



West Granton

Housing Co-op
sustaining and championing
the co-operative way

WINTER 2021

newsletter

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

WGHC would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The WGHC Office will close at 4.00pm on Thursday 23rd December 2021.

The Office will re-open at 9.15am on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

During this time period our phone lines will be closed and there will be no staff on site.

#RentFirst

Christmas is getting closer, but don't let that take priority over paying your rent. If you're struggling, get in touch.



EMERGENCY REPAIRS over the Festive Period

Whilst the office is closed please telephone your emergency repairs through to Hanover Telecare on **0800 917 8039**.

Gas Central Heating Emergencies

McGills (formerly Kingdom Gas) on **01334 650452 OR 0800 3899 463**.

Please remember to report ONLY emergency repairs over the holiday period.



WGHC helps with local Bonfire Initiative

Working alongside Police Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council, WGHC helped out with Operation Crackle and Operation Moonbeam within the local area. Between 25th October and 8th November, WGHC helped to clear small areas in the local community where bonfire debris had been left or where items had been dumped and posed a danger of being set on fire over the period.



WGHC spreads a little 'Christmas cheer' to local primary school



Keen to foster local community relations within our area of operation, WGHC have just donated 10 Android Tablets to the Forthview Primary School. The tablets had been in use by the WGHC committee of management during the Covid-19 lockdown whilst committee meetings were

undertaken virtually. However, since July, committee meetings have been undertaken physically again and these valuable resources were sitting idle. The tablets were re-formatted (all data removed and returned to factory settings) and, charged and sanitised. This means they were provided to the school in an 'as new' condition and are ready to be used.

Forthview Primary School's Family Support Teacher, Tracey Berry, couldn't thank the committee and tenants of WGHC enough for their thoughts and support toward the school and, especially, the children and the impact the tablets will have.

Some children will be 'gifted' these as Christmas presents as it is known some families will be struggling to provide gifts for their children.

Service Update



Kingdom Gas has become part of The McGill Group

We would like to advise that, following a recent merger, Kingdom Gas has become part of The McGill Group, and will be forming their all-new Gas Division.

The McGill Group is a Dundee-based contractor working across Scotland.

We will continue to work with the same team of people and there will be no changes to the engineers that currently work with our properties. Their contact details will also remain the same.

McGills (formerly Kingdom Gas)

Telephone: **01334 650452** OR **0800 3899 463**.

Heatingservices@mcgill.co.uk

“Ring Ring” – CCTV – An update

WGHC are aware that some tenants have installed, or wish to install, CCTV cameras or Ring* (cctv enabled) doorbells to their tenancies for various reasons.

WGHC do not have authorisation to grant permission due to the privacy concerns that can occur in this area. The rules/laws regarding CCTV installations are monitored and enforced by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

In the United Kingdom, we have the UK GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and the DPA (Data Protection Act 2018) and it is clear these laws have to be followed.

CCTV used on your property will usually be exempt from the DPA **unless you are capturing footage of individuals outside your property, neighbours, tenants, visitors, shared or public spaces, i.e. beyond your boundary.**

However, regardless of whether your CCTV system is exempt, the ICO indicates that you use CCTV in a responsible way to protect the privacy of others.

Just recently, in the case of Fairhurst v Woodard, the claimant (Fairhurst) raised legal action against her neighbour (Woodard) in respect of a cctv enabled doorbell and other cctv cameras located on Woodard's property.

The Court determined that Woodard's use of a video doorbell camera and CCTV both harassed Fairhurst and breached the Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA”) and the UK GDPR. They stated that while Woodard might have been justified in installing the cameras for crime prevention reasons, his use of CCTV breached both the DPA and UK GDPR. The ICO has advised that if an individual's CCTV system, which includes cctv enabled doorbells, records images of people beyond the boundary of their home, the UK data protection legislation is applicable.

As such, questions that should be considered by tenants before installing CCTV include:

- Do you really need CCTV or a CCTV enabled doorbell?
- Do you have a clear and justified reason for capturing footage of neighbouring properties and/or tenants, residents, visitors?
- Are there other things that could be used to protect your property, such as better lighting?

*other CCTV enabled doorbells are also available.



- Can you position the cameras to avoid intruding on neighbours, their property and any other shared or public spaces?
- Can you disable audio or ‘blur out’ any areas outside your boundary?

Both the UK Government and ICO have released guidance surrounding the use of domestic CCTV systems. Whilst we cannot become embroiled in disputes over CCTV installations, it would be appropriate for us to advise tenants seeking to install a CCTV device aware of:

- Any nuisance obligations within your tenancy agreement; and,
- ICO or Government guidance

Further information from the ICO is here:

<https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/domestic-cctv-systems-guidance-for-people-using-cctv/>

New WGHC Fuel Assistance Initiative

In November, the Committee approved WGHC's New Fuel Assistance Initiative for Tenants. All new tenants (including internal transfer tenants) will now receive a £50 credit on their gas or electric meter/account after having signed their tenancy agreement. This is to help those who are in housing need with rising fuel costs at the start of their tenancy and forms part of our focus on tenancy sustainment.

Committee Matters

Remember, you can find a copy of the Minutes from the Committee Meetings from our web site www.westgrantonhousing.coop

Your Committee of Management is:

Wendy Riordan (Chairperson)

George Thomson (Vice Chair)

Colin Fraser (Treasurer)

Elizabeth Robertson

Donna Anderson

Stacey Powch-Scott

George Nicol

Amanda Aitchison

Joe Moir

Lorna Brown

Marilyn Dickson

Jim Hemphill

Fiona Marshall

Editorial Apology

In the September Newsletter, **George Nicol's** name was missed from the list of the named Members of the Committee of Management.

We would like to sincerely apologise to Mr Nicol for this omission and confirm that at the AGM on 6th September 2021, Mr George Nicol was elected on to the WGHC Committee of Management.

The published list has been amended and is detailed above.

This list is correct as at the time of this newsletter being published (30.11.21).



Household Waste Recycling Centres opening hours over Christmas & New Year

All recycling centres will be closed on:

25-26 December • 1-2 January

They will be open for bookings as normal on all other dates.