

Press release: May 2019

SALE OF FORMER WINCHESTER CARE HOME CONCLUDED

St John's Winchester has announced the sale of its former care home, Devenish House, in Southgate Street, Winchester. Following the closure of the home in late 2016, a sale of the property was completed on 1 May to Landmark Estate Limited. The site includes two Grade II listed buildings, located on one of the main arterial roads into the city centre.

The charity took the decision to close Devenish House in 2016 on the grounds that it was no longer fit for purpose as a modern care home, coupled with a lack of funding for residential care places. Former residents of the home have been supported by the charity since its closure. St John's supported the residents and their families in their relocation and has continued to provide a financial top-up to meet the cost of care home fees.

Since the closure of Devenish House, the charity's Moorside Nursing Home (for those living with dementia) has been extended and the charity has also launched St John's Hand in Hand, which provides support to older people living independently in the Winchester district.

A successful application for planning permission has now been approved to convert the property into eight two-bed apartments and a single one-bed apartment, all with the benefit of onsite parking spaces. In addition to the renovation of the care home, Landmark Estate Limited has also agreed to reinstate offices in the adjoining property on behalf of St John's Winchester. This office accommodation will afford in the region of 2,100 sq ft.

It is anticipated that the apartments will be available to buy during the Autumn/Winter 2019 and the office space will be available to let from the end of August this year.

The proceeds of sale of Devenish House will be used to help fund the charity's almshouse expansion plans. St John's Winchester proposes to build up to 31 new almshouses on two sites in the city centre. The new almshouse units will offer care and support services to a greater number of local older people, complementing the charity's current renovations to 20 of its existing units on St John's Southside, The Broadway.

Chief Executive Clive Cook commented: "The closure of Devenish House was a result of the mounting challenge to provide high quality care for older people, some facing complex health and care requirements, within the confines and limitations of a Grade II listed building. Landmark Estate Limited's development will allow for additional residential dwellings close to the heart of the city, and will breathe new life into the listed property. We have now secured planning permission for sites on Chesil and Colebrook Street to build 31 new almshouses. The proceeds from the sale of Devenish House will go towards the construction of these new units, which will be integrated into our community and will feature design features to better support independent living."

Notes for the Editor

St John's Winchester is one of the country's oldest charities with over nine centuries of history and years of experience supporting older people of limited means. Its almshouse community offers supported independent living in a friendly, social setting, and its specialist nursing home (Moorside) delivers expert care for people living with dementia. With a rich history, but a thoroughly modern outlook, the charity provides care and support to around 150 older people in and around Winchester who choose to make St John's their home. It also delivers wider community support to local older people through its new wellbeing initiative, St John's Hand in Hand.



St John's
Winchester
CARE IN A VIBRANT COMMUNITY