

# Press Release



Listening Learning Leading

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## **Council receives plans for 350 homes on Fair Mile Hospital site, Cholsey**

South Oxfordshire District Council has this month received applications for a major redevelopment of the former Fair Mile Hospital at Cholsey. The plans propose over 350 new homes (including over 100 affordable homes), as well as new commercial, community and leisure facilities.

The £100 million development would convert and extend the main grade II listed buildings to provide 130 homes, of which 39 would be affordable housing. A further 223 new homes would also be built (with 67 of these affordable). The development is particularly committed to high levels of sustainability, and will follow both the Code for Sustainable Homes and Eco-homes standards.

The plans also include transforming former farm buildings to form offices, a cafe/restaurant and shop, as well as creating a new club premises, allotment buildings, cricket pavilion, sports and play areas.

The 40 ha site, which sits next to the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), is 2.5 miles from Wallingford and close to the River Thames. The extensive grounds, which including a grade II historic park and garden, and Cholsey Marsh Nature Reserve, would be preserved and eventually open to the public.

Angie Paterson, Cabinet member for planning, said:

“The council’s main priority is to secure the long-term future of the listed buildings and their beautiful setting. We are keen to encourage a mixed use, community development on this site.

“This is potentially a very positive development, achieving a balance between heritage, regeneration and sustainability. It will also bring over 100 much needed affordable homes to the area. I would encourage people to take a look at the plans on the council’s website [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk) and feedback to us their comments by 17 February.”

David Edwards, Regional Director for South East England at the HCA, said: “This is an important step in replacing a run-down and derelict site with a sustainable community that people will be proud to live and work in.

“This is a flagship project for the HCA and our partners. I hope that the community will look at the plans and have their say during the planning process.”

## **Ends**

## **Notes**

Members of the public can view the plans on the council's website at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/planning-service](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/planning-service) (Reference numbers P09/W1314/LB and P09/W1313) and can comment on the proposals before 17 February 2010.

The applications have been submitted by Linden Homes, Thomas Homes and the Homes and Communities Agency. The developers have worked closely with the council on pre-application planning for the last five years, given the particularly sensitive nature of the site.

Fair Mile Hospital operated from the mid-19th century. It closed as a mental-health facility in March 2003, after becoming surplus to NHS requirements and the site was acquired by the Homes and Communities Agency.