Park Home Living – a good housing option for later life?

Park Homes have an appeal for many people as they get older. Satisfied older buyers say a Park Home is a good way to downsize and they get more for their money than they would if they bought a bricks and mortar property. But the problems residents face from unscrupulous Park site owners has given Park Homes a negative image. Do recent reforms as a result of the Mobile Homes Act 2013 make a difference? Is a Park Home a good choice now for later life – especially as austerity continues to bite? This viewpoint explores the latest evidence.

Written for the Housing Learning and Improvement Network by Moyra Riseborough, Riseborough Research and Consultancy Associates
Park Homes – what are they?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a Park Home as a *prefabricated building occupied as a permanent home, located with others in a dedicated area of ground*. 

Also known as mobile homes they often resemble bungalows, but legally they are caravans that are covered by the Mobile Homes Acts 1983, 2013 and associated law. On most Park Home sites the mobile homes are loaded on to specially constructed bases or pads. The wheeled chassis is often hidden beneath a brick ‘skirt’ or wooden structure.

Park Homes sites have grown in number all over the UK, particularly since the Second World War, often in desirable rural and coastal areas. Some Park Home sites are “residential” rather than holiday parks and some have a protected status which means residents have certain legal rights. The distinctions are important. There are different kinds of ‘license’ granted by local authorities and different enforcement arrangements. Changes were made to legal arrangements that came into force in 2014 which have increased the protection for some residents. More details about legal arrangements and changes are given later.

In terms of their design, units intended for all year round occupation can be, but are not always, insulated to a fairly high level. Most modern units have integral double glazing and central heating. They are finished to a high standard and have well designed and fitted kitchens and bathrooms. They are single storey and level access although most have steps or a ramp to the front door. The most modern often have pitched roofs, are fitted with a range of smart technology features, water saving devices and solar panels. Most Park Homes are sold with furniture and furnishings. Potential Park Home owners wanting to buy brand new units have a choice of finishes, fittings and furnishings.

It has been argued that more should be done to support vulnerable older people who moved to live permanently in Park Homes, particularly those with poor health and limited mobility. Not surprisingly though, the growth of extra demands on local services and resources can attract divided opinions. Park Homes that are lived in all year round are not always welcomed by local people who face shortages of permanent affordable housing. There are also a number of tensions surrounding the actions of a few unscrupulous Park Home site owners.

Why are Park Homes popular and who lives in them?

Owning Park Home sites is a popular business choice. They are a diversification for rural land owners seeking to make use of their land without selling it or changing its designation as agricultural land, for example. Such land would rarely be available for permanent sale for other use. Park Home holiday sites are also popular with small investors seeking income from holiday home rentals and they attract many older people who want to live there either for eight to ten months of the year or permanently.

Some 160,000 people in England live in Park Homes, and approximately 68% of them are aged 60 or over (estimated by Berkeley Hanover Consulting in 2002), more than twice the number of older people living in extra care housing!

Most commentators agree that being ‘attracted’ to live in a Park Home is dependent on where people are in their lives and circumstances. Bevan (2009), for example, in his research on the situation in England noted that younger people in the paid work force and people under 60 years old tend to opt for a mobile home because they have few other affordable housing options. Older people tend to say they were looking for a quieter place to live and they were attracted to a retirement lifestyle which some Park Homes offer. A number of Park Homes are designated for over 55s only and many do not cater for families.
Costs

Park Home unit owners face a triple set of costs. First, there is the purchase cost, then the pitch and utility costs plus commission costs on resale. Park Home site owners have to be paid a fee (commission) of up to 10% of the selling price.

Purchasers cannot buy a mobile home then site it on a Park Home. They have to buy the home through the Park Home site owner, either directly or via an owner on a particular Park Home site.

Pitch fees, paid monthly or in a lump sum, can be as low as £1,000 or as high as £3,000 a year. Fees cover the maintenance and upkeep of the site including access paths and roads on the site, the base or pad that the home sits on, the provision of access routes onto the site and possibly other services. In addition, mobile home owners have to factor in the charges they will have to pay for utilities such as water, electricity, mains gas and/or LPG for heating. Utilities cannot be bought direct from suppliers. They have to be bought via the site (Park Home site) owner or operator. Each mobile home usually has a garden or landscaped areas attached. They usually have verandas and outside space attached. There is generally good off street parking and garages.

