



Wednesday, January 8th, 2014

Builth Community Hospital Development – open event success

More than 100 people attended an open event at Builth Wells' Strand Hall on Tuesday to find out more about plans to redevelop Builth Wells Community Hospital site.

Social landlord Wales & West Housing, which already manages more than 800 affordable homes in the county, is planning to build 17 high quality affordable new homes on the site, subject to planning permission being granted by Powys County Council this Spring.

Jon Harvey, Development Manager, Wales & West Housing, said: "We were really pleased at the high turnout at our open event and it was good to be able speak to so many local people and hear their views on our plans. We are pleased and encouraged at the level of support we have received for our proposals, and there is clearly a high level of interest in them."

Nikki Cole, Head of Development WWH, said: "It was not our decision to make this hospital building redundant, and we are involved now at the request of Powys County Council, who are keen that we develop it into high quality affordable housing for local people.

"We undertook a feasibility study into retaining the original structure and adapting it for affordable housing. Unfortunately, the existing structure is far from readily adaptable for residential use and due to the standards required for affordable housing in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability, this option is simply not cost effective for us.

"However we are committed to preserving the history of this building as much as possible, and will work closely with the local community and local experts in order to do this. One example of how we plan to do this is that we will relocate the two existing time capsules within the site, and create a further one to reflect this stage in the site's history.

"We will also seek to ensure that as many appropriately qualified local suppliers and tradespeople have the opportunity to work with us on this development."

Local resident Anna Jarvis, a mum of two, who lives in Cwrt y Castell, said: "I think Wales & West's plans for new homes for Builth are definitely a good idea. I will be sad to see the old



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hospital be demolished, of course, but I would much rather see the area used for new affordable homes than the building be left to fall derelict. I know of lots of young families in the area, like my own, who are likely to benefit from this development.”

Key Facts

- WWH paid £260,000 for the site.
- Welsh Housing Finance Grant funding has been secured for this site, on condition that it is used for new build housing.
- This development will be one of the first new build affordable housing schemes in Builth for many years.
- We anticipate planning consent to be granted Spring 2014. Once this is in place we will put the build contract out for tender.
- We hope to start work on the development Summer 2014.
- We anticipate the build will be completed within a 12 to 15 month timeframe.
- We are working in partnership with Powys County Council on this development. PCC approached WWH to take on the site, after the decision had been made by the Health Board to make the existing building redundant.
- 17 energy efficient new build properties will be created, a mixture of flats, two and three bed houses 4x 2 bed 4 person houses, 6 x 2 bed four person dormer bungalow style properties to fit in with the local area, 3 x 2 bed 3 person bungalows and 4 x 2 bed 3 person flats.
- WWH will operate a local lettings policy in conjunction with Powys County Council and we are keen to support local residents who have an interest in home ownership. We are proposing to offer Homebuy opportunities for incoming residents (more information available on request).
- To register your interest please contact our Housing Options Team on 0800 052 2526 or go to www.wwha.co.uk

Ends

For all media enquiries, please contact Public Relations & Marketing Manager Sarah Manners on 029 20414033, Blackberry 07917 352375, or sarah.manners@wwha.co.uk.

Notes to the editor:

Wales & West Housing has 9,500 properties across Wales providing quality, affordable homes for more than 17,000 people.



Established in 1965, WWH employs more than 340 staff, and works in 12 local authorities, making it one of the largest housing associations in Wales.

WWH is one of the most active developers of affordable housing in Wales with a current five-year build programme of £138m set to deliver 1,000 new homes. In Powys we manage 843 affordable homes and plans are in place to develop a further 71 properties, including 50 at our proposed extra care scheme in Newtown.

WWH is registered as a charitable association under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965. No. 21114R.

Find out more at www.wwha.co.uk and follow us on Twitter @wwha

