

Sheltered Modernisation News

A newsletter for sheltered housing residents

Issue 9 • February 2020

Works complete at Concord

Work was completed at Concord in Nailsworth just in time for the resident's 50th anniversary celebrations in October.

The new look lounge and kitchen were the perfect venue for a busy day, starting off with the official opening and ceremonial ribbon cutting by Mrs Win Gardiner, resident and former scheme manager (*see picture right*), and then moving on to a party organised by the residents for friends, family and neighbours. All the residents and visitors seemed delighted with the improvements with many positive comments being fed back to the team.

We are really grateful for the patience and positive attitude shown by the residents while the work was carried out.



▲ Along with the work in the lounge and kitchen, other improvements included the installation of a lift, refurbished laundry and corridors, a rebuilt patio area, automatic and fob access doors, improved heating and insulation and provision of 12 scooter stores. We're pleased that the Concord contractor EW Beard is continuing to work with us on our next scheme at George Pearce House.





Modernisation work starts at George Pearce House

Work has already started at George Pearce House in Minchinhampton, the third of our 'hubs' to be modernised (see back page for more information about hubs).

Following the successful designs at Sherborne House and Concord the wall separating the kitchen and lounge will be removed, creating a larger and more versatile space, and a disabled access toilet accessed from the corridor will be built.

We will also be providing scooter storage, refurbishing the laundry, providing automatic doors to the main entrances and fob access to other external doors, as well as replacement windows where needed; all work should be complete in early April.

Schemes for 2020

The first of the next two schemes we'll be modernising this year will be **Willow Road** in **Stonehouse**.

Willow Road was originally designated as a 'red' scheme, due for disposal or alternative use, however it's now been re-designated to 'amber' and needs some urgent 'catch-up' work after three years of emergency only repairs.

Willow Road will be our first 'Independent +' to be modernised and will complement the hub already created in Stonehouse at Sherborne House. Independent + schemes will retain their communal facilities (such as a lounge and kitchen).

We will be following our usual consultation process over the next few months.



2020 will also see the creation of our fourth hub and the first in the south of the district. **Springfields Court** in **Cam** (see left) has been selected because it's so close to a number of our schemes and general needs bungalows.

The team will be writing to residents in the next few months in order to start our consultation process. As with the other schemes already modernised, we will be asking the residents for their 'wish list'. Although we can't promise to deliver everything that residents might want, we certainly take their views into account and do what we can to include their comments into our designs. As before we will also be consulting on colour schemes and furniture types etc.

Local Updates

Cam / Dursley

Cambridge House in Dursley is now empty and work has started on options for us to build new council homes on this site. Originally we were going to dispose of this site but changes in government policy means we can now develop it ourselves.

Now that **Glebelands** in Cam is nearly empty we are also considering the options for this site. Further updates will follow in future newsletters.

Eastington

Broadfield Road in Eastington is currently waiting on the planning decision to build nine new rented bungalows for older people. This will involve the demolition of the communal building and the re-designation of the scheme to 'Independent' i.e. a scheme of individual homes but no communal facilities like **Tanners Piece** in Nailsworth.

Once planning permission is secured we aim to start work on-site in 2020.

Nailsworth

The plans for **Ringfield Close** in Nailsworth are also waiting for a planning decision and should result in twenty new affordable homes, a mix of one bedroom flats, two bedroom bungalows and two and three bedroom houses for both rent and shared ownership. Once planning permission is secured we aim to start on-site in 2020.

Meet
your
Community
Hub Facilitator,
Katherine
Allen



Community Hub Facilitator

Some of you may recognise Katherine, as she's been a popular member of the sheltered team over the past 8 years. Katherine's new role is to find ways to use the new facilities we've created and turn them into 'community hubs'.

Katherine will be working closely with tenants over the next few months to explore ideas as to the types of activities they would like to see brought to the schemes.

Some ideas for possible activities could be:

- **Health promotion and events** such as Active Balance, Falls Awareness, Seated Activities, Healthy Heart etc.,
- **Reducing social isolation** – gardening workshops, quiz afternoons, knit and natter, games afternoons, film shows etc.,
- **Life skills** to include art classes, cookery, IT lessons, upcycling etc.,

There could also be events such as memory clinics, carers hubs and intergenerational activities.'

NEXT ISSUE OUT SUMMER 2020