

EXTRA – CARE HOUSING IN THE WYCHWOODS.

Oxfordshire County Council and Cottsway Housing now have draft plans in place for 43 units of Extra-Care Housing on OCC-owned land off Green Lane in Milton. This will include communal areas.

Extra Care Housing is described in various government-sponsored reports as

‘Purpose-built accommodation in which 24-hour personal care and support can be offered and where various other services are shared’.

In this respect, the most important factors that define ECH are:

- Purpose built ‘lifetime’ homes for rent, sale or shared ownership.
- An on-site team of carers providing personal care on a 24-hour basis that provides an alternative to residential care and many more services than sheltered housing.
- Ability to provide a daily hot meal (usually from an on-site kitchen) served in a communal dining room.
- Enhanced bathing and toilet facilities and a laundry.
- Various communal rooms/areas offering a range of therapeutic, health, leisure and activity functions.
- An ethos of extra care that promotes independence, not to foster a culture of dependency. Wherever possible, people are assisted in performing tasks for themselves, rather than having them done for them.

Once OCC and Cottsway have agreed land ownership issues, plans will be finalized and given Public View and Consultation, prior to submission to the Planning Department of WODC.