x 5 person, 3 bedroom flats

These flats were completed and occupied by Christmas.

Solar panels were fitted to the zinc roof, the panels will assist in reducing costs to tenants for the supply of hot water and the zinc roof reduces long-term maintenance costs.

There is also a small recycling area for tenants which holds standard refuse bins along with recycling bins for mixed paper, packaging and glass. A domestic trio bin will be supplied to each flat to assist tenants in dividing their waste.

The new tenants will also have the use of the established private community garden at the rear of the building and the two ground level flats have a small patio area to the rear.

INFO DAY FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN FAMILIES

Saturday 24 February
Sighthill Community Centre
10am to 2pm

This is an event for newly arrived Eastern European families living in the West Edinburgh area. Come along to meet other families living in the local area and to find out more about local services. Information will be available on housing, leisure and recreation, employment, training and educational opportunities on offer in West Edinburgh.

Dzie Informacyjny dla Rodzin z Europy Wschodniej

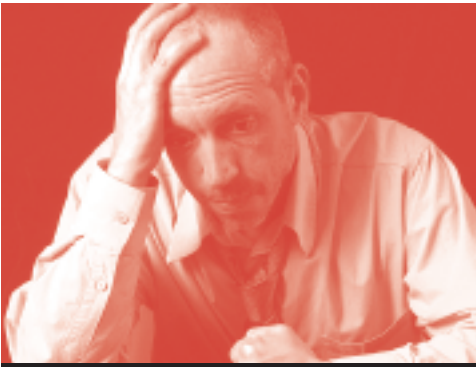
24 Luty 10am - 2pm

Spotkanie odbędzie się w Domu Kultury

(Sighthill Community Education Centre, Sighthill Wynd)

To spotkanie jest zorganizowane dla nowo przybyłych z Europy Wschodniej zamieszkujących we wschodniej części Edynburga. Przyjdź i spotkaj inne rodziny mieszkające w tej dzielnicy i dowiedz się więcej o lokalnych serwisach. Informacje będą dotyczyły różnych dziedzin życia jak: zatrudnienie, wypoczynek, mieszkania, edukacja i inne kursy jakie są dostępne we Wschodnim Edynburgu.

For more information phone **Suzanne West, Community Projects Officer, at Prospect Community Housing on 0131 272 5025**



Insurance

**What would you do if you lost everything in a house fire?
Or your house is broken into and items stolen?
Or you have a flood and your possessions all have to be thrown out?**

If you don't have home contents insurance there is a possibility this could happen to you.

Why not start off the new year by taking out contents insurance. Contact our office for details of a scheme that offers good value contents insurance for all our tenants. For a small cost (from £2.54 per month) you can enjoy the peace of mind of knowing that should you be unfortunate enough to suffer a break-in, flood, fire etc that your possessions are covered.

Did you realise that your tenancy agreement states that it is your responsibility to have contents insurance? Don't take the risk – get yourself covered today.

Medical adaptations – what are they and how do I apply?

Medical Adaptations - a brief description:

A medical adaptation involves upgrading your existing property and/or its facilities in order to meet changing needs. Examples of work we have carried out in the past include:

- Adapting shower / bathing facilities to accommodate tenant requirements such as level floor shower access and wet floor shower areas
- Installation of internal or external grab rails and banisters
- Installation of hoists / stair lifts
- Changing taps

Who Qualifies for Medical Adaptations?

Any tenant or household member who has an Occupational Therapist can be referred, providing they have been assessed as having "need" for the type of works being requested. This referral will be made by the Occupational Therapist on the tenant's behalf. A doctor can refer patients to an Occupational Therapist if the doctor agrees that they require this type of care. Alternatively you can contact an Occupational Therapist through your local Social Work Office.

Who Pays for Medical Adaptations?

Prospect receives a grant each year from Communities Scotland. This amount can vary each year. Once our allocation is spent we then have to apply for further funding to complete any outstanding works. This procedure can take up to 6 months depending on finances.

How Do I Apply?

You need to see an Occupational Therapist (see above). If they agree that an adaptation is required, they will complete the necessary paperwork on your behalf.

Joint Football Project

Sixteen local young people have been improving their football skills and meeting other young people through a joint initiative run by Prospect Community Housing, City of Edinburgh Council and the Wester Hailes Education Centre.

The 13 week project aimed to provide local young people with a constructive alternative to playing football in the street. The initiative partners hope this project has

prevented the risk of anti-social behaviour incidents and brought together young people from neighbouring areas, with the hope of breaking down territorial barriers through the medium of football.

The group will be finishing off this first stage of the project by playing a local team in Sighthill on 22 December and enjoying watching Hibs vs St Mirren on 23rd December.



Above: Children from neighbouring areas in Wester Hailes have been breaking down barriers via the medium of football

Spent too much this Christmas?

