

## **CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF SOUTHLANDS CARE HOME TO START**

People are to be asked for their views on a proposal to close a residential care home in Long Eaton.

Derbyshire County Council is proposing to close Southlands Home for Older People in Main Street, Long Eaton, and has launched a consultation to give local people the opportunity to have their say.

During the 12-week consultation people who would be affected by the closure of the 23-bed home, including residents, their families, staff and local people will get the chance to say what they think about the proposal and discuss the plans with county council staff.

One of the options for permanent residents would be moving to the new care centre the county council is building in partnership with Housing & Care 21 in the area – Lacemaker Court in Tamworth Road, Long Eaton.

Lacemaker Court is a mix of extra care apartments aimed at people aged over 55 years and specialist en-suite residential care rooms for people with dementia and other higher level care needs.

The new £10 million development, which is due to open in the spring or early summer next year, will also have consulting and therapy rooms, a public café/restaurant and a hair salon.

The proposal to close Southlands is part of the overall accommodation strategy for older people inherited by the current administration in May of last year - which is now under review.

While high quality care is provided at Southlands Home for Older People, the building itself does not meet the standards provided in other county council-run homes and care centres.

Letters informing residents at Southlands and their relatives of the start of the consultation have been sent out and meetings including individual discussions will be held shortly with everyone who may be affected by the proposal.

The consultation lasts until Sunday 24 August and all the views given will be taken into account when a report is written for the county council's Cabinet to consider.

It is likely that a decision will be made on the future of Southlands by the Cabinet in October. If the Cabinet decides to close Southlands then residents would have to move to alternative care in the summer of 2015.

Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Councillor Clare Neill said: "If, following the consultation, a decision is made to close Southlands, we will work closely with residents and their families to find them the right place to live.

"One of the options would be a move to the new Lacemaker Court development in Long Eaton, which we are building with partners.

"The building will be modern, purpose-built and meet our high standards and it would be able to accommodate people with a wide range of care needs."

For more information on the Southlands consultation visit the county council's website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/southlands](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/southlands)