

Sheltered Modernisation News

A quarterly newsletter for sheltered housing residents

Issue 5 • April 2018



Concord's lounge is a large, bright space



A corridor in Concord

Green light for next phase of upgrades in Nailsworth & Minchinhampton

At the March Housing Committee, councillors agreed to the next phase in the sheltered modernisation project which is to upgrade the communal areas of two popular schemes – George Pearce House in Minchinhampton and Concord in Nailsworth.

The two schemes have well used communal lounges and relatively flat, easy access. George Pearce House hosts exercise classes that welcome members of the wider community, and Concord's bright and spacious lounge is the centre of residents' fundraising coffee mornings (see back page).



A lively Move it or Lose it exercise class at George Pearce House



Now the schemes have been agreed we'll arrange to meet with residents at Concord during May, and George Pearce House later this year to involve residents in the improvement plans.

What you think of Sheltered Modernisation News (SMN):

100%

of respondents said the information in SMN was good or very good

72%

of respondents said that SMN kept them up to date with our modernisation plans.

100%

of respondents said that the format of SMN is easy to read and understand

Thanks for your feedback



Val Pegler receiving her vouchers



Above: Councillor Mattie Ross picked Val Pegler's name out of the box, here with SDC's Leonie Lockwood and Kimberley Read

In the last issue of SMN we asked for your feedback. It's a year since we started producing this newsletter, in the hope that it would provide useful communication to sheltered tenants. However after four issues we thought it was time we asked you – the people who receive it – what you thought so we published a feedback questionnaire, asking your opinion, and what you'd like to see more of.

By way of a 'thank you' we awarded one

reply with £25 in shopping vouchers, and Cllr Mattie Ross who is the chair of Stroud District Council's Housing Committee, dropped in to Ebley Mill to pull Val Pegler's reply out of the box, before reading through all the responses.

Responses came from residents in 10 different schemes. We've read every one, and while we can't respond individually, you have given us valuable insight into what you like, and what you want to know more about.

Meet Brian, our new Clerk of Works

You may see Brian McGough checking up on progress in the schemes we are modernising. He's working closely with the sheltered modernisation team, and will be acting as Clerk of Works for our projects.

A clerk of works, or site inspector, makes sure that contractors are keeping to plan and schedule, and checks the quality of workmanship on site.





Sherborne House work to start

The work to modernise the communal areas at Sherborne House in Stonehouse has moved closer now that a contractor has been chosen to carry out our plans. Beard Construction, based in Swindon will start on site in early May and the project will take around 6 months to complete.

Marc Bayley, of Beard Construction told us: "We are all extremely excited to be working with Stroud District Council and involved in the modernisation of Sherborne House. Beard Construction has a long track record in this type of work and look forward to delivering another successful project that will enhance the residents quality of life."



Wotton-Under-Edge

Dryleaze Court is being marketed by property agent Bruton Knowles. We'll let you know when a buyer is found.

Nailsworth

Progress is being made at the **Tanners Piece** site, and we have now selected a contractor to build the eleven new apartments. Once the paperwork has been signed the contractor will be in touch with local residents. We're anticipating that the work will start mid-summer.

Dursley

Our tenant liaison officer Chris Eadie has now had individual meetings with the residents in **Cambridge House** to discuss their needs prior to the scheme closing. Half of the residents have now moved, and Chris is working closely with the remaining few to help them find homes they are happy with.

Cam

In early 2019 we will start to move residents from **Glebelends** in Cam. As we did at **Cambridge House**, we'll meet with residents first to go through the plans in more detail and explain the support we'll provide when the time comes to move.

Stonehouse

We met with **Willow Road** residents in April to discuss their scheme, which was identified as red in the 2015 Ark Report. We are currently exploring a number of possible options for the site, which include refurbishment, redevelopment (similar to **Tanners Piece**) or disposal. We will continue to talk to residents at **Willow Road** to keep them informed about our plans and support them should they be required to move.

Coffee morning success at Concord

Residents at Concord sheltered housing scheme in Nailsworth held a successful fund raising coffee morning in March. Local traders were approached for raffle donations, and over £300 was raised towards day trips. The next event will be a summer fete – we'll post the details on our Facebook page @SDCTenants when they are confirmed.



Lucky raffle winners at Concord's coffee morning

Living well with dementia



Tenant Rep Ian Allan of Vizard Close remembers a hand cranked meat grinder from childhood

If you'd like to find out more about helping to make your community more 'dementia friendly' contact SDC's Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinator Emma Keating Clark on **01453 754177** or email emma.keatingclark@stroud.gov.uk

Most of us know somebody living with dementia, yet many of us struggle to know the best way to maintain communication.

Stroud District Council recently held a workshop to explore the subject of dementia, which was attended by a number of sheltered tenants. Workshops, talks and interactive activities gave everyone the opportunity to better understand the condition.

The activity that sparked the most lively debate was the Museum in the Park's 'chatter boxes' – filled with everyday items from yesteryear.

The next issue of Sheltered Modernisation News is out in July 2018 - we'll update you on the newly converted former scheme manager properties.

