

Tree planting symbolises Beech Spinney Opening



A tree-planting ceremony marked the completion of Beech Spinney, Telford - a £1.3m residential care centre for local people with multiple and profound learning disabilities.

Just off Beech Road, Ironbridge it offers five long-term residential places and two respite places for adults with learning disabilities and will also be a resource centre for other local people.

Councillor Rob Sloan, cabinet member for social care, told Outlook: "A major investment for Telford & Wrekin, Beech Spinney offers much-needed space where therapists can offer treatment to those with learning disabilities."

Mrs. Powell, a delighted parent of one of Beech Spinney's new residents, added: "My daughter will receive the best possible care in a home that has been built to the highest standards!"

Green Architects

A partnership development between the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Care Ironbridge, Telford & Wrekin Primary Care Trust and BVT, Beech Spinney was designed by Bournville Architects.



Adrian Millicheap of Bournville Architects told Outlook: "Because Beech Spinney falls within a network of land designated 'green' by the local council and is in close proximity to the Ironbridge World Heritage Site, designing it presented some interesting challenges.

"We had to consider it would probably be home to the residents for the rest of their lives and so - whilst still meeting Care standards, fire precautions and food hygiene standards - had to make it feel more

residential than institutional.

"We also had to ensure the therapy suite, with its hydrotherapy and sensory room, was not only fully accessible to disabled people but capable of being booked by other groups in order to obtain additional funding to offset running costs.

"Applauded by both users and carers the finished buildings are attractive and, once the soft landscaping has matured, the effect will be magnificent."





Emergency help is at hand

Would you or your loved ones benefit from knowing that, day or night, if ever you need emergency help, it is only minutes away?

By offering support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the BVT Emergency Helpline assists people to maintain their independence within their own homes.

"Instead of relying on contacting any next of kin, our service deploys a trained carer to assist and reassure clients until the emergency is resolved," BVT Senior Manager of Support Services, John McHugh, told Outlook.

"In the event of you being admitted to hospital the carer would ensure the emergency service knows about your personal circumstances, that you have your necessary personal belongings with you, that your home is secure and even that your pets are taken care of!" John added.

A member of the Helpline team will call by prior arrangement to demonstrate the service, with no obligation, and as long as you have a telephone line, connection to the service is quick and simple.

The cost of the service is also extremely competitive. To find out more or to arrange a demonstration, simply call

0121-476 2777

Looking to fund a project?

BVT are committed to improving the quality of life for people in their communities and funding is available to support tenant projects that benefit the community.

During 2004 the Trust received a wide range of applications that were subsequently assessed by tenants from the 2000+ Group sub-committee.

Projects that were awarded funding in 2004 included:

- A decorating training session for tenant members of Shenley Manor Tenants Association.
- An anti-social awareness event, held for young people living in Birmingham.
- A website for Woodlands Tenants Association.
- Pre/after school club equipment for Shenley Green Centre
- Positive graffiti workshop art sessions for young people living in Birmingham to educate the children in a positive way about the damage caused to the environment and to encourage them to take more ownership in the area in which they live.

The Trust will sponsor projects that meet one or more of the following aims:

- Improve the environment where tenants live
- Improve the quality of life
- Reduce crime, neighbour nuisance and other forms of anti-social behaviour



How to apply:

1. You can either apply directly to BVT or submit an idea to your local tenant association. Application forms are available in all area offices.

2. Complete an application form and send it to BVT.

3. If your application for funding has been turned down and you would like to appeal against the decision the 2000+ Group will review your application.

4. If you have an idea for a project but would like to discuss it further, or you are interested in joining the assessment panel, then please do not hesitate to contact Zoey Stanton on 0121-415 6516 or by e-mail at zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk

