

Subject: Tenant / resident participation January – March 2019

By: Jennifer Ferguson, Tenant & Resident Participation Officer

Welcome to the first quarterly update on our tenant participation. This will give you a flavour of the work carried out from January to March 2019. If you would like to know more, or have any suggestions for new activity, please get in touch.

We hold a tenants' drop in on the third Tuesday of each month and this year's topics so far have been: **community benefits** through our contractors; **close cleaning**, and a review of our **allocations policy**.



Upcoming topics include -

April: The **new Scottish Secure Tenancy**

May: **Tenant Participation Strategy review**

June: The Association's annual **Performance Report**

The tenant drop-ins take place at **6pm in Samaritan House**. Please come along and have your say. If you have ideas for future topics let me know

We held our **annual consultation on the proposed rent increase**, and over 300 tenants responded to the rent consultation survey. The Management Committee responded with a **cost of living only increase**, based on CPI (consumer price index) not RPI (retail price index) figures: 2.4%. The consumer price index is usually a lower measure of inflation than the retail price index. The Management Committee also asked staff to consider savings opportunities.



We held a **'Meet the Neighbours' brunch for the tenants of the new build on Butterbiggins / Victoria Road**. This gave residents the chance to meet staff, raise issues, and get to know each other.

We are introducing **tenant brunches for all new residents** which will take place on a quarterly basis. Look out for an invitation if you signed up between January and March.

Residents' Groups

We have 4 residents' groups who are 'registered tenants' organisations'. This means they meet certain criteria (have a constitution, operate democratically, manage funds properly etc). While some of their work is formal (monthly meetings, training on committee skills, finance etc,) they mostly think up imaginative ways to engage with tenants in the wider community

Merrylee RTO:

Held a successful litter pick on Saturday 23 March. Started an art project – Mapping Merrylee - to be part of the Luminare festival in May, and a new project working with men, in partnership with a local church, launching with an event in April.



Govanhill community garden group:

The group is working on an Orchard project and held a ten ton challenge – filling planters with soil in which the fruit trees and bushes were planted at the beginning of April.



We also launched men's woodwork classes as a follow up to International Men's Day in the garden portacabin and attended an event on 'men's sheds'.

MERGE Minority Ethnic Residents Group):

Launched weekly coffee mornings with 6 weeks of art classes in Jan / Feb and sewing classes throughout March into April. The group also met with John McLardie to find out more about being on the Housing Association management committee.



Jamieson Court Residents Group (retirement housing):

Held a daffodil tea for friends and family in March, with support from the Community Champion in ASDA Toryglen.

Other work

We had our 6 monthly factored owners' forum with the new grounds maintenance contractor

We have a group of tenants working with us on our next new build project

We are holding monthly community conversations, bringing the various communities within Govanhill together

We are planning a young tenants' event (ages 18 – 30) at the end of the summer

Look out for the annual garden competition coming soon.

If you want to get in touch with questions or ideas, or get involved with any of the existing groups or activities, or want to set up something new, please phone Jennifer on 0141 636 3668, or email on jferguson@govanillha.org

The next update will be available in July covering April – June, we look forward to sharing that with you soon!

