



Press Release

29 January 2014

Planning Application Submitted for new Gulliver's Bowls club and Churchill Retirement Living apartments at Knole Road, Bexhill, TN40 1LJ

Churchill Retirement Living and Gullivers Bowls Club announce that they have submitted a planning application to Rother District Council for the redevelopment of Gullivers Bowls Club into a state of the art bowling facility and new retirement living development.

Subject to planning consent being achieved the redevelopment is scheduled for completion in 2015. The Churchill Retirement Living proposal is for a 39, one and two bedroom retirement housing development, including communal features and Lodge Manager's office. The site, which comprises one disused bowling rink and dilapidated club facilities desperately needs to be redeveloped and improved.

Andrew Burgess, Churchill Retirement Living's Planning Director, says:

"There is a massive need for private sheltered housing in the Bexhill area. The proposed development of 39 units will increase access to private sheltered housing for local residents. There are only 646 units, available in the private sector for sale, to meet the needs of 30,060 owner-occupier households aged 65+, who are 73.5% of all local households. Social housing tenants are nearly eight times more likely to be able to gain access to sheltered housing than owner occupiers, therefore; existing private sector

supply is very low compared to the tenure structure of the District. It is clear that owner occupied retirement accommodation is going to be in increasing demand. “

As well as meeting the need for high-quality retirement apartments, the development will bring benefits to the local economy in Bexhill. Owners will be within walking distance of many amenities such as shops and restaurants, and people in this age group tend to prefer local shopping rather than the large supermarkets. When older people sell their homes – often quite large properties – they release these family-sized houses back onto the market, meeting another local need.

Andrew Burgess, Director of Churchill Retirement Living comments:

“The site is located close to the shops and amenities of Bexhill town centre and is well served by public transport and provides sufficient parking.”

“We have followed the guidance of the Planning Inspector’s decision of January 2013 which accepted the principle of this scheme and set a blueprint only requiring detailed design changes. We have engaged in pre-application discussions with the Council to refine the design and bring forward a high-quality development.”

Tina Stanley Secretary of Gullivers Bowls Club said,

“Gullivers Bowls Club is desperate for these improved facilities to be provided and, by working in partnership with Churchill Retirement Living, we can overcome the problems we currently have maintaining deteriorating buildings and provide a new state-of-the-art bowls facility. It really is a “*no brainer*” and the bowls club and the sheltered housing will make a perfect combination of uses. I hope that the wider community, the silent majority, will recognise that the benefits are wide-ranging and support the planning application after seven years of High Court action trying to stop a perfectly acceptable proposal.”

When built, the new development will follow the same highly successful pattern of all Churchill lodges, providing high-quality, self-contained homes in landscaped grounds. Owners have the benefits of a Lodge Manager, 24 hour Careline, Owners' Lounge, guest suite and laundry room. It is a lifestyle that is becoming increasingly sought after by people of retirement age, who enjoy freedom from household and gardening maintenance, and have the benefit of built-in sociability whilst still retaining their independence and privacy.

For more information on Churchill Retirement Living, please call 0800 458 1856 or visit www.churchillretirement.co.uk

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Image of the proposed Churchill Retirement Living development at Bexhill.

