

Report from Resident Friends & Maintenance Group (RFMG) – May 2019

As Resident Friends at Lewes Local Meeting intend to conclude their voluntary role in 2019, at some point after the summer months, RFMG recommends that the local meeting begin succession planning as soon as possible.

The voluntary agreement for Chris and Lou has been extended to the end of December 2019, should they decide to stay that long, and they have agreed to give three months' notice to quit. However, provision should be made for a transition as early as September 2019.

Following are our recommendations for succession planning and recruitment:

1. That Lewes Meeting begins planning now, for recruitment of new Resident Friend(s) before the end of 2019.
2. That the current model for Resident Friends should continue, as it is working successfully for the meeting.
3. That the meeting appoints a short-term Succession Planning Group, asking Nominations to find Friends to serve from an early appointment until new Resident Friend(s) have moved into the flat. (Friends who previously worked on the model and recruitment of our current Resident Friends would be ideally placed to serve on this group, if they are willing.)
4. That the meeting asks the Succession Planning Group to work in close conjunction with RFMG, to prevent duplication and confusion.
5. That new Resident Friends be appointed for one year, in the first instance.
6. That essential works are undertaken in the flat before new Resident Friends move in. (Details below.)
7. That the meeting agrees a budget for works to the flat.

Works required in the flat

Friends are reminded that any project development is unlikely to begin in the next 18 months – 2 years, at the earliest. In the meantime, Resident Friends are needed to keep the meeting house well-appointed and to continue with lettings, which provide essential income for this meeting. However, some areas of the flat urgently need attention before we can realistically ask anyone else to move in. Following is a list of works that we recommend should be undertaken. The first three items should be considered priority.

1. **Floors:** carpets replaced throughout; kitchen and bathroom floors
2. **Kitchen:** (floor recovered / replaced), sink upgraded, cooker replaced
3. **Bathroom:** heating upgrade (fan heater is inadequate), decorating, sorting out windows as paint and plaster work are crumbling
4. Plasterwork repaired / replaced in hallway, kitchen, small bedroom
5. Paint throughout (priority to kitchen and bathroom)
6. Windows: insides need repainting throughout; secondary glazing in sitting room and small bedroom inadequate, restricting ventilation; no secondary glazing in main bedroom

Estimated costs will follow.

It would be helpful if the meeting can agree a budget, to give RFMG and the Succession Planning Group a framework for what and how much work can be undertaken.

Liz Brooks, Kathy Gibbs, Mick Gibbs, Anna Milner-Gulland

RFMG

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