

New home for hospice thanks to council and developer

By **STAFF REPORTER**

HOSPICE Hope will have a new home thanks to a partnership between North West Leicestershire District Council and Bloor Homes.

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

After receiving the news 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 it 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 September 24.

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

Councillor Richard Blunt, leader of the council, said: "Anyone who has had the privilege to see the work at Hope House will certainly be impressed by the care and support provided there.

"It's a real insight into the positive impact people can have on other people's lives. When we were asked if we

could help to find Hospice Hope a new home so it could continue this valuable work, we knew we'd have to do all we could. It's heartening to know our aspiration was matched by the generous offer from Bloor Homes."

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, support services and complementary therapies - and a home-cooked lunch is provided when they visit the homely facility.

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

Stewart Shepherd, chairman of the trustees of Hospice Hope, said: "The need for the support Hospice Hope provides is growing all the time.

"The wonderful generosity of Bloor Homes and magnificent support of our district council means we can plan more securely to meet the needs of the growing number of people who benefit from Hospice Hope services."

Gary Crisp, director of Bloor Homes said: "We are delighted the council has agreed to make the land available for this very worthwhile cause.

"We look forward to working with all parties to agree the design. We will submit the planning application as soon as possible."



NEW HOME: Celebrating the Hospice Hope agreement

LONGHURST Group has raised more than £7,000 for Macmillan through its recent World's Biggest Coffee Morning campaign - with the group staging a number of events across its offices, care schemes and other sites.

Longhurst provides more than 23,000 homes and a range of care and support services across the Midlands and has about 1,300 employees.

Most of the group's offices held a coffee morning and cake sale, while several of its care and

IN BRIEF

support schemes also held events. Julie Doyle, chief executive, said: "To raise such a large amount of money is a brilliant achievement and demonstrates our absolute commitment to improving lives. "Macmillan Cancer Support does excellent work to help those affected by cancer. "Longhurst Group is proud to support the charity in any way we can."

Chairman of Ulverscroft Camera Club, Peter Tyler, presented £350 to Judith Spence, one of the founders of The Carpenters Arms, in Loughborough.

The money was raised by donations from visitors to the club's exhibition in Woodhouse Eaves village hall and from club members.

The charity helps men challenged by drug and alcohol addiction who often find themselves homeless.

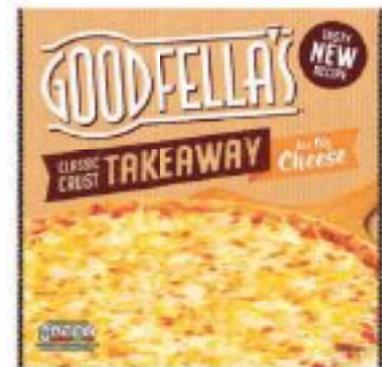
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