

York Older People's Assembly

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NEW FOR OLD AT NEW EARSWICK

New Lodge is the latest prestigious development for older people by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust at New Earswick.



It comprises 105 Independent Extra Care 1 and 2 bedroom properties for rent and shared ownership. Also, a new 45 bedroom Residential Care Home built to the highest standards is provided.

In part it is on the site of the old Red Lodge residential home which has been demolished and links to the historic Folk Hall by a covered walkway.

Of the extra care properties, 70 are for affordable rent and 45 for shared ownership. With over 80% of older people in York owning their own home,

the opportunity to move to more suitable accommodation but retaining some of the value of their existing home is increasingly attractive.

For example, if you purchased a 50% share of a two bedroomed property the purchase price would be £133,000 and a rent of £60 per week.

Care Support is designed to meet the needs of residents and can vary from help at home like shopping and cleaning to 24 hour residential care. A typical living room and bedroom are shown in the pictures below.



For more information or to arrange a visit call 0800 5870211 Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm.

GENERAL ELECTION – NO CHANGE IN YORK



Whilst the Conservative Party were returned at the General Election in December with a majority of 80 over other parties the sitting MPs for York Central and York Outer remain the same.

In York Rachael Maskell was returned as the Labour MP with a majority of 13,845 and in York outer Julian Sturdy was elected as the Conservative member with a majority of 9,985.



OLDER PERSONS ACCOMMODATION SURVEY AND CONSULTATION 2019

The City Council carried out the above survey and conjunction with the Assembly, Age UK York and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. Its main findings and conclusions were

- The vast majority of older people would wish to continue to live in their own home with care and support provided if needed.
- The absence of comprehensive information on housing and care options available to older people is a major short coming.
- With the growth in the older population, a range of housing types and tenures is required. This should focus on age friendly accommodation which is safe, secure and manageable.
- 83% of respondents would be comfortable with “assistive technology” to sustain their independence.

Now an action plan is required to address the survey findings and deliver the benefits to older people.

SOME YOU WIN, SOME YOU LOSE

Despite 600,000 signing the Age UK petition against the imposition of the licence fee for those over 75 the Government has not backed down.

So from June 2020, unless you receive Pension Credit, the increased fee of £157.50 will be due from all pensioner households.

In York some 11000 pensioners are affected. However 1/3rd of those over 75 who are eligible for Pensioner Credit don't claim it.

For a single person over 75 Pension Credit is yours if your income is less £167.25 per week - for a couple this is £255.25.

TV Licencing will be writing to you before 31st May, 2020 to tell you what to do.

On a brighter note the original decision by the BBC to end the red button text service at the end of January has been suspended. Following representations from organisations including the blind, deaf and older people more generally who use the service extensively the BBC Director General Tony Hall said he would examine the concerns and make a “fresh” decision in the spring.



CRISIS IN SOCIAL CARE CONTINUES

Despite the overwhelming Government majority at the General Election there is little hope that any early solutions are likely to emerge in addressing the long term financial crisis in Social Care.

The Conservative manifesto states we will “build a cross party consensus” on how Social Care should be funded long term – while guaranteeing no one should have to sell their home to pay for care.

As Sir Walter Scott said there is a Southern proverb “Fine words butter no parsnips”.

INDEPENDENCE TO BE CELEBRATED

At our January Open Meeting the theme of independence was at the heart of the contributions from our two speakers. Johnny Hayes (*pictured right*) chair of York Independent Business Association known as “Indie York”, gave a fascinating talk on the development of Bishopthorpe Road as a flourishing shopping street which was awarded “Great British High Street of the Year” in a national competition.

In 2010 the street was facing challenging times with a number of empty properties and competition from “out of town” enterprises. By working together it now provides a fantastic range of shops, eateries and pubs. The engagement with the local community delivering a “street party” and “winter nights” are just two examples.

David Casswell (*pictured below*) chair of Trustees from York Neighbours outlined the services offered to older people and those living alone. Practical help is provided by some 73 volunteers

to carry out tasks in the home, often modest in themselves, but being beyond the ability of many older people. In addition regular phone calls are made to those who live alone, totalling 155 per month.

More recently York Neighbours have organised outings to Garden Centres and other venues of interest. They can be contacted on 01904 891627 and are always on the lookout for additional volunteers who can help older people retain their independence in their own home.



York Neighbours
...for that little bit of help

MORE TRANSPORT NEWS

The long promised internal changes to York Station have now started. The major concern for older people was the initial proposal to relocate the ticket office, relying on ticket machines and abandoning any staff positions. Strong representations were made by the Assembly for Virgin, now LNER to reconsider the plans. They have listened to our concerns and modified the proposals to include 4 staffed serving positions. Another success by the Assembly on campaigning on your behalf!!



On the buses the new electric double decker First York buses are expected in the Spring and will run on routes 3, 7 and 9. The current "bendy buses" are being upgraded with new seats, and audio visual displays with next stop announcements and repainted in new blue livery.

The council have declared a "Clean Air Zone" in January 2020 broadly covering that part of the City within the Inner Ring Road. Buses that come into the zone 5 times a day or more need to be electric or have diesel engines meeting high European standards to reduce exhaust fumes. The council is providing £1.6 million to help meet the cost of upgrading buses to the new standard.



Age UK York helps over 3000 older people in York every year. We can't do this without your support.

Please remember Age UK York in your will.

Charity Number: 1118346



York 50+ Festival Team need volunteers

Do you have skills and experience in ...
Editing, Marketing, PR, Social Media,
Visual Display and Admin?

Put those skills to use and join our 2020 Team.

Email Anne Wyn-Jones, 2020 Co-ordinator -
hello@idealliving.co.uk.