The lower purchase price of a mobile home and the fact that many are located in desirable coastal and rural areas are big attractions. Most purchasers would have to pay considerably more to buy a traditionally constructed (bricks and mortar) home in similar locations. For example, a 3 bed mobile home in a highly sought after area on the south coast could fetch as much as £250,000 even if it is secondhand, and a new one would cost a lot more. These prices are clearly still low compared to the purchase costs for traditionally constructed homes in the same areas. However, much depends on the stability of costs in relation to incomes over time and the age of the units. At some point, a mobile home may need to be replaced and/or maintenance work will have to be carried out.

Park Homes on holiday sites tend to be less expensive. For example, Your Move Estate Agent website recently marketed a two bedroom holiday Park Home in Sheerness, Kent for less than £40,000.

Accommodation or housing choice?

Park Homes are often overlooked in discussions about housing and older people. They are rarely if ever considered in studies on national or local housing markets. This is because they are not defined under the law as housing but as caravans that can be removed without affecting the long term disposition of the land they occupy. Park Homes are part of a mixture of accommodation types that include boats and other forms of non-permanent and often insecure housing. Bevan (2009) included Park Home living in a wider discussion on the policy implications and prospects for people who were living in non-permanent housing in England. A key concern is that many people living in mobile homes are hidden and are not counted in studies on housing need and homelessness. Although most people own their mobile homes, some sites have a number of units that are rented to people on low incomes including single people and families who cannot get access to affordable housing.

To some extent then Park Homes sneak under the radar surrounding local planning for permanent residential properties. Yet it’s well known that Park Homes fulfil a demand for affordable accommodation in particular locations. A definitive and landmark study by Pat Niner and Alan Hedges in 1992 for the then Department of the Environment provided the first
reliable information on the number, nature and condition of mobile park homes and examined problems in the operation of the legislation, notably the Mobile Homes Act 1983. Pat Niner has continued to advise Government and local authorities on the subject. A number of other studies are also relevant and are referred to in the viewpoint. They include a study by Berkeley Hanover consulting (advised by Niner) in 2002, Bevan’s 2007 study of the situation in Scotland, his study on the English situation in 2009 and a Consumer Focus Investigation looking at the life of consumers of Park Homes in England 2012. A report produced by Ian Butter in 2012 (Rural and Urban Planning Consultant) for the British Holiday and Home Parks Association paints a picture that appears to be problem free. Butter expresses the view that planning law needs to be changed in order to accommodate and acknowledge the place that Park Homes is occupying in local housing markets. Butter also lists many benefits for local areas and occupants from having Park Home sites. However, Butter does not note the problems that are frequently recounted in serious research reports and by consumers.

Problems and issues

A number of problems and issues have persistently been raised by Park Home owners and occupiers. Some come to light because residents have complained about harassment and criminal behaviour by Park Home site owners. The Consumer Focus inquiry for the Government Select Committee in 2012, for example, reported that some consumers lives were blighted by site operators who failed to keep to the agreements they signed to maintain sites including failing to provide adequate lighting, failing to maintain sewerage and neglecting landscaping and gardens. Evidence was also collected on unscrupulous site owners who prevented mobile home owners from selling by vetoing potential buyers or talking potential buyers out of buying the mobile home. Some site owners refused to allow mobile home owners to gift their mobile homes to members of their families. Threatening and actual criminal behaviour were also reported.

There were over charging issues arising over the costs of fuel (typically LPG and electricity) and other utilities since mobile home owners have to buy these services from Park Home site owners. Very often these actions were carried out against people who were frail and vulnerable and often in poor health. This included older people trying to sell their mobile home so they could finance a move to more suitable accommodation.

Many problems have arisen because Park Home site owners decided to change the cost for pitch fees quite arbitrarily and/or they failed to maintain sites. Park Home site owners or operators are often represented as being greedy in these instances and there is little doubt there are some rogue site owners. However, there is another side to this story. Berkeley Hanover et al in their 2002 study on the economics of the industry for the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) found that most Park Home site owners were not greedy or rapacious and their profits were quite modest. Complaints by mobile home occupiers on Park Homes over costs were often related to inadequate understanding at the start about the costs they were expected to pay over time. For example, while some mobile home owners were unhappy about paying pitch fees and up to 10% on the sale of their units to Park Home owners, they did not take into account that there were costs associated with running the site, maintaining the land and roads and that these costs were clearly set out in contracts they had entered into. It also appears that relationships with Park Home site operators are critical and many problems arise because relationships break down.
**Disposing of mobile homes and resales**

Until recent changes in 2013, all Park Home owners had to obtain approval from a site owner before they could dispose, sell or even gift their mobile home to someone else. The latter sometimes involved criminal behaviour by site owners and people they employed in order to bully Park Home owners into agreeing to sell the mobile home to site owners for very little. Mobile homes were then taken off the site by the site owners and replaced with new more expensive units that gave the site owners more commission.

