



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY IN THE CRAIGSHILL AREA

Report for East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee

December 2021

ALMOND REPORT ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY ACTIVITY IN THE CRAIGSHILL AREA FOR EAST LIVINGSTON & EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

2021-22 Planned Maintenance Programme

It is proposed that the Association's 2021-22 Planned Maintenance programme will include for a variety of works including new "A" rated boiler installations, new windows, external doors, render/roughcast, fencing, insulation, electrical testing and smoke alarm upgrades.

These works are currently being procured and will be subject to Board approval prior to starting on site.

Below is a summary of the projects planned:

Boiler Upgrades and Full Central Heating Installations

Installation of new 'A-rated' energy efficient gas boilers in 198 properties, some within Craigshill.

Fencing

We are replacing the fencing in the following areas:

Spruce Grove	Hazel Grove	Fir Grove	Yew Grove
Poplar Grove	Pine Grove	Maple Grove	Linden Grove
Willow Grove	Craigswood		

Electrical Installation Condition Reports/USB Sockets/Smoke Detection

We are currently on track to have all our properties upgraded to the new Tolerable Standard for fire safety by February 2022.

We will also have an electrical installation condition report in each of our properties by that date and these inspections will be scheduled every 5 years.

Window and Door Replacements

We plan on replacing windows in 231 properties in Craigshill this year.

External Render/Roughcast

We plan on replacing the render on 42 properties contained within 6 blocks in Fir Grove, Hazel Grove and Juniper Grove this year along with 13 houses in Pine Grove.

Electrical Rewires

We have carried out a pilot project to rewire, replace skirtings, facings and doors, full plaster skim to all walls in a property in Poplar Grove and plan on another in Shiel Walk. If successful, we plan to carry these works out in further properties in the next financial year.

New Entrance Door

We have replaced the entrance door and door entry system at 37-42 Yew Grove.

Energy Efficiency

We are installing solar PV systems onto some properties in Craigshill to reduce electricity bills for tenants.

Landscaping Improvements

We will be carrying out landscaping improvements in Oak Grove to include raised beds and new paving.

Cyclical Decoration

We are carrying out external cyclical decoration in all of the Groves in Craigshill.



Growing Together – Additional Scottish Government Funding Secured until March 2022

Investing In Communities funding has been secured to extend the lifetime of the Craigshill Growing Together project until March 2022. In this next phase of the project, we will be introducing a new partner to work alongside us. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) will provide the practical expertise, resources and training to support us to achieve phase two of the project.

Funding will pay for a TCV Co-ordinator to work in Craigshill 3 days per week until March 2022. Activity will be driven by the residents but will include weekly social gardening sessions, volunteer action days and a series of growing and cooking workshops.



For customers struggling to pay their bills and buy food, the festive season serves as a reminder of their isolation and poverty. Working together, we can help alleviate some of the strain through our 'Operation Happy Christmas' campaign. After another difficult year we want to reach out and help our customers who are facing poverty and our preparations for this year's activities have already begun and will include:



Winter Wellbeing Checks - 350 elderly and vulnerable customers will receive a Winter Wellbeing visit to check on them over the winter and a winter gift pack.

Festive Food Parcels - Festive Food Parcels packed with essential store cupboard items and recipes which will be delivered to tenants in need week.

Xmas Eve Deliveries - Surplus food redistributed by our Community Fridge partners ensuring customers in need have a hot meal over the festive period.

Nominate a Neighbour - We have reintroduced our 'Nominate a Neighbour' initiative. With the successful nominations receiving a festive gift or food hamper.

Children's Christmas Gifts - Distributing toys alongside RiverKids to ensure no child wakes up on Christmas morning without a gift.

A Community Christmas – local residents are leading the way preparing the Rowan Grove community garden for the festive season. The garden will be hosting a series of nature themed activities facilitated by a range of local groups. Mickey & Minnie Mouse will be visiting too, for festive themed storytelling sessions as part of our Imagination Library. If not too busy, Santa might be able to pop along too.

Housing Officer Retirement

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to inform the committee that Sharon Gillies, who worked in Craigshill as a Housing Officer for the Association for the past 13 years, retired in October. She was an immensely dedicated professional and will be missed. As a result, following a successful recruitment process the Association have now appointed our new Housing Officer who is due to start with us in January 2022.