It's all too easy to get carried away with Christmas spending, and there's no need to feel embarrassed about getting some help if the bills are a worry.



Prospect's Money Advice Officer (Pete Mowat) can meet with you to offer free and confidential advice about any debt issues that you may have. This service can help by:

- Making sure you are receiving all benefits/tax credits due to you
- Working out a household budget

- Writing to your creditors to agree affordable debt repayments
- Advice on other options, e.g. debt consolidation, Trust deeds, bankruptcy etc.

So start off the New Year with a financial makeover, rather than suffer a debt hangover for months ahead!

For informal and non-judgemental advice at our office or in your home, please contact Pete Mowat to arrange an appointment on the number below.

Pete Mowat Money Advice Officer

Tel: 272 5038

peter.mowat@prospectch.org.uk

Avoid paying legal costs

Did you realise that if Prospect starts legal action against you for rent arrears, you will have to pay our costs even if the arrears are cleared before the case comes to court? These costs are awarded by the court, and are usually around £250.

If you fall into arrears with your rent and want to avoid legal costs adding to the amount you owe to Prospect, contact your Housing Officer immediately to discuss how your rent arrears can be repaid.

DO NOT DELAY CONTACTING US – DELAY CAN MEAN INCREASING THE AMOUNT THAT YOU ARE DUE TO PAY

Start Saving for the Year ahead



If you want to ease the cost of next Christmas, or put aside money for a Summer Holiday, why not open a Capital Credit Union (CCU) savings account?

With a CCU savings account, you can deposit whatever money you can afford every week or month, and earn a competitive rate of interest. Unlike companies like Fairpak, CCU are regulated exactly like a bank so you know your money is safe.

As a member of CCU you can also access affordable loans and insurances etc. They have also just launched two types of current bank account.

You can find out more information in the enclosed leaflet, by phoning them on **0845 634 9901**, or by visiting their website on **www.capitalcreditunion.com**

Tenant and Community Participation Strategy

Prospect are currently reviewing our Tenant and Community Participation Strategy. This document sets out how we will involve our tenants and communities in the decisions that we take and the service that we deliver.

We will be involving the Neighbourhood Councils in this review. We also want to involve as many individual tenants as possible. If you want the opportunity to comment on this policy review, please contact Brendan Fowler on **0131 272 5018**

TENNER PRIZE DRAW



There were six prizes up for grabs in the October TENNER prize draw. The overall winner, who received a cheque for £250 was **Mr Robertson** of Clovenstone Gardens.

The five runners up prizes of £50 were **Miss Cairns** of Clovenstone Gardens, **Mrs Ewesor** of Clovenstone Drive, **Mrs Lazim** of Morvenside, **Mr Clark** of Walkers and **Mrs McVey** of Dumbeg.

The next TENNER prize draw will be held in April – to be included in the draw all you have to do is keep your rent account clear from January to March 2007, and make sure that any rechargeable invoices you receive are paid on time.

The 'Stand Up Together' Campaign

Developed in partnership by Lothian & Borders Police and the City of Edinburgh Council, the 'Stand Up Together' campaign is designed to specifically tackle those crime types that have the biggest impact on our local communities.

Crimes of vandalism, theft and criminal anti-social behaviour in communities across the Pentlands Police Area currently account for a significant portion of the total crimes recorded in the area.

These crime types have a considerable impact on communities, but it is often the case that incidents either go unreported to the police or the Council or, if they are, little information is forthcoming about the culprits. Sadly, allowing

these quality of life issues to go undetected and unchallenged has a detrimental effect on individuals within the community and the community as a whole.

The 'Stand Up Together' campaign will involve a number of local initiatives, which will focus on crime prevention, crime detection and public reassurance. A key component of the campaign will be to encourage effective partnership working,



not just between voluntary and professional agencies, but also with the community. Seeking public

assistance in obtaining information about crimes and culprits will be of singular importance.

Police Message Broadcast – Police.uk

As part of the "Stand up Together" campaign we are launching the Police Message Broadcast

The Police Message Broadcast system is a means of sending you up to date local Police and community information by either telephone, e-mail or text message, it can also be used for you to reply to us, by e-mail, with any information you have, which can help us make your community a safer place. We will again be working in partnership with a variety of local agencies aiming at

reducing the amount of thefts, vandalism and anti-social crimes being reported and to increase the amount being solved.

You can register in one of three ways, you do not have to give your name or address, and can register up to 3 postcodes for finding out information at more than one place, for example at a work place as well as your home.

Register at:
www.police.uk or text **POLICE** then your postcode to **88588** or fill in the form that you can uplift from your local police station.

If you would like further information then please visit www.police.uk or www.lbp.police.uk or email us on police.uk@lbp.pnn.police.uk or phone us on 0131 561 6136.



The Police will be working with a variety of local agencies with the aim of reducing crimes such as vandalism amongst others.