

Castle,
The Mansion, Britwell Drive,
Berkhamsted, HP4 2GS

Sales: 01923 913 864

Reception: 01442 877 335

CastleVillageSales
@retirementvillages.co.uk

Castlevillage.co.uk

RENTAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The comments provided in this document are intended to give an overview of selected topics which, in the experience of Retirement Villages Group Ltd, have been raised by prospective rental Tenants at Castle Village and more generally at other villages within the Retirement Villages Group Ltd wider estate that offer rentals.

Whilst the intention of the document is to provide clarification in respect of the topics covered, the terms of any legal documents to which prospective residents will be required to commit, as a condition of renting a property at Castle Village and residing there, will in every instance take precedence over any comment made in this Frequently Asked Questions document.

Last updated April 2024 CG

1. Periodic Assured Tenancy

A periodic assured tenancy is a lifetime tenancy, which gives complete reassurance that you can live in the property for as long as you like with no fixed term.

Just in case things don't work out as planned, you can leave the unit, providing you give two months' written notice.

2. Budgeting

Renting can make it easier to budget your finances. The ongoing costs of maintenance within your property, and buildings insurance is covered by the Landlord which makes it much easier to predict your monthly costs.

3. References

Tenants will be asked to demonstrate their ability to comfortably meet the financial demands. We ask Tenants to produce a 'Bank Reference' which is a letter from their bank confirming their ability to cover the rent. We can also accept financial statements, but these must be available funds in the Tenants name.

4. What services are included in my tenancy?

Maintenance – Employed or contracted staff are responsible primarily of the upkeep of the communal grounds, buildings and equipment in the village. They will also carry out minor repairs to individual properties that have arisen from structural damage, and there is an appropriate arrangement for property emergencies outside normal working hours. Where residents require further assistance i.e. electricians, plumbers etc. they will be required to pay for this separately (unless the issue has been caused by no fault of the Tenant in which case the Landlord will assist).

Housekeeping & Laundry - The Housekeeping team is responsible for cleaning the communal areas in the Village. Each household is entitled to have eight items of bed linen (pillowcases, sheets, duvet covers) laundered and one hour of cleaning each week. You can choose the cleaning tasks you'd like carried out during this hour, subject to Village health and safety standards.

Additional housekeeping services can be purchased, subject to availability

Amenities -All of our villages offer an extensive social programme which are organised and planned by residents and facilitated by the management team. Village restaurants are open between 5-7 days per week, some including Sundays (speak to our sales team for specific village hours). Meals can also be provided in resident's own property if requested. Use of the restaurant are charged as used, as is the bar.

Our villages also boast resident's bars, libraries, hobbies room, a multi-function room for both individual and organised activities and a small kiosk selling essentials and seasonal goods. Village Residents' Associations also organises social events and outings for residents to join in if they wish.

Some of the activities already in existence are as follows:

- Art classes
- Keep fit
- Line dancing
- Theatre trips,
- Poetry
- Music
- Bridge.

There are also coffee mornings and events such as film shows.

Management team - A team including the General Manager who are responsible for the supervision and control of the complete on-site management of the village

Capital works - Any unexpected or major future repairs as part of a capital works program. Periodic asset surveys are used to inform the programme. Tenants will never be required to make additional payments towards capital works.

5. Insurance

A block policy is in place to cover the buildings insurance on each property and on all communal buildings. Furnishings in communal areas and equipment used in maintaining the village are also covered, together with employers and public liability. You will need to arrange your own contents insurance cover.

6. Your monthly costs

As a tenant you will be responsible for:

- The Monthly Inclusive Charge (includes rent and the resident management fee)
- Council tax
- Utility bills - Electricity, Gas, Water and Telephone.
- Other personal bills – internet services, home contents insurance, TV license and any TV subscriptions

7. Will my rent increase?

Yes, the landlord will make a new proposal to increase the rent in line with Market rent. The Landlord will serve a notice on the Tenant in accordance with section 13 of the Housing Act 1988 (increases of rent under assured tenancies other than relevant low-cost tenancies)

8. How much is the resident management fee

The management fee is £8,884.81 pa from 1st January 2026 to 31st December 2026.

This fee is the same for all residents, regardless of the size of the property, the number of bedrooms or the number of occupants.

The index-linked management fee will vary from year to year only in line with changes in the Consumer Price Index with Housing Costs (CPIH).

9. When you move into your new rental home you will also be required to pay;

One month's inclusive charge in advance and one month's rent as deposit.

10. Deposit

Before you move in you will pay a security deposit, this is normally equal to one month's rent. It is held for the duration of the Tenancy and the Landlord can claim against any damages or unpaid rent at the end of the Tenancy.

As a member of the DPS (Deposit Protection Service) Retirement Villages Group hold deposits in a secure managed account and any properties rented assured shorthold tenancies will be registered with the scheme as required by law.

