



## NEW HOMES UPDATE

● We are delighted to announce that planning permission has been granted for a development of 69 homes at Clovenstone Gardens, Edinburgh. Over the past two years we have been working with J. Smart and Co.(Contractors) PLC to develop proposals for the site which is situated off Clovenstone Gardens and Clovenstone Road. There will be a mixture of social rent and mid-market rent properties. We hope that work will start on the site early next year.

**Brendan Fowler**, Director at Prospect Community Housing said,

*“ I am delighted that planning permission has been granted for this exciting development of new homes in Wester Hailes. There is a lack of affordable homes in Edinburgh, with Prospect receiving an average of 150 bids per property we advertise. This development will provide much needed high-quality homes and demonstrates our continued commitment to invest in Wester Hailes. ”*



## PROSPECT

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

● **Due to Scottish Government guidance recommending that offices do not open to the public, we have taken the decision that Prospect's office will not open to the public until January 2021 at the earliest. Nevertheless, Prospect staff remain contactable by phone, text and email during office hours and we are now providing a full range of services:**

We are back up and running as normal with regard to undertaking all day to day repairs, empty property work and exchanges. Our contractors are all available to undertake work in your home with the appropriate controls in place as outlined by the Scottish Government. Please do call us about any repairs or work that you feel needs to be inspected by our staff.

Our planned maintenance programme has also started back on site and all remaining properties that still require to receive their new smoke detectors will be contacted soon to arrange access for our contractor to undertake this work. We are also undertaking our electrical checks to various properties and our external painting programme is progressing at Clovenstone Drive and will move to Clovenstone Park soon.

We are re-letting empty properties in a way which is safe for both new tenants and staff. This has included increased use of phone calls, videos of the properties, and safe methods for signing tenancy agreements. We advertise our available properties via **keytochoice.co.uk**.

● **Web:** [www.prospectch.org.uk](http://www.prospectch.org.uk)

● **Email:** [enquiries@prospectch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@prospectch.org.uk)

● **Tel:** 0131 458 5480

● **Text:** 07860 047548

● **Twitter:** @prospectch

**Prospect Community Housing**  
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Edinburgh  
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Prospect Community Housing is a registered charity. No. SC029797






# Empower Yourself

Learn how to use your computer or device for day-to-day life

Easy to follow tutorials with Joanne via Zoom

**Every Thursday**  
10am - 11am

Contact Joanne on 07398603969 for Zoom access details.



## PROSPECT'S AGM GOES VIRTUAL FOR 2020!

On 22 September Prospect members gathered, through Zoom, to hold the AGM for the last financial year.

Chairperson, Milind Kolhatkar, talked about achievements including spending over £1 million on improving our properties and the strong links with other local agencies to deliver a variety of community projects. He updated members on ambitious plans to build 95 new homes over a three-year period, starting with the proposed development of 69 flats at Clovenstone Gardens. Members were able to approve the audited accounts, nominate the new management committee and appoint the external auditor.

### Prospect's Management Committee members for 2020 to 2021 are:

Shulah Allan  
Sheila Bunt  
Simon Campbell  
Mo Connolly  
Alwyn Gee  
Milind Kolhatkar  
Naomi MacKenzie

Mary MacRaid  
Peter Matthews  
Amanda Miller  
Kudakwashe Moyo  
Chuks Ododo  
Jolly Oluka

● We want to encourage wide membership from all parts of the local community. Prospect members have the opportunity to influence decisions and to help shape how we manage our homes and run the organisation. Being a member means you can attend and vote at our Annual General Meeting. Membership only costs £1, contact Prospect to find out more and apply.



## Keeping your community safe during bonfire season

In the past few years there has been firework-related and antisocial behaviour in this area. We will be taking immediate and strong action against offenders, but you can help too, by please

- going to a safely organised bonfire and fireworks display
- not allowing your children or young people to handle, buy or set-off fireworks
- reporting any antisocial behaviour you hear of or see
- reporting fly tipping or not leaving anything out that could be used for a bonfire
- reporting any illegal selling of fireworks
- reporting any unauthorised firework displays or bonfires


**Please help us keep your community safe during bonfire season**

- report illegal, unlit bonfires or flytipping to [waste@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:waste@edinburgh.gov.uk) or 0131 200 2000
- report antisocial behaviour to 101
- report anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555 111



## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS? TELL US

● Please let us know if a tenant or household member has Covid-19 symptoms or is self-isolating. This helps to keep everyone safe including our staff and contractors if they have to visit the property. It would also be very helpful if you could tell us when you have recovered or are no longer self-isolating. For the latest public information on the Coronavirus, please go to [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot).





**KEEP WARM THIS WINTER  
TWO OPTIONS TO HELP SAVE  
ON YOUR BILLS**

**1 Warm Home Discount Scheme**

You could get £140 off your electricity bill under the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The money is not paid to you but is a one-off discount on your bill, between September and March. You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both. The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment. You can still get the discount if you use a pre-pay or pay-as-you-go electricity meter. Your electricity supplier can tell you how you'll get the discount if you're eligible, for example a voucher you can use to top up your meter.

You qualify for support if you get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit; if you are in this category you should get a letter from the Pension Service telling you how to claim. Or if you are on Universal Credit or a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria, you can apply via their website, [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme).

**2 Electric and Gas Coronavirus Voucher Scheme**

Prospect has been given access to a charitable fund which can provide vouchers to help with your gas and electricity costs if your income had dropped as a result of the current Coronavirus pandemic. To be eligible for a voucher you must:

- Have a prepayment meter which is not a smart meter
- Top up your meter at the Post Office or Paypoint
- Have lost income or had increased expenses as a result of Covid-19/Coronavirus
- Be experiencing difficulty paying for your gas and electricity

Vouchers are £28 for a single household and £49 for a family and you can apply for a maximum of 3 vouchers before the scheme ends on 27th November.