**Access to Care and Support**

The services we take for granted that are subsidised and commissioned by local authorities, such as home care and neighbourhood support including low level support funded by Supporting People funds, are available to Park Home owners and renters. However, because such services are means tested and dependent on need, people seeking help have to fulfil the general local criteria. Park Home occupiers will be subject to the same assessment processes for social care that apply to other people. There is often a wait to be assessed by a social worker and the assessment will establish their needs and sources of income. If the individuals are eligible they will get access to services and will pay a contribution to the cost of the service in the normal way.

Some local authorities may restrict access to services or refuse access, particularly if the Park Home is not occupied as a permanent residence by the person applying.

**Aids and Home Adaptations**

Getting access to aids and adaptations is more complex. Getting help with small aids that help someone to leave hospital and go home is usually easy and this help is often offered by hospital discharge teams. Other aids, such as bathing aids and ramps, are usually provided by the local authority and people have to be assessed by an Occupational Therapist. Each local authority will assess an individual’s case depending on her or his circumstances, but it is likely that, provided the aids and adaptations are not very expensive, most Park Home owners and renters will be able to get access to them. However, it may be more difficult if the adaptations required come under the provisions of the Disabled Facilities Grants, as set out in the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 amended by the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance (England and Wales) Order 2002 and the Housing Act 2004. Disabled Facilities Grants or DFG’s are available to provide facilities and adaptations to help a disabled person live comfortably and as independently as possible. Eligibility under the 1996 Act (referred to above) depends on someone qualifying as disabled, and if they are living in a Park Home they have to be living on a houseboat or a mobile home in a ‘qualifying park home’. Although the 2002 Act extended DFGs to Park Home owners and renters there are clear references to protected sites only. This means that people who live on sites deemed to be for holiday use and not for residential permanent use are not eligible under the Act. However, they may be able to obtain assistance to move to another more suitable property – particularly if the individual who needs assistance occupies the Park Home as their only home. People living in Park Homes on protected sites who qualify for DFGs can and do apply for some assistance to help them move to alternative suitable properties. This is particularly important if the adaptations needed will cost more than the maximum allowable – currently £30,000. It is also helpful for people whose Park Homes are coming up to an age limit imposed on Park Homes by the Park Home site owner – in these cases owners may decide they want to move because they cannot afford to replace the Park Home.
The grant for assistance with moving is usually a few thousand pounds and can help with the cost of selling the Park Home and removal costs. See Age UK’s Factsheet number 13 July 2014 for more information and Independent Age’s factsheet number 28. Many local authorities and Home Improvement Agencies provide advice on DFGs for Park Home owners.

It is hard to find a good source of evidence, but Park Home Owners associations and blogs occasionally carry articles on successful adaptations in Park Homes including adapting bathrooms to shower rooms and wet rooms.

**Warmth and heating**

Fuel poverty and poor heat retention are amongst issues that are raised regularly in local authority public health reports and occasionally in JSNAs (Local authority Joint Strategic Needs Assessments) while reports of bullying and harassment have featured in reports on relationships between Park Home site owners and mobile home owners. So, although there are modern efficient units coming on stream and being occupied, there are still issues about less efficient mobile homes.

**Recognising organised residents associations**

Organised residents associations have grown in number and force on all Park Home sites. Since 2006, Park Home site owners have been required to recognise resident associations provided they ‘qualify’, (see current Department for Communities and Local Government fact sheet).

Many protected Park Home sites and holiday sites have residents associations and they are usually affiliated to national residents groups in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. National resident groups have successfully campaigned for changes in the law and often act to appeal against a company or Park Home site owner. The main protected site organisations are the British Park Home Residents Association, the Independent Park Home Advisory Service and the National Association of Park Home Residents. Other groups exist for holiday sites.

