



Council and house builder work together to secure future for local charity

Hospice Hope, a local charity which provides support for people with life limiting conditions, will have a new home, thanks to a partnership between North West Leicestershire District Council and Bloor Homes.

With land provided by NWLDC and development carried out for free by Bloor Homes, the charity will soon have a new, purpose-built day centre just outside the village of Swannington.

After receiving the news that they would have to move out of their current accommodation in Griffydam by summer 2021, Hospice Hope trustees turned to the district council for ideas.

In response, the council agreed to lease some of its land – currently used to store spare wheelie bins – to the charity and appealed to businesses in the area. Bloor Homes replied within days to say that they would develop a 6,000 sq ft facility at no cost to the charity.

The decision to dispose of the council land was officially made by Cabinet members on Tuesday 24 September.

Bloor Homes will now draw up plans with a view to submitting a planning application in early 2020.

Councillor Richard Blunt, Leader of NWLDC said: “Anyone who has had the privilege to see the work at Hope House will certainly be impressed by the care and support that is provided there. It’s a real insight into the positive impact people can have on other people’s lives. For us, when we were asked if we could help to find Hospice Hope a new home so that they could continue this valuable work, we knew we’d have to do all we could. It’s heartening to know that our aspiration was matched by the generous offer from Bloor Homes to develop a new facility for Hospice Hope.”

Hospice Hope provides free day care at Hope House on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for people with life limiting conditions, allowing carers to take a well-earned break. All services are free – including transport and support services and complementary therapies - and a home cooked lunch is provided when they visit the homely facility.

The charity is supported by a dedicated team of more than 50 active and experienced volunteers, who are there to listen and support.

Stewart Shepherd, Chair of the Trustees of Hospice Hope says the charity is delighted with the news: “The need for the support that Hospice Hope provides is growing all the time. The wonderful generosity of Bloor Homes and magnificent support of our district council means

that we can plan more securely to meet the needs of the growing number of people who benefit from Hospice Hope services.”

Bloor Homes built and sold around 3,600 new homes across the country last year, working from its headquarters in Measham, North West Leicestershire. The company is enjoying its 50th year and currently employs some 1,200 people directly and many more through its sub-contractor base.

Gary Crisp, Director of Bloor Homes said: “Bloor Homes is delighted that NWLDC has agreed to make the land available for this very worthwhile cause. We can now fulfil our offer to provide the building and look forward to working with all parties to agree the design. We will submit the planning application as soon as possible and look forward to beginning work on the new Hospice Hope facility to enable this worthwhile charity to continue its inspiring work.”

ENDS

Issued by the Communications Team at North West Leicestershire District Council.
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Photo:



Notes to editors:

Hospice Hope and the need for a new home

- Hospice Hope is a registered charity that currently provides support services from Hope House, Griffydam for people with life limiting conditions
- The owner of the current accommodation in Griffydam will be returning to live in the property in 2021, therefore the charity is looking for alternative accommodation and approached the council to see if any assistance can be provided.
- The charity was formed following the closure of the Sue Ryder Hospice at Staunton Harold in 2002, which provided palliative care to adults living in North West Leicestershire.
- The charity also runs four drop-in support cafes on designated days in Ashby, Coalville / Whitwick, Ibstock and Castle Donington
- Hope House is for the patient only on Mondays and Thursdays. This allows the carer to take a much-deserved break from their caring duties, safe in the knowledge that their loved one is being well looked after.
- There is no charge for being at Hope House; the transport, services (including complementary therapies) and home cooked lunch are all free

The NWLDC land

- NWLDC will grant a long term lease of the land and building
- The council will retain the freehold on the land
- The site will be legally protected so that it can only be used for a community hospice
- The land is currently valued at £150,000
- It is currently used by the council to store spare wheelie bins, which will most likely be moved to new storage at the current depot in Coalville

The new building

- Bloor Homes will construct the new facility to an agreed specification with Hospice Hope
- NWLDC will retain the freehold of the land as well as the building once it has been completed by Bloor Homes
- A 150 year lease will be granted to Hospice Hope (Charity Number 1169561) at a nominal rental of £1 per annum (if demanded)
- The tenant will be responsible for all running costs in relation to the new building and the site itself upon completion