

Extra Care Housing in the Wychwoods

Oxfordshire County Council with Cottsway Housing are looking into the possibility of creating Extra Care Housing on land to the west of Green Lane in Milton -under-Wychwood, on land owned by the County Council. The proposed scheme will be for 40 units, and is intended to make up for the loss of both Greenlands and Langston House.

What is Extra Care Housing?

‘Extra Care Housing’ (ECH) is described in various government sponsored reports as *‘Purpose-built accommodation in which 24 hour personal care and support can be offered and where various other services are shared.’* In this respect the most important factors that define ECH are:

- Purpose built ‘lifetime’ homes for rent, sale or shared ownership
- An on-site team of carers providing personal care on a 24-hour basis that provides an alternative to residential care and many more services than sheltered housing
- Ability to provide a daily hot meal (usually from an on-site kitchen) served in a communal dining room
- Enhanced bathing and toilet facilities and a laundry
- Various communal rooms/areas offering a range of therapeutic, health, leisure and activity functions
- An ethos of extra care that promotes independence, not to foster a culture of dependency. Wherever possible, people are assisted in performing tasks themselves, rather than having them done for them.

The principle of ‘Extra Care’ is to provide accommodation and support to enable us all to remain in our villages for

as long as possible. The amount of care increases as the need dictates. The Green Lane position gives close proximity to the Deli, Post Office, Co-op, Hairdressers, Pub, Library and more, making a perfect site for residents to feel included in our community.

The Way Forward

My only reservation in supporting this scheme is that of design and access to the site. I will not support a proposal that uses Green Lane as a route into the proposed development. Cottsway Housing has explored the use of a possible access through the garden of 2, Shipton Road, which they own (opposite Elm Grove). I would support this idea. Cottsway have now produced draft plans for the scheme. These need to be accepted by both the people who live in the area of the proposed development, and the local Planning Authority at West Oxfordshire District Council. The first stage of this process will be a Meeting of OCC, Cottsway, and a working Party of Milton -under- Wychwood Parish Council during January, to discuss the draft Plans. This will hopefully be followed by a submission for Planning permission to WODC. Consultation within the Wychwoods will also be part of this process. A **Public Meeting** will be held, plans will be on view, and various questions such as eligibility and cost, can be answered. I will ensure that the meeting is well publicised and am happy to answer questions, but would suggest we wait until after the Public Meeting.

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