

Residents of a Torrylen housing scheme fear it's only a matter of time before someone is killed after another tile came crashing off a roof following three years of safety complaints about botched refurbishment works.

Home owners in Kerryroy Avenue, who have each shelled out £2200 for extensive works on the exterior of their homes, claim Thistle Housing Association instructed contractor E-ON without consulting them – and gave them just days to find the cash.

The £8.5million work on 608 properties began in January 2016 and was due for completion the following November.

But residents claim the “shoddy” works still incomplete. And after a roof tile came crashing down on his garden path as he washed his windows on Wednesday, in still, sunny weather conditions, Ian Paterson insists this is another example of how a catalogue of building blunders is putting lives at risk.

Ian claims he has a trail of letters and emails sent to Thistle HA highlighting complaints and concerns from home owners and tenants about:

- faulty chimneys and copes
- faulty gutters, with rain water spewing down building elevations
- faulty rendering
- cracked roughcast
- roof tiles falling off
- dampness
- wet insulation.

“I was washing the windows and I heard this rumble, rumble, crash and I got covered in dust,” said 65-year-old Ian, who claims an entire chimney came down in a neighbouring block last August.

“To be honest, I thought the chimney was coming down. Every chimney in Torrylen is faulty.”

“There was the incident in



Demands John and Joan McDermott (front) and their Kerryroy Avenue neighbours want action before someone is injured

August, plus this one here. If that had hit someone on the head, it would not be a lesson well learned.

“They (Thistle Housing Association) would be subject to a criminal manslaughter charge.”

Ian’s next door neighbour, John McDermott, was gardening when the tile tumbled off the roof on Wednesday and smashed to the ground.

“It was such a bang. I thought it was a car crash. I dashed to the gate and looked to see if Ian was alright,” explained John, 71, who said a tile fell off the roof last Christmas and smacked into an inflatable Santa in his garden, bursting it.

The neighbours claim that Thistle HA advised them that the major works were going ahead without any consultation, and gave home owners just days to pay £2200, which included a £200 fee charged by Glasgow City Council.

“All they want is money. We have

been pushed to pay for a job we were never invited to discuss. We did not have the opportunity to sign this off. We were never consulted,” blasted Ian, who was among a group who lobbied First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Glasgow City Council Leader Susan Aiken for support.

“It is shoddy and, overall, it is dangerous. What does it take? For somebody to be killed?”

“In this square alone, since this roof has been done, three tiles have fallen off.”

“By chance, by fortune, by sheer good luck, they have smashed on the ground, rather than smash on to someone’s head. Thistle do not care.”

Great grandmother Joan McDermott, 69, says she’s concerned that the £2200 she paid for the work will be nothing compared to the repair bills they will be facing to rectify inferior work three years down the line.

She said: “£2200 is a lot of money to me. We love living here and don’t want to live anywhere else.”

“But I do not want to leave all this to my family and they then have to fork out for all the repairs and suffer all the stress after I’m gone.”

“All we are asking for is to get something done that will last.”

Demanding that Thistle HA agree to a public meeting, Ian added: “We want this fixed and fixed correctly.”

“They have always refused meetings. They will not have them, point blank.”

Housing watchdog the Scottish Housing Regulator parachuted in a new manager and four other senior managers to rescue Thistle Housing Association last August after it exposed serious financial and management failures surrounding the botched Torrylen refurbishment programme.

A spokesperson for Thistle

Housing Association, who said the contract for improvements at Torrylen completed in March 2018, insists that all residents were consulted about the project and a majority voted in favour of the works going ahead.

She said: “Subsequently, owner occupiers were asked to make arrangements to pay their contribution, with interest free loans made available to those owners who were unable to fund the work at that time.”

“A small number of isolated issues have required further repairs, and we have worked with residents and contractors on each occasion to ensure these were resolved as quickly and safely as possible.”

She added: “The safety of our residents is of the utmost importance and we are carrying out investigations to determine the cause of the recent tile dislodgement.”