

Making the Move at the Right Time

January 2015

The New Year is a time when a lot of people think about moving and this is true of older people too. With all the work that can be involved in preparing for Christmas, the holiday season can be the first time that you start to feel the strain of managing in your old family home. And, when the cold weather really kicks in it is only natural to consider the savings that could be made by moving to a modern, insulated and warm apartment.

Unfortunately, a lot of people put off moving into retirement property. It is understandable, your current home is familiar and at present you can manage it without too many problems, but delay the decision to move to retirement property too long and you may regret it.

There is plenty of evidence that people who make the choice to 'right size' before they have developed the need for additional help live longer and enjoy better health and they are more able to cope with the strain of moving. So if the evidence is so clear why do people delay?

One reason is that they don't know what types of retirement property are available and think that they are giving up their independence. They don't realise that in developments like Honeybourne Gate they will be living in a completely self-contained, luxury apartment. They have the chance to make use of the extensive communal facilities if they want, but no-one forces you to do anything you don't want to do.

In fact, the lifestyle available in good quality retirement developments is one reason that many people who make the move wish they had done so earlier. They find they make new friends, enjoy the social life and don't need to worry about who will help them if they need assistance.

Another reason is worry about the service charge. The service charge covers the cost of having staff on-site 24 hrs a day to respond if you need help and to operate the communal areas of the development in the way you would expect a good quality hotel to be operated. But at Honeybourne Gate it also covers the cost of 90 minutes per week service in your own apartment, such as cleaning and laundry, and a range of other expenses that you will already be incurring in your current property such as building maintenance and insurance. Once you tally up the savings over your current expenditure the service charge represents good value for money.

Of course, not all developments are the same and there is always the hassle of moving. So shop around and don't be afraid to ask whether the selling agent can offer help with the move – at Honeybourne Gate we will help you sell your old home, deal with estate agents and solicitors for you, find the removal firm and even a consultant that will help you de-clutter before you move. We even make a contribution to the cost of the move!

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