
FUNDING FOR 'INSPIRING' HOUSING SCHEME AGREED

Funding for a new housing scheme in Ivybridge for people with learning disabilities has been given the go ahead by district councillors.

At an executive meeting, members of South Hams District Council approved plans to allocate £130,000 of S106 money to Ivybridge Town Council's housing project. The scheme would provide affordable accommodation for people with learning disabilities and transform the former care home at Butterpark into six homes, plus a three bedroom learning and training house. Cllr Kathy Cuthbert, ward member for Ivybridge East, said: "The project has grown from a tiny seed into a fantastic project. Ivybridge is such a supportive community for people with learning disabilities

and because of that, many parents were looking at how they can move forward as their adult children wished to live independently in their own homes.

"This project has grown from that wish and I am so pleased that SHDC has approved the funding." Section 106 money is paid to SHDC by developers, which the council uses to support communities where development takes place.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, joint portfolio holder for customer first, said: "I must congratulate Ivybridge Town Council on this inspiring project, they've done a brilliant job."

Ivybridge Town Council is now in the process of purchasing the land and is currently working with social services, care and support organisation The DOVE Project

and Brook Housing to provide supported living arrangements for potential residents.

Deputy mayor of Ivybridge, Cllr Ann Laity, who is the council's representative on the steering group for the Butterpark project, said: "The council is delighted that the money has been allocated for this innovative project which will deliver rented accommodation for people with moderate learning disabilities.

"As the leader of Stairways, I know all too well the difficulties in finding suitable, secure tenancies and the Ivybridge parents of adult children are hugely relieved that we are making a start at tackling this issue.

"We welcome the vote of confidence from SHDC in our scheme and the release of the money will enable us to deliver the project."