Being able to negotiate as a group makes it easier for Park Home owners to get a reasonable deal from site owners. For example, on pitch fees which are reviewed annually, utility costs and ensuring that maintenance and necessary health and safety tasks are done by the site owners. Some site owners have refused to recognise resident associations and insist on negotiating with individual Park Home owners – often for unpleasant reasons, for example in order to make it easier to persuade individual owners to fall in with a site owner’s wishes. On the other hand, where residents associations don’t reflect the majority of people on a site there is understandably a need to work with individual residents. Resident associations also provide information for new buyers and provide a wealth of advice and guidance on how to avoid pitfalls.

**The Law, Guidance and regulation**

**Licenses**

All privately owned mobile homes parks have to be licensed by the local authority and this is obtained through planning applications. The Caravan Sites and Control of Development act 1960 updated and amended (in part) by the Mobile Homes Act in 2014 governs licenses. Many issues arise because of license conditions. For example, some residential use licenses are granted for an indefinite period of time, but some are for a prescribed number of years. Licenses are also issued for holiday use only, typically for eight or ten months of the year.
The type of license a Park Home has is extremely important since it determines the level of protection that an owner has. The Park Home owner who buys a Mobile Home on a protected site - residential sites - where the site owner has an indefinite license has more protection in law from the Mobile Homes Act 1983 amended by the Mobile Homes Site (Regulations for England) 2014.

Licenses also cover how many mobile homes can be on a site, their size (width, length and height), spaces between pitches and the size of pitches. Fire and health and safety arrangements, maintenance of the site, internal walkways and paths and landscaping arrangements and references to current regulations are also included in licenses. Site owners are required to follow the license conditions. Since Park Home sites are classified as private estates there is no requirement on the site owners to make up roads as there is on residential bricks and mortar development sites.

Gas, electricity and water resale are governed by a maximum resale price but there is no maximum resale price on LPG.

**Licensing and guidance issues**

Specific issues arise about the ‘normal’ services most people associate with traditional housing. For example, people with protected status who live on licensed residential sites have a postal address and through this they can register with local GPs, the local library and so on. People who live in Park Homes on sites that are not licensed for residential occupancy all the year round will not have a permanent postal address. This can make it extremely difficult for people to access services.

A number of appeals are heard around England each year by occupants of Park Homes and by Park Home site owners because they are seeking to change the status of sites usually by trying to get retrospective planning permission. Sometimes these are joint actions by Park Home site owners and residents because residents want to live all year round on sites that have not been licensed for the purpose. However, it isn’t always clear cut. The research evidence suggests that documentation given to residents at the point they purchase their mobile homes does not necessarily give clear information about residents’ rights to occupy their mobile homes, and some site owners do not have adequate planning permission for the correct licenses.

Going back to the study by Niner and Hedges in 1992, the researchers found that although there were undoubtedly some severe problems and there was a need to improve licensing and inspection arrangements, people living on mobile park home sites did not always take sufficient care over contractual arrangements. The 2002 study by Berkeley Hanover Consulting et al (op cit) advised by Pat Niner, which looked at the economics of the Park Home industry, found that purchasers were still failing to read the fine details of contracts between themselves and Park Home site owners despite all the exhortations of organised residents groups (the British Park Home Residents Association, the Independent Park Home Advisory Service and the National Association of Park Home Residents). However, as a number of commentators point out, while it is probably advisable for potential purchasers to obtain advice either from a solicitor or the organisations mentioned, it is not a legal requirement. Some commentators suggest this is a major cause for confusion.
Changes in legislation since 2013

In 2013, the Mobile Homes Act was introduced. In 2014, further changes were introduced giving local authorities new powers to protect residents and deal with some site owners’ unscrupulous behaviour (Mobile Homes (Site Rules) (England) Regulations 2014 Act amended the Mobile Homes Act 1983).

The recent legislation introduces a number of important changes which particularly benefit residents on protected sites – that is sites not intended for holiday use only or sites that are not capable of being occupied all year.

For site owners and residents the changes include:

- Removing the requirement for site owners to approve a purchase of a mobile home or a person to whom this is gifted on protected sites
- Greater protection for Park Home owners against harassment and illegal eviction from sites
- Transferring the arrangements for Park Home residents who have a dispute with a site owner from County Courts to Residential Property Tribunals in order to make the process quicker and cheaper for residents
- A new helpline – the Leasehold Advisory Service
- A new requirement on Park Home site owners to ensure that the people who manage Park Home sites are ‘fit and proper’ individuals – this was to counter the rogue element amongst Park Home site owners

Local authorities:

- Are required to publish up to date registers of fit and proper Park Home site managers (who may be the owners or employees)
- Are able to collect fees in return for issuing licenses for protected sites – sites other than for holiday use
- Have increased powers to enforce site owners’ compliance with the Mobile Homes Act and other legislation – local authorities can serve compliance notices if conditions on protected sites are not met

In addition, responsibility for hearing appeals regarding site licenses has been moved to Residential Property Tribunals. Site owners are also allowed to collect the cost of a license via their pitch fees through the annual pitch review process.

