

December 2018



LOCAL CHARITY TO DEVELOP ACCOMMODATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN WINCHESTER CITY CENTRE

Local charity St John's Winchester has secured planning permission for the development of new accommodation for older people in the heart of the City.

Following a unanimous vote on 13th December, the Winchester City Council's Planning Committee granted permission for the development of sixteen new almshouses on Chesil Street on the back of a positive recommendation from the responsible Planning Officer. At the time of writing, permission for an additional 14 almshouses on the Charity's Colebrook Street site is outstanding, but we hope will be determined under delegated powers in the New Year.

This permission represents a vital step in St John's strategy to sustain a viable and vibrant community of older people living independently in the City, in accommodation that complies with the strictest of modern standards, whilst at the same time carrying affordable rates of rent. Occupiers of these new units will have the opportunity to integrate into our existing community, and benefit from its existing facilities and support. The development of these new units complements St John's efforts to reform twenty of its existing Southside almshouses in a manner that supports independent living for as long as possible. Twelve of the twenty residences have already been remodelled to date as part of this reformation programme, adopted in 2016.

Provided that planning is granted for the Colebrook Street site, construction of the new housing is expected to commence in late summer/early autumn of 2019, with a completion date anticipated in the first half of 2021.

Martin Lowry, the Charity's Chair commented: "It has taken us some time to secure this permission, but we want to thank the Officers involved and the Committee for their rigorous approach. We hope to work with the Council in future on opportunities that will benefit older people living in the City. Our new wellbeing initiative, St John's Hand in Hand, and our development projects illustrate our strong commitment to bettering the lives of older people living in the City."

Chief Executive Clive Cook commented: "St John's has a long-standing history, and the new units will ensure we can continue to support older people in the community in a sustainable way. Our community thrives because of its good neighbourliness, friendship, the welfare support we provide and staff participation and commitment. The development will allow the St John's almshouse community to endure and flourish within a modern setting."

End.

For more information please contact Kirstie Green, kirstie.green@stjohnswinchester.co.uk or Clive Cook, Chief Executive, clive.cook@stjohnswinchester.co.uk or 01962 854226.

Notes for the Editor

About us:

We are one of the country's oldest charities with over nine centuries of history and years of experience supporting older people of limited means. Our almshouse community offers supported independent living in a friendly, social setting, and our specialist nursing home delivers expert care for people living with dementia. With a rich history, but a thoroughly modern outlook, we are proud of the care and support we provide to around 150 older people in and around Winchester who choose to make St John's their home. We are a vibrant, caring community of older people living life their way.