

On a Lighter Note

I saw six men kicking and punching the mother-in-law.

My neighbour said 'Are you going to help?' I said 'No, Six should be enough.'

When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bike. Then I realized, God doesn't work that way, so I stole one and asked him to forgive me.

Prize Quiz Winners

The prize winners of the last quiz are as follows: -

£20 first prize

N J Evans - Rennes House

£15 Second Prize

Mrs G Hutchins - Globefield

£10 Third Prize

Miss J Wilson - Faraday House

Sheltered Tenants Prize Quiz

£20 1st prize , £15 2nd prize,
£10 3rd prize.

Catchphrases, name the show

Sent in by Mr Ken Murray

- 1). "I have a cunning plan"
- 2). "Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once"
- 3). "Open the box"
- 4). "I'm free"
- 5). "You stupid boy"
- 6). "Hello, good evening, and welcome"
- 7). "Doomed I say...we're all doomed"
- 8). "Granville, fetch a cloth"
- 9). "What a plonker"
- 10). "I don't believe it"

Answers on a post card to the FREE POST address shown below by 18 June 2005.

Winner to be drawn on 25 June 2005.

Freepost Customer Comments and Compliments

Tell us about the Housing Service you receive

Improvements in the housing service have been identified in the Tenant Participation Compact. If you have not yet received your booklet, please let the TP Officer, Steve Deakin, know. He can be contacted on 265698

Help us to identify areas where we can improve the service we provide. If you have any comments to make about the service you receive or wish to express a view about an article in this newsletter, why not write in and let us know

You could even get your letter published with a reply by the appropriate officer

Freepost EX123, Steve Deakin, Tenant Participation Officer, Community and Environment Directorate, Exeter City Council, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1RQ

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

I am happy to have my letter published:

(please circle) **Y / N**

The points I would like to raise are:-

(continue on a separate sheet if necessary)



Exeter City Council

Exeter City Council
Sheltered Housing
Consultation Group

Newsletter

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If you need to contact the housing services, decide which section your query will come under and telephone the appropriate number.

Rents: 265329

Estate Management:
265032

Repairs: 265031

CHATTERBOX

FOR CITY COUNCIL SHELTERED TENANTS Issue 8

Improving sheltered housing

You will be aware from previous editions of 'Chatterbox' that the government has set up a new method for the funding, monitoring and planning of support services. It is called 'Supporting People' and one of its tasks is to draw up new standards for sheltered housing in Devon. These standards have now been published and the Council's Scrutiny Committee will be discussing them at its meeting on 7th June.

The new standards include:-

- Lifts to all flats with a front door entrance above the ground floor
- Non-slip surfaces in kitchens and bathrooms
- Non-slip footpaths, with ramps and handrails
- Easier access for wheelchairs
- Provision of showers
- Improved kitchen layout and facilities

The Council would like to provide these for all its sheltered tenants but this is impossible, not just because of the cost, but because many sheltered schemes just don't have enough space, for example, to install a lift.

However, the report will propose spending over £4 million, over the next 7 years, to improve as many sheltered schemes as possible. Officers are suggesting that the following schemes be included in the programme:-

- Amersham Court/ Malvern Gardens & Payne Court
- Russett House and King William Street
- Southlands & Flowerpot Lane
- Faraday House
- Rennes House
- Nelson Close
- Bodley Close

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If this programme is agreed, we will meet with residents before we start on each scheme so that we can plan the work together.

We have discussed the proposals with the Sheltered Tenants' Forum and they urged us to give priority to providing showers and we will be asking the Councillors to consider this.

What if your scheme isn't in the improvement programme?

If you live in one of the other sheltered schemes, these plans will have very little effect on you. You will:-

- Continue to be a 'secure tenant' with all the legal rights to your home that you have at present
- Keep your warden and emergency alarm service, as at present
- Be able to apply for aids and adaptations and for a transfer to more suitable accommodation, as at present

Will my scheme be kept for older people?

We will be keeping the other schemes for older people for as long as there are new tenants wanting them. However, you may be aware that we sometimes have difficulty in finding new tenants, especially for upper floor flats without a lift.

The Council is well aware of the problems which can arise from putting young tenants into blocks which were previously restricted to older people. The Committee will be considering ways of avoiding these problems. These will include offering the flats to people who are older, but not old enough for sheltered housing, to rent, or possibly to buy, on a shared ownership lease. If this fails, we could then offer them to younger people, again either to rent or buy.

We will try to keep the Council's bungalows for older or disabled people although we recognise that some of these also need improvement.

Your views

If you would like to comment on these proposals, or receive more information, please contact Tony Bodgin at the Civic Centre, on (01392) 265738

Home Contents Insurance

Are YOU covered?

For a small weekly fee, which can be paid along with your rent, you can insure your home contents and protect your possessions.

The minimum sum you can insure for is: -

£6,000 for anyone over 60 receiving state retirement pension, and

£9,000 for anyone not receiving state retirement pension.

The proposal form is simple, and easy to complete. This can be obtained from the Housing Reception at the Civic Centre, from your Estate Officer or by contacting Steve Deakin on 265698.

Hello to John - from Nelson Close

By Stella Bath

Who would have guessed when Chris did leave
 What could the Council have up it's sleeve?
 When, low and behold, on our doorstep there stood
 The surprise of our lives - Six feet of Manhood!
 But 'girls' thoughts of TOY-BOY you must give a miss
 As he's firmly ensconced in true wedded bliss!!!

Sheltered Tenants Handbook

You should all have now either received or be about to receive your Sheltered Tenants Handbook. Keep it safe, it holds a lot of information that you should find useful. If you have any feedback, please drop a line to the address on the back page of CHATTERBOX.

BOGUS CALLERS

Don't Get Caught Out

When you answer your door to anyone put the chain on first. Ask to see identification and check their details.

If you are in any doubt -

DO NOT LET THEM IN.

Do not be afraid use the pendant system to contact control. They will be able to offer you advice or get you some form of assistance.