Impacts of changes

It is too early to say if the changes will introduce major benefits for Park Home owners although national Park Home owner groups have welcomed the changes and many campaigned for them. However, the changes are a step in the right direction. It is clear though that residents living on Park Home sites with a holiday status do not have any greater status than before, although it is likely that appeals for retrospective planning may be easier in future and quicker.

The Select Committee Enquiry papers and the Consumer Focus report focused a lot of attention on the situation of Park Home owners and site owners and highlighted some of the tricky issues that are peculiar to this kind of living. Two of those topics are worth considering here.
A topic that received a lot of attention was the dispute between Park Home owners with older style mobile homes and site owners who wanted to develop their sites and have newer modern mobile homes in place of the older ones. The site owners not surprisingly are often interested in replacing older mobile homes and complain that older homes often look less attractive. Park Home owners on the other hand want to hang onto their assets. The 2013 legislation makes it clear that Park Home owners who have an indefinite right to remain on the site – on a protected site – can legally defend their right to continue to occupy provided the mobile home is in a good condition. The test will come when ‘condition’ is disputed in the new Tribunal.

Another and not unrelated subject that attracted considerable attention was improvements. Site owners sometimes made it very difficult for Park Home owners to carry out improvements, even when these were internal improvements. The problem came about partly because some site owners required Park Home owners, as part of the express conditions for a particular site, to seek permission from site owners for improvements. However, it was also associated with bullying behaviour and sometimes affected Park Home owners who wanted to improve the condition of their mobile homes and/or carry out adaptations. The need to obtain permission from site owners is not relevant in most cases since the 2013 Act is for Park Home owners living on protected sites. However, the devil is in the detail and it remains to be seen how much additional protection this gives Park Home owners.

Conclusions: A good choice – my view

I think Park Homes are a good choice for many people of all ages, including older people, however people who are thinking of living there in older age need to think ahead and do their homework. Finding a residential site with protected all year round status that has a mobile home for sale in the location one wants to be seems to be the most difficult thing to get right. Getting good legal advice about security of occupation and contract obligations, being prepared to read the small print and having money aside for contingencies also seem to be essential. Age UK, the Department for Communities and Local Government, resident and owner associations have excellent advice and factsheets so there isn’t really an excuse. Taking all this into account then, perhaps Park Home living is a good option for some older people.

Yet, I have some doubts. Despite the 2013 Mobile Homes Act, which seems to have gone a long way towards ameliorating some of the worst problems we, still don’t know how effective these changes will be. We still don’t know how easy it will be to apply remedies and we don’t know if Park Home owners will continue to buy mobile homes without being fully aware of the consequences.

And in advanced older age – perhaps when it is less easy to care for ourselves?

Research by Barbara Hobbs, an occupational health professional (forthcoming) on the living conditions of some Park Home sites and the extent to which some living units support independent living as people get older highlights the existence of some excellent design features. For example, she notes that some modern units located on Turners Hill in Sussex are designed to support independent living; they are fully accessible, they have wide access doors throughout, have excellent insulation and wet rooms. They are also very light inside and meet the excellent lighting specifications suggested by Thomas Pocklington Trust for people with sight loss, including people whose sight is deteriorating as a result of age.

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1 [www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/researchandknowledge/lighting/professionals/idresearchpubs](http://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/researchandknowledge/lighting/professionals/idresearchpubs)
Hobbs also suggests that some Park Home sites are equivalent to the best retirement communities because the people who live on them tend to be neighbourly and helpful towards each other. On site, staff are often helpful too and they provide people with a sense of security because they usually live on the site and will manage day to day problems – these are Park Home managers (sometimes the owners). The community aspect is commented on by a number of researchers and independent organisations. Neighbourliness and a willingness to help each other are mentioned by older people as well. Some older people are particularly attracted to a holiday feel of a site, particularly if it is well looked after, and some sites have recreational and other activities such as a club house, or they are located close to golf clubs or popular areas for cycling, walking and sailing.

