



Pentland Press - Spring 2019

PHA Board Members

Jim Hair, Chair
Colin MacDonald, Vice Chair

Bob Bell
Colin Earnshaw
Andi Wakeman
Elaine Forbes
Gavin Powell
Ian McElroy
Billy Dunbar
Fred Fecitt
Mark Whale

PCE

Neil Robertson, Chair
Jim Kelly
Bob Bell
Colin MacDonald
Billy Dunbar

Audit Committee

Neil Robertson, Chair
Elaine Forbes
Ian McElroy

Staffing Committee

Colin MacDonald, Chair
Ian McElroy
Bob Bell
Andi Wakeman

Health & Safety Committee

Colin Earnshaw, Chair
Colin MacDonald
Gavin Powell
Fred Fecitt

We are turning 25!!

This year Pentland Housing Association is celebrating its 25th Birthday.

We are planning an office open day where tenants are welcome to pop in and get to know the members of staff and find out some more information about the Association.

Keep an eye out for further details.

Nominate Your Neighbour

We are running a "nominate your neighbours garden" competition. Tenants are to send in a picture of their neighbours garden to the PHA office by July 19 with detail on why they deserve to win. The winning tenant will receive a £25 voucher for Castletown Garden Centre.

Please ask your neighbour for permission before taking the photo and that they're happy for you to submit.

This competition only applies to PHA tenants.

Charity Update

This year, we've three charity dress down days taking place on the following dates:

- 29 March 2019
- 28 June 2019
- 27 September 2019

We're looking for suggestions on which charities we should make a donation to.



Office Closures

Easter Holidays - Thursday 18 April 2019 closing at 5pm and reopening Tuesday 23 April 2019 at 9am.

Tenant Board Membership

Are you aged 18 and over and looking to add a new skill set to your CV? Pentland Housing Association have vacant positions to become a voluntary Board Member. We are looking for Tenant's to become members so they can have a voice on the Board.

Please contact Rachel by email on:
rachel@pentlandhousing.co.uk



Rent Consultation 2019

Our Rent Consultation meetings were held during the last week of January to which all occupants and tenants were cordially invited. Feedback from these consultations form part of the decision making process which allow the Board to evaluate their decision regarding the rent levels for 2019/20.

Comments raised regarding our proposals for 2019/20 were presented to the Board at their February meeting and following consideration, the Board have

given their approval to a rent increase of £3.53 per week on all properties. This is in accordance with our current rent policy and will allow the Association to continue to invest in our existing housing stock through our planned maintenance programme and maintain our current service.

If you currently claim Universal Credit, it is very important that you update your journal with the new rent level.

However, if this year's rent increase has added further pressure to your financial position, you may be entitled to

benefits.

The Highland Council offer benefits which are designed to assist individuals or households who are least able to pay for services. Application forms are available at the Pentland Housing Association Office, please liaise with your area officer who will assist you to complete the necessary documents.



Interested in renting a garage?
We have available units/garages in various locations within Thurso.

Please contact Joanne Allan on (01847) 867077 for more information.

Useful Numbers

- NHS 24: 0854 988 11 88
- Scottish Water: 0845 601 88 55
- Citizens Advice:
- Thurso: 01847 874 243
- Wick: 01955 605 989
- Fire and Rescue: 01463 240 999
- SEPA: 0845 988 11 88
- Scottish and Southern Electric: 0800 300 999

Office Numbers

(01847) 892507:

To report a repair, press 1 -

Maintenance team -

Audrey Budge

Kevin Tait

George Crawford

To talk to the house team, press 2 -

Housing Team -

Carol Treasurer

Yvonne Gunn

Lisa Cormack

Gael McCaffery

Handy Person (HP), press 3 -

Dennis Simpson - HP

Bob Strachan - HP Technical

Care & Repair, press 4 -

Gary Parker



Our two energy projects, Money Matters and Draft Busting Caithness and Sutherland, both carry out home visits with the aim to help reduce energy consumption in properties. They offer one to one support, evaluations of energy usage, capacity building in cutting down on energy use, and finding a cheaper method of accessing the energy required.



The Draft Busting Caithness and Sutherland project is available to any property in Caithness, while the Money Matters project is aimed at tenants of social housing throughout the Highlands.