

CHARLBURY COURT UPDATE

AUGUST 2016

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Older peoples' housing review explained

At a meeting with residents on Wednesday 6 July Interim Director of Housing, Neil Stubbings, explained that following a review of housing for older people in Havering it was proposed to close seven existing sheltered housing schemes and redevelop the sites to provide new homes for local people.

Charlbury Court sheltered housing scheme is not scheduled for closure.

Mr Stubbings said: "There is an over-provision of sheltered housing in Havering and we need to make sure we have housing that will meet the needs of our older residents for the next 30 years.

"Of the 800 sheltered housing units we have around 300 which are not fit for purpose as they are bedsit accommodation, are in schemes without lifts to all floors or without proper communal facilities.

"The Charlbury Court scheme does have good facilities and is a popular scheme for people wanting to move into sheltered housing.

"We want to build on the existing community spirit here by making the scheme a community hub, providing support for older people living nearby as well as for those living in the scheme."

More information will be online at www.havering.gov.uk/Charlbury as it becomes available.



Neil Stubbings talks to residents



Charlbury Court

Who can I contact?

If you have a question about the consultation please email Chelsea.potts@havering.gov.uk
 General estate enquiries www.havering.gov.uk/askhousing



Next meeting

9.30am to 10.30am on Thursday 18 August in the Communal Lounge, Charlbury Court, Charlbury Crescent, Harold Hill.

If you can't come to this meeting please let us know using www.havering.gov.uk/askhousing and we will be happy to visit and talk to you.



Investing in the future

For those schemes which are remaining open and becoming community hubs the aim is to invest in improvements.

Suggestions for improvements can be made during the individual meetings, which are being scheduled.

Some suggestions were made during the meeting on Wednesday 6 July including:

- The need for improved lighting in corridors and near entrance doors
- Improving security at the external doors
- Ensuring the CCTV cameras can work on the digital system
- A review of parking provision, including how to deter non-residents from using the scheme's parking area
- Pruning shrubs at the front of the scheme which are over-grown
- More regular servicing of washing machines
- Improved access to the laundry for people in the block furthest from that facility
- Providing more mobility scooter stores
- Improving access to the scheme for people in wheelchairs
- The need to replace windows at the scheme as they are now 25 years old.

If the proposals are approved, the way scheme officers operate will be reviewed so they can spend part of their time working at one scheme and some time working with older people in the community.

What happens next?

- Over the next few weeks Sheltered Housing Manager, Sharon Nunn, Scheme Officer, Emma Daly, or one of the community wardens will be meeting each resident individually to talk about their needs
- Another meeting will be held on Thursday 18 August to report back on those discussions
- The information gathered will be included in a report on the redevelopment proposals which will go to Cabinet this autumn
- When a final decision is made a further meeting will be held to share details of the decision with you.



Keeping in Touch

You can keep in touch with the latest news and information from Housing Services through our email newsletter.

Go to

www.havering.gov.uk/enews and choose *At the Heart* online.

There is also information available at www.havering.gov.uk/Charlbury

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