

BERWINS

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STYLE AND LUXURY FOR THE LESS MOBILE SEEKING INDEPENDENT LIVING



The creation of a ‘village’ in North Yorkshire offering stylish, independent living for retired people who are often restricted by a lack of mobility to living in one room in a large and sometimes rambling house is a step nearer reality for a newly formed Harrogate-based company.

The Care Design Partnership, comprising of directors Rob and Angie Jackson, of Ashfield Court Nursing and Residential Home, and Andrew Hopton, are now nearing the completion of their first venture in Harrogate.

Andrew, a former building inspector, has been in the nursing homes business for the last 17 years, both running and building them, while Rob and Angie have run their own home now for some 13 years. Their newly formed company is nearing completion of its biggest project to date – the £3m redevelopment of a once almost derelict property in Cavendish Avenue, Harrogate and turning it into an exclusive enclave of 11 luxury, assisted living apartments and bungalows, set in secure landscaped grounds.

Property lawyer Deborah Myerson, of Berwins solicitors, legal advisers to the Partnership, described the development as “visionary” and added: “Independence is

crucial as people get older and this concept gives all of that. As a property lawyer it has been a particularly stimulating project to work on.”

According to Mr Hopton, the aim of the Partnership is to promote independence. “It’s about allowing people who may have some disability, perhaps no longer as mobile as they used to be or are planning for their future, to remain in their own home in what is an innovative concept in retirement living for the over 55s in North Yorkshire.”

He said the development is fully independent of any care facility and is made up of one, two and three bedroom properties with prices ranging from £225,000 to £375,000. In addition to the properties, purchasers also get their share of the communal areas, including residents’ lounge and function room. There is an emphasis on style and luxury but a key factor is the attention to detail in terms of doorways wide enough for a wheelchair, level entry showers, raised electric sockets, etc.

Mrs Jackson commented: “We see assisted living as the future, at a time when demographics show that over the next decade or so there will be a significant increase in the number of retired people. Government policy is to encourage people to remain independent and able to retain their dignity and self-respect for as long as possible and this development complements that policy,”

She added: “Someone living alone in a large house, reluctant to give up his or her independence, but because of restricted mobility is confined to the ground floor, perhaps even one room, and is totally reliant on daily visits from a carer, is not our idea of independence. Purchasing a property at Cavendish will ensure that they have the benefit of independent living, structured within an environment that will suit their needs now and well into the future.

“This is not sheltered housing, there is no warden. It is an independent living scheme with each apartment and bungalow offering spacious accommodation to suit all their needs. Our motto is ‘Designs For Living / Building Homes For Life’ and our hope is that once people move into one of our properties, they should never need to move again.

We see such developments as the future for retired people and intend to build more of them. Our ultimate ambition is to create a ‘village’ in North Yorkshire that will have everything that is necessary for independent living, from the village shop to full recreational facilities.”

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Photography:

1. Property lawyer Deborah Myerson (left), of Berwins Solicitors with Care Design Partnership directors Andrew Hopton and Angie Jackson.