If you think you might be eligible for either of these schemes, please contact our **Welfare Rights Officer Fiona McLuckie (07908951297/fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk)** who can give you further information.



**JOB UNCERTAINTY**

**We recognise that the Coronavirus pandemic is affecting all of us in a huge number of ways with every day bringing new challenges.**

One concern is that people are either losing their jobs or working reduced hours, resulting in smaller incomes coming into the home.

We want to reassure our tenants that we are aware of this and want to work with our tenants affected in this way as follows:

**➤ If you currently receive housing benefit, tax credits or disability benefits and have a reduction in working hours or lose your job:**

Please contact our Welfare Rights Adviser, **Fiona McLuckie** and she can help you assess which benefit will be best for you. Email [fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk](mailto:fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk) or phone **07908 951297**.

**➤ If you lose your job and you are NOT currently receiving any other benefits:**

✔ You should apply for Universal Credit (UC). This is a payment for working age people which will help with your living costs. If you're eligible, you'll receive a monthly or fortnightly payment into a bank account. You can apply for Universal Credit at [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit)

✔ Speak to your Housing Officer if you are applying for Universal Credit, they can offer you advice and guidance on how to apply and the implications for you. Email us on [housing@prospectch.org.uk](mailto:housing@prospectch.org.uk) or phone us on **0131 458 5480**.

✔ If you choose to take an advanced payment, please make sure you make a payment to your rent. Bear in mind, if you take an advance payment, this will need to be paid back over the next 12 months and so it will be taken off each of your monthly UC payments.

✔ We recommend that you ask for your UC housing costs (the contribution towards your rent) to be included in the payment you receive. You can then pay all of your rent due to us each month. There is an option for people in Scotland called the Scottish Choices where you can choose for your payments to come directly to Prospect. We do not recommend you chose this as this often results in significant arrears on your account. Please talk to us if you are thinking about this.

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## GETTING INVOLVED

[www.prospectch.org.uk](http://www.prospectch.org.uk)

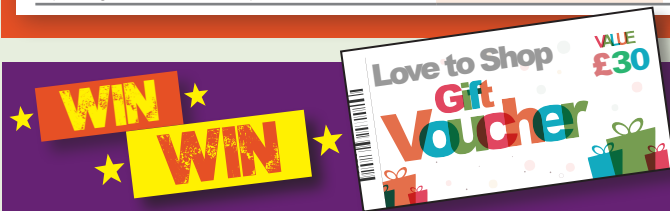
@prospectch

[www.facebook.com/FromThereToHereaWesterHailesStory](https://www.facebook.com/FromThereToHereaWesterHailesStory)

## CATCH UP WITH PROSPECT

After a break we'll start these again with socially distanced measures in place.

Street	Date	Time
Barn Park Crescent	Thursday 5 November	2pm - 2.30pm
Dumbeg Park	Thursday 5 November	2.30pm - 3pm
Morvenside Close	Thursday 5 November	3pm - 3.30pm
Walkers	Tuesday 3 November	2pm - 3pm
Clovenstone Park (starting at No.12)	Wednesday 11 November	11am - 12.30pm
Clovenstone Drive (starting at No. 19)	Wednesday 11 November	11am - 12.30pm
Clovenstone Gardens (starting at No. 1)	Wednesday 11 November	11am - 12.30pm
Westburn Village & Morvenside (starting at Prospect's office)	Monday 16 November	10am-11.30am



## KEEP PROSPECT UPDATED ON WHO LIVES IN YOUR HOME

Look out for an update on the information we hold on who is living with you coming through post in the next month. Please remember to complete and return it to us, either on the paper form or via the text survey. This is important for you to be able to benefit from all your tenancy rights. **All replies will be entered into a prize draw to win £30 Love to Shop Vouchers.**



## TENANTS' FORUM MEETS ON ZOOM

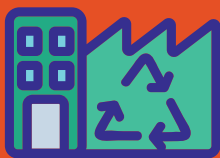
In July, Prospect's Tenants' Forum held its first lockdown meeting via Zoom and welcomed new people along as well as some regular members.

From the safety of their own homes, the group were able to discuss Prospect's delivery of services during the lockdown period and gave very positive feedback.

At our next Tenants' Forum meeting on **Wednesday 28 October 2020 at 11am**, we'll be talking about Prospect's performance. If you are a Prospect tenant and you would like to attend the next meeting, please contact us. If you are online but have not used Zoom before, we can make sure you feel confident joining the meeting.



## KEEP WESTER HAILES TIDY



Edinburgh Council have restarted their special uplifts for bulky waste items. You can have up to 5 items per household collected, at a cost of £5 per item. You can use this service for large household items such

as mattresses, furniture, TVs, washing machines etc. Uplifts must be booked through the council's website. [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/bulkywaste).

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR TOLERANCE

We want to thank tenants for continuing to support each other during these challenging times. We understand how difficult everyday life can be especially through lockdown. Lots of people and families have different lifestyles and as we are all now spending more time at home you may be aware of more household noises, especially if you live in a flat or a stair. We would encourage everyone to be tolerant of our neighbours as we are all going through this together. But we also ask that you are respectful of how your noise or behaviour can affect others.

## OUR VISION:

PROVIDING HOMES AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

## OUR VALUES:

PIONEERING RELIABILITY LISTENING FAIRNESS PARTNERSHIP