

# frequently asked questions

## bungalows at rowan lea and red firs

### what is the consultation process?

The Board at believe housing wants to hear resident views about the proposal to demolish the bungalows at Red Firs and Rowan Lea. Residents have the next six weeks to comment on this proposal. The results of the consultation will be taken to the Board in time for an October meeting. Resident views will be fully taken into account by the Board as it considers the next steps.

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### why are you proposing to demolish my home?

We are consulting on a proposal to demolish the properties at Rowan Lea and Red Firs for similar reasons. Both were built in the 1960s and no longer provide the kind of home that people aspire to today.

- The bungalows were originally built for older or disabled people, but there is a wide choice of bungalows in Brandon. The fact that these bungalows are smaller than most people aspire to, has meant that demand from older people has fallen steadily over the years.
- The bungalows are now let to people of any age who also have a wide choice of options available to them. Demand is low and the properties themselves are not up to today's expected standards.

believe housing has investigated other options. These have included conversions to make them more attractive, but it was considered that this would not make a significant difference and would not offer good value for money. For these reasons believe housing has taken the decision to formally consult on the proposal to demolish these homes.

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### will you really listen to our views?

The decision to formally consult on demolition has not been taken lightly and believe housing's Board is committed to carefully considering the views of tenants who live here.

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### what are the consultation timescales?

Consultation formally starts on Monday, 8 August and concludes on Monday 19 September. The responses will be analysed and presented to the believe housing Board at its meeting in October. You will be informed of decisions after this meeting.

## **what would happen if you do decide to demolish?**

If the decision is made to demolish some or all of the properties, there would be help and support immediately available.

You may be entitled to financial compensation through home loss and disturbance payments. The disturbance payments would reimburse you for the reasonable costs of moving. Home loss payments (currently £7,100) are compensation for the loss of your home.

We would help and support you to move through the lettings process, Durham Key Options.

If the decision is made to demolish you would receive the highest priority to move, Band 1. We would help you with the application and with bidding for properties.

We would also talk to you about any specific circumstances that you have that need to be taken into account when considering where you might move to. The decision about where to move would be your choice.

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## **if my home is demolished and new homes are built here, can I move back?**

No decision has been made about demolition, and therefore no proposals about what would happen to the site have been agreed. Wider consultation has already been undertaken with residents about Brandon and how the area can be improved and further consultation is planned.

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## **will you be proposing any other demolitions in this area?**

No, there are no plans or consideration being given to further demolition in this part of Brandon. Although this may change at any point in the future, the board at believe housing considers that this is the full extent of any demolition in this area for the foreseeable future.

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