

Claremont Court Residents Association Minutes of Last Meeting

6.30pm Wednesday 8th December 2010
Redbraes Park Centre

Agenda

1. Repairs to roof
2. Changes to refuse chutes and collection
3. Antisocial behaviour in stairwells

Attendees

Rebecca Bridgland
Lewis Press
Marie Renwick & Chris Casares-Bacon
Anne Larkin
Hazel Quinn & Mark Grieve
Holly Curless
John & Joanna Menzies
Margaret & John Eddington
Norma Summers
Ross Lyall

Welcome from David Thomson Edinburgh Tenants Association

David explains the role of a residents association. He also explains the need for a committee to run the association, that the committee needs to apply to be a residents association to get any grants that we might be entitled to and also the need for a constitution.

Appointment of an interim committee

Rebecca Bridgland – Chairperson
Marie Renwick – Secretary
Lewis Press – Treasurer

The interim committee will meet up to discuss the application to become a residents association and starting drafting a constitution. The committee appointments shall be reviewed at the next meeting.

Notes from meeting

1. Repairs to roof

Repairs to the roofs were organised by the previous residents association, the work started in 2002 and finished in 2003. There have been complaints from some residents about damp patches in their ceilings and walls. Many residents have also noticed rainwater draining down the brickwork on the side of the building and vegetation growing on walls and ledges.

Rebecca mentioned the birds-eye view of the building available to see on <http://maps.google.co.uk/>, it shows the building at the back of the complex has a different roof finish than the other 3 blocks. Residents present at the meeting who lived in Claremont Court while the original

building work was done said that the back block was completed by a different building contractor and this could explain the difference in work.

John brought information on the quotes and costs for the original building work and will also look out any guarantees. Rebecca will collate and photocopy this paperwork and contact the architects in charge of the project to find out if there is a guarantee covering the work, how long this lasts for and ultimately with an aim to get someone (from the architects office or council) to look at the building.

2. Refuse collections

All residents recently received a letter from Edinburgh Council detailing the changes to the refuse collection from Claremont Court. The bin chutes will be sealed up and large black bins are to be placed in the court as a replacement. Attendees noted their concerns with the present refuse system; the chutes getting blocked up, the council not picking up as often as promised, a homeless man living in the bin area to the front of the block, fire hazards and vans dumping commercial waste in a residential refuse area.

Some residents contacted the council to find out where these replacement bins would be placed, the council plan to put these bins beside the new recycling bins that recently appeared across from the garages. Again attendees voiced their concerns with the new plans; fire hazard for flats situated near the large bins, access to the bins as residents cars are parked there, the old rubbish chutes being welded shut in such a way that it changes the look of the building, especially if the building is in the process of becoming listed. Historic Scotland have contacted the council regarding the sealing of the bins chutes and the work is now on hold pending the application to get the building listed.

3. Anti social behaviour in common areas

Attendees discussed antisocial behaviour in stairways and areas around the block from evidence of drug use to the bin area being used as a toilet. It was suggested that we contact our Community Drug Liaison Officer, the City of Edinburgh Council and also look into setting up a Neighbourhood Watch.

It was also suggested that we could create a short leaflet and get a new notice board so that all residents would have access to the phone numbers/email addresses/addresses of different local organisations who would deal with complaints and suggestions.

Ultimately all attendees said that by creating more of a community spirit and looking out for each other we would be able to have a clean and safe environment for all residents.

Any other business

All attendees were asked if they had any other matters they wished to discuss and also further ideas for future projects the Residents Association could work on.

Parking – there is a problem with other people using the car parking spaces during the day although most drivers living in the block agreed that it's not often they can't get a space when they return in the afternoon. This matter should be kept open for discussion at future meetings.

Block representatives – it was suggested that each block/stair have a representative. This representative could act as a 'go to' for information, take issues forward to the meeting, deliver minutes and notes from meetings etc.

Basil Spence – as residents may or may not know, Claremont Court was designed by a well know architect Sir Basil Spence. Attendees thought that it was important that more people know about the history of the building, the community that Sir Basil Spence was hoping to create when he planned the building as well as the architects other work around Edinburgh and beyond. More information can be found on this website www.basilspence.org.uk and there is also a book available called 'Basil Spence: Architect' ISBN-10: 1906270007.

Gardens – attendees asked if the council are still maintaining the gardens in the block and if so who do we contact to ask that the trees get pruned. It was also suggested that the residents who are interested may want to contribute to the maintenance of the garden.

Welcome pack – for new residents, a summary of how things work at Claremont Court. An introduction, some history, phone numbers and information on bins, car parking, the garden etc.

Block events – for all residents. Suggestions of a tea party for the royal wedding or a BBQ in the summer.

Stair cleaning – set up cleaning rotas or something similar listing what areas need to be cleaned and what flat is responsible when.

Drains – the blocked drains have limiting the amount of water that can be used while cleaning the stair. Rebecca has already contacted the council who have cleaned the drains on the street side of the building. Further attention is needed to the drains in other areas of the block.

Date for next meeting; Wednesday 2nd February