The release of funds at the end of the Tenancy requires both parties to agree on any deductions, following an inspection to ensure the property is left in good order. If there is a requirement for repairs and/or cleaning the landlord can request the amount be withheld from the deposit. The DPS holds deposits which means in any dispute funds cannot be released unless agreed by both parties (Tenant and Landlord). Disputes will be passed to the DPS to arbitrate.

11. Unpaid monthly inclusive charge

Interest at 3% above the Bank of England Base Rate from Rent Due Date until paid in order to pursue non-payment of monthly inclusive charge. Please Note: This will not be levied until the monthly inclusive charge is more than 21 days in arrears.

12. Lost Key(s) or other Security Device(s)

Tenants may be liable for the cost of replacing any lost key(s) or other security device(s). If the loss results in locks needing to be changed, the actual costs of a locksmith, new lock and replacement keys for the tenant, landlord and any other persons requiring keys will be charged to the tenant. If extra costs are incurred there will be a charge.

13. What if I want to terminate my agreement early?

The tenant can give the landlord two months advance written notice to terminate the tenancy.

14. Who is responsible for the redecoration of the Village?

External and Internal redecoration of the communal parts of the Village is the responsibility of the Management Company within a planned maintenance cycle and is a Landlord cost.

Internal redecoration of your property is the responsibility of the Landlord, however, residents can redecorate their rented property with written approval from the Landlord.

15. Can I make alterations to the property?

Subject to obtaining prior consent from the Landlord, minor internal alterations and improvements may be considered.

However, when the Tenancy expires, the Landlord reserves the right to restore the property to its original condition at the expense of the outgoing tenant.

16. Can visitors stay?

Within the terms of the lease guests may stay with you for 28 days maximum at any one time. Please inform the office if any guests are staying.

En-suite guest rooms are also available within the Village at reasonable prices.

17. What about parking?

Most villages offer parking either on a first come first served basis, or residents can rent allocated spaces.

18. Are pets allowed?

Small domestic pets are welcome in the Village provided they are well-behaved and properly cared for.

Dogs must be kept under control and on a lead at all times when outside the home. Owners are responsible for cleaning up and disposing of pet waste appropriately.

While most communal areas are accessible to dogs, some designated areas will remain pet-free. Assistance dogs are permitted in all areas.

Residents who arrive with a pet or existing residents intending to get a new pet, must complete a registration form and obtain approval from the Village Management team. Any pet that is a nuisance or annoyance to other residents or staff may have their permission revoked and may be required to leave the Village. Residents must be capable of properly caring for their pets; if a resident becomes unable to do so, the Village Management may revoke permission, necessitating the pet's removal from the Village.

19. Am I allowed to sub-let my apartment?

Residents are not permitted to sub-let their properties.

20. Is there a selection policy for prospective tenants?

Retirement Villages does not discriminate on the grounds of age, marital status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability and is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and diversity.

New tenant residents are subject to approval by interview with the Village Manager and providing a proof of funds or status enquiry confirmation.

Our retirement villages are designed to provide an enjoyable and supported environment for older people living independently. So far as we are able, we will endeavour to accommodate residents in line with our diversity policy, but we will wish to be satisfied that prospective residents are able to live independently within a community which does not provide full nursing care.

Prospective tenants will be asked to confirm that they are generally in good health. Tenants who have specific health problems may be required to provide further information via their G.P.

21. What emergency support is available?

A suitably trained and qualified member of staff is on duty 24 hours per day 7 days per week to provide an emergency call out support service within Villages. This strictly covers emergency first response only.

Other care services can be provided at an additional cost.

22. What happens if I become unable to look after myself or my partner?

The concept of our villages is 'Independence in retirement'. However, the Company is able to assist in arranging personal or domiciliary care packages through an external provider when necessary on a private basis, at an additional cost. Where possible residents can, of course, make their own arrangements with a private domiciliary care company or through Social Services. Some residents may need a live in carer to support their ongoing independence.

Where the situation deteriorates and independence diminishes to the point where permanent nursing or more specialist care is needed, then inevitably the resident themselves or their relatives will recognise that alternative living arrangements need to be made.

In the very rare circumstances of this not being recognised, and bearing in mind the best interests of other residents, the staff, and the resident themselves, then there is a clause in the Tenancy Agreement where the Landlord may give notice. It should be stressed that this is the very last resort and it is hoped, that matters such as this can be dealt with in a sensible and sympathetic manner by all parties.

Where a couple are occupying a property and one of them becomes unable to look after themselves, there is no need for alternative arrangements to be made, as long as the other party remains able to cope, with the assistance of outside agencies.

23. Does the Management Company consult tenants?

Yes. We encourage residents to form their own Residents' Association and Village Managers are available to attend Residents Association Committee Meetings by invitation.

Acknowledgement

Please confirm you acknowledge that you have received and reviewed these FAQs by signing below. Note that the specific provisions outlined in the rental agreement for your property may differ in some detailed respects from the general statements provided in this FAQ document.

Signed:.....

Signed:.....

Print Name:.....

Print Name:.....

Date.....

Village Manager