

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Gresham (City Side) Committee	23 February 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Gresham Almshouses update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community & Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jacqueline Whitmore, Sheltered Housing Manager	

### **Summary**

This report gives Trustees an information update on the Gresham Almshouses, in Lambeth. Some of the information in the report also relates to the City of London Almshouses on the estate.

### **Recommendation**

Trustees are asked to note the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

This report is presented half yearly to the Trustees of the Gresham Almshouses. It updates Trustees on operational matters relating to the Gresham Almshouses and their residents and highlights any issues of concern, particularly where funding is required which is not included in the current year's budget

#### **Current Position**

##### **Waiting List**

Currently there are no vacancies within the Gresham Almshouses, there are 4 people on the waiting list all drwn from the current City of London Almshouse residents.

##### **Social Activites**

Residents have had several events since the last Gresham (City Side) update which have been well attended. They enjoyed a Halloween buffet with a Murder/Mystery party game (similar to Cluedo board game), where residents had to role play throughout the evening in character and work out "who committed the dastardly deed". As part of the event, the Manager cooked residents a three-course meal, which they all thoroughly enjoyed. "Alternative" carol singing followed the uncovering of the

"murderess" and residents returned home very late, with the event being declared a resounding success. Residents held a post-Christmas event in January, where they enjoyed an afternoon matinee film with popcorn, followed by a cold buffet and

music. They all agreed it was good to have something to look forward to after the bustle of the festive season was over.

Many residents were able to meet with Members in early December and enjoyed refreshments when the Christmas hampers were delivered. Residents have asked officers to thank Members for their hampers, which were enthusiastically received.

#### **Refurbishment Programme**

Officers submitted a pre-planning application to London Borough Lambeth for replacement window element of the refurbishing works in December 2017. LB Lambeth decision has recently been received which indicated their preference is for the windows to be refurbished and secondary glazing used, instead of replacement double glazed windows. Officers are disappointed with this decision however research is underway to source an effective form of secondary glazing which will increase the energy efficiency but will be lightweight and designed for easy use (to enable residents to open the windows and be able to clean them). Gresham bungalow windows are currently fitted with secondary glazing which residents are unable to open for ventilation or cleaning due to the weight of the units.

Members at Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee who met on 12 February 2018 were equally disappointed with LB Lambeth preference and have asked for officers to investigate further with LB Lambeth their preferences and reasoning behind the decision to consider if any common ground could be agreed upon, whilst officers investigate alternative secondary glazing options.

#### **Alarm Call System**

The new call system contract has been awarded. The contractor, Britania has arranged a "meet the resident" liaison meeting with the Almshouse Manager and residents on 16 February to allow residents an opportunity to see the new equipment and be informed about the process for installation. Providing there are no wiring issues, each unit will take approximately four hours to install in each home which should not disrupt residents too much. Britania consider the current wiring to be in good condition there they are not anticipating any problems. The installation will start on 5 March.

#### **Conclusion**

Trustees are asked to note the report.

#### **Appendices**

**None**

#### **Jacqueline Whitmore**

Sheltered Housing Manager

T: 020 7332 3582

E: [jacqueline.whitmore@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.whitmore@cityoflondon.gov.uk)