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Pensioners' joy at home improvements

A group of Coventry pensioners and disabled people have welcomed building work on their homes which will help them take a stand against anti-social behaviour.

Whitefriars Housing Group is pitching the roofs of 10 properties for the elderly in Hopedale Close, Wyken, and seven homes of disabled tenants in Eric Gray Close, Stoke Heath.

It is hoped that replacing the flat roofs will stop jobs from clambering on top of the bungalows. New fencing and lighting will also be added at the sites in an effort to deter intruders, and the communal gardens at both sites are also in line for a spruce-up.

The need for work at the two groups of bungalows was prioritised following an assessment of Whitefriars' premises across the city and is expected to take several weeks.

The scheme content has been designed in conjunction with the residents, who are delighted that the work is taking place. They have suffered problems from gangs of youths congregating near their homes.

Gwyneth Grant, who lives in Hopedale Close with her husband Alan, said: "We are really pleased this work is going ahead. We have a lovely home and lovely

neighbours, but, like anywhere else in the city, we also have problems with groups of youths hanging around near our homes.

“This work is going to make our complex more secure and put our minds at ease. The fencing and improvements to the garden will make it more communal and once the work is complete, we’re hoping to hold regular gatherings there for residents.”

Mary Ross, who has lived in Hopedale with husband Bill for 16 years, said: “This work is excellent.

“The fencing will stop people from getting in near the back of our homes and the pitched roofs will put an end to the youths getting on top of the buildings.”

Fran Gaught, Tenant Liaison Team Leader at Whitefriars Housing Group, said: “Improvements at Hopedale and Eric Gray were identified as a priority, as the tenants are elderly and disabled and we felt their homes were particularly vulnerable to problems from anti-social behaviour.

“By pitching the roofs and improving lighting and fencing we hope to address their concerns by creating a more secure environment.”

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