A review of the marketing by a range of Park Home companies for this viewpoint indicated that the focus is on people recently retired who are looking to release equity from their homes so they can perhaps have more disposable income to spend as they get older. People responding to research questions, e.g. Consumer Focus (2012), said that the purchase price is one of the things that attracted them. Others talked about getting away from noisy towns and cities and having a slower pace of life.

Park Home site owners and organised residents groups often present different pictures, but they are agreed that Park Home sites and the units on them are very different to poorer ‘informal’ caravan sites. The evidence suggests this is true but they are still a mixed bag in terms of quality. Residents who are asked say that most sites are well maintained and attractively laid out but some are not. Some Park Home sites are in locations that suit people as they get older because they are close to shops and services, but other sites can be difficult to access on public transport and can be far removed from services. Even the most cursory review of the evidence from consumers reveals concerns about the well-being of people as they get older and frailer and their mobile home becomes less suitable for them. In common with other groups of people who move away from families and friends, the mobile home owner can also find themselves isolated.

There are some issues about accessing care and support and getting the healthcare we may need as we get older if we decide to move into a Park Home and we don’t live on a protected site. It is very important for people with existing health conditions to check out the status of the site before they decide to move in and live there. There is some suggestion from Barbara Hobbs work that Park Homes could be a great place to live for people with long term health conditions. Even better than most ordinary mainstream housing, largely because Park Homes often have good space standards, some are highly accessible and have many of the features we would want to see as we get older including wet rooms and easy to use space.

And yet there are still some special problems. Some health conditions, particularly those which involve using oxygen, carry higher fire risks and this raises issues for some Park Home site owners who are responsible for health and safety, including fire. There are issues about ambulances getting access to some sites – some have not been provided with the kind of surfaces that heavy vehicles require. The same caveats apply of course, to many other kinds of homes and locations that we could choose as we get older.

Each of us has to ask ourselves is this home and this location somewhere we want to be? Do the place and the home help us look after ourselves easily and get about easily and affordably as we get older?
**Tensions and unresolved issues**

Over and above the individual personal decisions, I think there are other broader societal tensions and unresolved issues. I think that Park Homes could be the answer, or part of the answer, to the desperate shortages we have of suitable housing in places people want to live that they can afford. However, their status as mobile homes means they are not currently regarded as part of the housing, housing with care and supported housing continuum. They are outside the legislation and simply do not register for the most part in JSNAs – there are exceptions and some JSNAs refer to the needs of older people on Park Homes sites. Should the number be clearer? The Census details will, when they are fully available, make some of the information clear. However, there are pressures from existing Park Home owners and occupiers on local services, so perhaps the subject needs to be considered comprehensively.

I think there are localism matters too. Shouldn’t Park Homes development and plans be included in local discussions about development for local people?

Then there are the housing and support and care strategic issues. Should the option of Park Home living be considered as a serious option to deal with present and future affordable housing shortages? The last Government enquiry did not take a strategic view of Park Homes – it was limited to resolving a range of mostly industry and consumer led problems. Perhaps a strategic view would provide a different perspective. After all a large number of older people seem to be choosing Park Homes rather than other options.

Ian Butter in the 2012 report he produced on the subject for the British Holiday and Home Parks Association went so far as producing some draft planning guidance because he thought the planning system needed to recognise the role that Park Homes are playing in the housing market. The report did not seem to garner much support. Who knows though – we could be set for a change. Given the demand and need for more housing, will the political parties in the run up to the Election turn their attention to Park Homes?

I will watch with interest to see if people living in Park Homes become more or less satisfied over the next few years, and if the 2013 reforms bring the benefits that were hoped for. I will also be keeping a weather eye to see if Park Homes or prefabricated living units appear in any political party manifestos. I am not holding my breath.
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Finding out more

A range of fact sheets are available via Gov.UK see:
www.gov.uk/park-mobile-homes/residents

Advice and information is also available from IPHAs see: www.iphas.co.uk

For information on the Select Committee Inquiry that led to the Mobile Homes Act 2013 see:
Note
The views expressed in this paper are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the Housing Learning and Improvement Network.

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About the Housing LIN
Previously responsible for managing the Department of Health’s Extra Care Housing Fund, the Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN) is the leading ‘learning lab’ for a growing network of housing, health and social care professionals in England and Wales involved in planning, commissioning, designing, funding, building and managing housing, care and support services for older people and vulnerable adults with long term conditions.

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