

Retirement Village Life

What's the same?

- Independence remains the same -
- Come and go as you please
- Visitors/grandchildren staying over
- Bills
- Your own possessions/furniture
- Looking after yourselves as you would if not living in a Village

What's different?

- Closeness of neighbours – consideration re parking /grandchildren
- Rules – what you can and cannot do in/outside your home/unit/villa
- Monthly levies
- Committees/budgets
- Gardening
- Trades people clearances
- Notice when going to be away for sometime
- Unit may be smaller, adjusting to less room, downsizing possessions

Support and Emergency Systems

- Blue phone/Smartlink – personal devices – some villages have on-site staff 24 hours a day
- After hours contact
- Emergency keys (in box at front door or held by neighbour or village has master key)

Contact with Management

- Varies between villages – via Residents Committee or direct with Manager
- During office hours – who to approach
- After hours contact details

Residents Associations and Committees

- Residents Association – residents automatically members
 - Meetings held regularly to discuss issues in the Village

- Management must convene meetings to present the budget and annual accounts
- Residents Committee – Made up of village residents voted onto the Committee. Regular meetings
- Social Committee – organises social functions – generally manages funds

Social activities can include:

- Bingo, dinners, craft/sewing, sun downers, morning teas, fund raising functions, Christmas activities, men's shed, computer/internet access, book club, cards and board games, walking group, fitness exercises.
- Club rooms can usually be booked/used for family functions

In-house services vary from village to village but may include:

- Hairdressing
- Podiatry
- Doctor
- Clinical Nurse
- Bus – Shopping/outings
- Gardener

Something to reflect on:

Take the time to meet other residents in the village. Attend social functions. Talk to the neighbours. Give yourself time to adjust to village life before committing yourself to committees and/or activities on an on-going basis. Make sure it is for you.

Prepared by village resident Julia Lynch

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