

5 June 2021

# NEWSPOINT EXTRA

Viewpoint Community E-Bulletin

Number 32

## Covid—It's Not Over Yet

News this week is that Fife and East Lothian are moving to level 1 as planned but Edinburgh and Midlothian will stay at level 2. This is a stark reminder that covid has not gone away, and in fact at her briefing on Tuesday Nicola Sturgeon said

*'The considerable downside that we face just now is the Indian, or April-0.2 variant – which was renamed last night by the World Health Organisation as Delta.....*

*This variant is spreading faster than previous variants of the virus, and we now believe that it accounts for well over half of our new daily cases. Because of that, Scotland's R number is almost certainly above 1 right now. And, as we know from past, painful experience, that makes our situation highly precarious.....*

*But it is important to stress that this is a pause, not a step backwards.*

*And Level 2 is not lockdown. It does have an impact on opening hours of pubs and restaurants and the numbers that can attend certain events. But we can still meet indoors in limited numbers, and outdoors in groups of 8 people from 8 households. Hospitality remains open - indoors and outdoors - and so does retail, and there are no travel restrictions in place. And taking a cautious approach now - while more people get fully vaccinated – does give us the best chance of staying on the right track overall.*

*So to everyone in these areas, please continue to be careful. Follow all of the important guidance on hygiene, distancing and face coverings. Keep getting tested. And come forward to be vaccinated as soon as you get the opportunity.....'*

I have heard many stories in the past week from Viewpoint tenant about other tenants not wearing masks in the corridors and not socially distancing sitting in the sun. It appears that some people are assuming that the vaccine makes it alright to do these things.

### Well it's not!

The vaccine does not give 100% protection from the virus and it is not clear if the virus can still be transmitted by those who have had the vaccine.

1 in 3 people who have coronavirus do not show any symptoms.

At the end of her address to the Scottish Parliament Nicola Sturgeon sums up what we all need to do

*'I would ask everybody to please continue to stick to the rules where you live, and follow the public health advice. Physical distancing, hand-washing, face coverings – all of this is still important for now. These basic precautions will reduce our chances of getting or spreading the virus.'*

### PLEASE ENSURE YOU FOLLOW THE FACTS!

**Keep yourself and everyone else as safe as possible**



**FACE COVERINGS**



**AVOID CROWDS**



**CLEAN HANDS**



**TWO METRES**



**SELF-ISOLATE**

**Book a test if you have symptoms.**

**Protecting all of us,  
takes all of us.**

To read Nicola Sturgeon's full statement go to <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-1-june-2021/>

# Useful Information

## Housing Support Service Survey is Underway

All tenants within our Sheltered, Enhanced Sheltered and Alarmed sites should have received a survey as part of the service redesign process. If you haven't received yours yet please look out for it arriving soon through your letterbox.

This is a real opportunity to have your say on what services will look like from April 2022. Don't miss out!

The results from the questionnaire will be used to develop future services so we encourage as many people as possible to complete and return the survey via the prepaid envelope provided by **Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2021**.

If you have any questions about the survey please get in touch with the Project Team by emailing [hsreviewproject@viewpoint.org.uk](mailto:hsreviewproject@viewpoint.org.uk) or by telephone on **0131 668 0355** during normal business hours.

We cannot wait to hear your opinions

**Pamela & Christopher**

**The Redesign Project Team**

If you have misplaced your survey and wish another copy you can obtain one by

1. Emailing [j.brown@ibp.eu.com](mailto:j.brown@ibp.eu.com)
2. Telephone 01698 532 021

And ask for a copy of the Housing Support Review Survey for Viewpoint tenants.

**Your Local Council** website has information about service disruptions in your area and also links to assistance during the pandemic.

Fife: [www.fife.gov.uk](http://www.fife.gov.uk)

East Lothian: [www.eastlothian.gov.uk](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk)

Mid Lothian: [www.midlothian.gov.uk](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk)

Edinburgh: [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)

## GET TO KNOW THE COVID PROTECTION LEVELS



Stopping the spread starts with all of us

It's difficult to know what each level means and now that different areas are on different rules it is even harder.

The Scottish Government Guidance document will be sent with the Newsletter. As things change use this as a point of reference.

We need to know this information, we need to follow the rules and keep everyone safe.

## SURVEY

a list of questions  
used to collect  
information or  
opinions



# Common Areas Update

From Anne McCarry, Head of @Home and Housing Support

We are still working on the risk assessments around the re-opening of the common areas in our sheltered complexes.

The Scottish Government was supposed to be issuing guidance to supported housing providers on re opening of common areas within sheltered housing sites, but this keeps getting delayed and as yet no guidance has been forth coming.

Whilst we totally understand the effect this is having on tenants we have to be mindful that we do not end up with a Covid outbreak within our developments. Just because most people have had the 2 vaccinations, it does not stop us from getting the virus nor stop us from potentially spreading the virus.

Hence the time it is taking to get the rooms back open again.

Please be assured we are working hard on this in the back ground and as soon as we have finalised how this will work, we will indeed move to get the rooms back open again.

Hopefully with the good weather you are making the most of being able to meet outside in small groups. (socially distancing of course!)



## Offices at 4 South Oswald Road Remain Closed

The Executive Team has reviewed this further, in light of the current situation and Government guidance, and the decision has been taken that staff will continue to work from home until the end of September 2021. We hope that this will support, not only with ensuring the safety of our tenants and our staff. We can still be contacted by telephone, email and letter and via our website.

**Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need advice, assistance or just a chat.....**

Telephone 0131 668 4247

Email [admin@viewpoint.org.uk](mailto:admin@viewpoint.org.uk)

Website [www.viewpoint.org.uk](http://www.viewpoint.org.uk)



# Gardening Contract Update



We understand that the gardening contract remains of concern to some of you, and there has been some criticism of the new contractor, Glendale, operating in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

The contractor has recently identified the need to put in additional resources, with this being a new contract and the recent sporadic weather patterns, there is a huge amount of work to do to bring the areas back to an acceptable standard. In the short term, the priority has to remain in the critical areas-grass cutting and spraying. Some of the work will not be done until later in the year, due to the sheer volume and, as cutting back some of these items now would be detrimental to their future wellbeing.



We will shortly be producing a printed newsletter to enable all tenants to be updated on the gardening contract and to give you more information on what is due to happen on a regular basis.



It would be great if you could let me know what kind of information you would like to be included in this. You can contact me by email, text or telephone on:

Email to:

[tp@viewpoint.org.uk](mailto:tp@viewpoint.org.uk)

Telephone or text me:

**07554 389 180**

Can you let me know by **Wednesday 16 June 2021** and then we can make sure that you are getting information that you want and need.?





Remembrance > Remembrance events >

# D-Day

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.



**READ MORE OR SEE SOME FABULOUS PHOTOS OR POSTERS**

- **D-Day Facts About the Epic Invasion** including how bad weather caused a 24 hours delay in the start of operations—<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/d-day>
- **10 things you need to know about D day** at—<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-10-things-you-need-to-know-about-d-day>

Both of these sites will link you to so much information, photographs and posters of the time.





Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot



tenant  
participation  
advisory service

Scotland's Participation Experts



# The Scottish Social Housing Charter – time for another look

The Charter was introduced in 2012 as part of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010, it sets the standards and outcomes that all social landlords should be achieving when performing their housing activities.

The Charter is reviewed by the Scottish Government every 5 years and it's that time again!

**TPAS** and **TIS** on behalf of the Scottish Government are hosting a series of consultation events, aimed at **Tenants, Landlords, Councillors & RSL Board Members** to find out whether the Charter needs changed in any way.

The events will last for 2 hours, places are limited! **BOOK NOW!**  
You can book into an event at a time that suits you – timetable overleaf.  
Consultation sessions are all online, both TPAS and TIS can help you get on-line.

To book a **TPAS** event contact **TPAS Scotland** please telephone:  
**0141 552 3633** or you can email [enquiries@tpasscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tpasscotland.org.uk)

To book a **TIS** event please telephone:  
**0141 248 1242** or you can email [info@tis.org.uk](mailto:info@tis.org.uk)



## The Scottish Social Housing Charter

# Free consultation events

## **DATES & TIMES**

There are 6 events for Tenants and 6 events for Landlords, Councillors & RSL Board Members.

Alongside the virtual consultation events a formal Scottish Government consultation will be launched in June. Feedback from these sessions will be included as part of the consultation process.

Link to the current Charter -

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-social-housing-charter-april-2017/>

**Book early to guarantee your place.** Contact TPAS or TIS for the event you would like to attend. When you have booked your places you will be sent instructions on how to join the event, and If you need it, you will also get advice and support on how to join in.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Platform</i>	<i>Book with</i>
Monday 21st June	2 - 4pm	Landlords	Zoom	TIS
Tuesday 22nd June	10 - 12pm	Tenants	Zoom	TIS
Monday 28th June	2 - 4pm	Landlords	Teams	TIS
Tuesday 29th June	2 - 4pm	Tenants	Zoom	TIS
Tuesday 29th June	6 – 8pm	Tenants	Zoom	TIS
Wednesday 30th June	2 - 4pm	Landlords	Zoom	TIS
Tuesday 6th July	2 - 4pm	Tenants	Zoom	TPAS
Wednesday 7th July	2 - 4pm	Landlords	Zoom	TPAS
Tuesday 13th July	2 - 4pm	Landlords	Teams	TPAS
Wednesday 14th July	10 - 12pm	Tenants	Zoom	TPAS
Wednesday 14th July	2 - 4pm	Tenants	Zoom	TPAS
Thursday 15th July	2 - 4pm	Tenants	Zoom	TPAS

To book your free place with TPAS please phone 0141 552 3633 or you can email [enquiries@tpasscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tpasscotland.org.uk)

To book your free place with TIS please phone 0141 248 1242 or you can email [info@tis.org.uk](mailto:info@tis.org.uk)



# And Finally....

## The Same Boat by Julie Sheldon

'We're all in the same boat' they say  
But I would disagree  
So many different sailing crafts  
Upon this stormy sea

Some sail on ocean liners  
In comfort, style, and ease  
Relaxing on their balconies  
....Sipping their G & Ts

Some speed along in motor boats  
As if it's all ok.....  
With little care for smaller crafts  
Which may get in their way

Some struggle on their battleships  
Where nothing's going right  
Endlessly preparing.....  
For the next relentless fight

Some huddle in their lifeboats...  
And pray that they'll be saved  
Hoping for a calmer sea...  
And fearing every wave

Some drift around upon their rafts....  
They barely stay afloat  
They're praying for a change of luck...  
And chance to board a boat

Some haven't found their sea legs yet....  
And dread each wave and swell  
They're struggling to stay upright  
And don't feel very well

So whilst you're on your journey  
To a safe and calmer port  
Look out for fellow sailors  
Who may need some support

Could you throw them a life belt?  
Or a paddle or an oar?  
Perhaps you could help guide them  
A bit nearer to the shore



## Ledbury Poetry Festival

Ledbury Poetry Festival is the biggest, brightest, most superlatively international celebration of poetry and spoken word in the UK. Surrounded by woods, orchards and hills, poets from all over the world gather in this independent market town to perform, write, read and listen to poetry.

They have published some poems received during the pandemic. The poem above was one of these and says it all!

To read more poems or to see what else is going on go to

<https://www.poetry-festival.co.uk/lockdown-poems/>

