
HARDWICK HOUSE SITE – NAMING OF DEVELOPMENTS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To determine the names for the developments at the Hardwick House site, Rayleigh.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The former Hardwick House sheltered housing scheme is being refurbished and converted into 22 general needs rented flats. On the adjacent plot of land, now accessed via Dobson's Close, a new older person's housing scheme is being built. The new building is planned for completion by December with the conversion scheme being handed over in Spring 2006.
- 2.2 Both developments are being carried out by the Council's chosen housing association partner, Swan Housing Group. Swan have asked the Council to give consideration to the names for the new schemes.

3 DISCUSSION

Hardwick House

- 3.1 It is believed that Hardwick Close and Hardwick House were named after a former Chairman (1955) of Rayleigh Urban District Council, Councillor A W Hardwick, J P.
- 3.2 The naming of a building after a person is usually reserved for those held in high esteem and it is suggested that the intentions of former Councillors should be respected and the name be retained. This will also maintain continuity and avoid any potential confusion with, for example, postal deliveries.

Dobson's Close

- 3.3 As this is an entirely new building there are no similar considerations.
- 3.4 One option may be to follow the theme set with Hardwick Close/Hardwick House and name the new older person's scheme Dobson's House or Dobson's Court.
- 3.5 With some new housing developments the naming is left until residents are in occupation, and some form of competition is organised for them. Swan Housing Group have advised that this can work well and that they are willing to make the necessary arrangements if requested by the Council.
- 3.6 Members may have their own suggested names for the building.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is a risk of offending some members of the community if the Hardwick House name was lost.
- 4.2 Allowing the first residents of the new older person's scheme to choose a name may be seen as a positive way forward

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That the name Hardwick House be retained for the existing building.
- (2) Either:
- the name for the new older person's scheme at Dobson's Close, Rayleigh, or
 - to request Swan Housing Group to organise a competition amongst the scheme's residents.

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Background Papers:-

None

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