

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 10 February 2014

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Health and Housing
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Naming of the New Sheltered Housing Scheme in North West Fareham</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Community
<b>Strategy/Policy:</b>	Housing Strategy
<b>Corporate Objective:</b>	A balanced housing market

#### **Purpose:**

To consider options for naming the new sheltered housing scheme in North West Fareham (on the site of the former Collingwood House).

#### **Executive summary:**

At the Council meeting on 12 December 2013, the Executive Leader presented a proposal requesting the Executive to consider naming the new sheltered housing scheme (on the site of the former Collingwood House) Ernest Crouch Court in memory of Alderman Ernest Crouch and his 30 years of unstinting service to this borough.

Furthermore, it was proposed that the communal lounge be named the Collingwood Lounge to maintain the links with HMS Collingwood and the former building which stood on the site. The proposal was met with unanimous support.

Following the Council's support for the proposal, the Executive Leader recently met with the former residents of Collingwood House to seek their views.

The Executive is now invited to consider the proposal and the options.

#### **Recommendation:**

- (1) The Executive considers the proposal arising from the Council meeting of 12 December 2013 for naming the development and agrees a name for the new development.
- (2) The Executive agree to invite Mrs Enid Crouch to lay a foundation stone in the new sheltered housing scheme in memory of her husband Alderman Ernest Crouch as a tribute to his 30 years of unstinting service to this borough.

**Reason:**

To agree the name for the new sheltered housing scheme in North West Fareham.

**Cost of proposals:**

The cost of installing a foundation stone is included within the total budget approved by the Executive for this project. There is no additional cost arising from the selection of a name for the building.

**Appendices:** None

**Background papers:** Executive Report: 1 July 2013 - Redevelopment of Collingwood House – Award of Tender (Confidential).

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

**Date:** 10 February 2014

**Subject:** Naming of the New Sheltered Housing Scheme in North West Fareham

**Briefing by:** Director of Community

**Portfolio:** Health and Housing

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The redevelopment of Collingwood House is a corporate priority arising from the Council's strategic review of sheltered housing. In 2012, the Executive agreed to demolish Collingwood House and the adjoining flats in Gibraltar Close to build a new sheltered housing scheme that would be fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
2. The new sheltered housing scheme will provide 23 x 1 bedroom and 17 x 2 bedroom apartments. The total cost of the scheme including fees, will be £5,355,000. Works commenced in October 2013 and are due for completion by January 2015.
3. A decision now needs to be made on the naming of the new building.

#### OPTIONS

##### Option 1

4. On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the Council was greatly saddened to learn of the death of former Mayor and Councillor, Alderman Ernest Crouch, who passed away peacefully in his sleep.
5. Ernest Crouch was a well-respected Borough Councillor, representing Portchester West from 1979-1995 and 1996-2010, during which time he also served as Mayor in 1990/1991 and 2008/2009. He served as Leader of the Council in 1994 -1995. He was admitted to the roll of Honorary Aldermen in July 2010.
6. Ernest Crouch gave over 30 years of unstinting service to the Borough of Fareham; and had a keen interest in housing, serving as the long-term Chairman of the Housing Committee. Alderman Crouch participated in the review of the Council's sheltered housing stock and was involved in the decision to demolish Collingwood House and replace it with a new sheltered housing scheme fit for the twenty first century.

7. At the Council meeting on 12 December 2013, the Executive Leader paid tribute to Alderman Ernest Crouch and presented a proposal to request the Executive to consider naming the new sheltered housing scheme Ernest Crouch Court in memory of Alderman Ernest Crouch. Furthermore, it was proposed that the communal lounge be named the Collingwood Lounge to maintain the links with HMS Collingwood and the former building which stood on the site.
8. The proposal to request the Executive to consider naming the new development Ernest Crouch Court was met with unanimous support.

## **Option 2**

9. On the 28 January 2014 the Executive Leader attended a meeting with former tenants of Collingwood House to consult them about his proposal to name the new building in memory of Alderman Crouch.
10. The Council maintains close links with the former tenants of Collingwood House, arranging regular coffee mornings and issuing newsletters to keep them updated on the progress of the new scheme. Currently, twelve former residents have expressed their preference to return to the new sheltered housing scheme when it opens early in 2015.
11. The residents were very complementary about the way in which the Council has involved and supported the residents throughout the redevelopment process.
12. However, the residents were keen to retain the "Collingwood" name and put forward an alternative option suggesting the new scheme be called "Collingwood Court". It was also suggested that the communal lounge could be named the "Ernest Crouch Lounge".

## **FOUNDATION STONE**

13. Whenever works commence on the construction of a new publicly funded building, it is traditional for the Mayor or a civic leader to lay a foundation stone to commemorate the start of construction.
14. Regardless of the name chosen by the Executive, provision has been made to install a foundation stone at the scheme.
15. As a mark of respect for Ernest Crouch's many years of distinguished service to Fareham Borough Council and his keen interest in providing good quality affordable housing for the residents, it is proposed that a foundation stone be laid in his memory.
16. It is also proposed that the Council invite Mrs Enid Crouch and her family to unveil the foundation stone in the company of the Mayor and the Executive Leader.

## **CONSULTATION**

17. The Executive Leader has consulted with Alderman Crouch's widow (Mrs Enid Crouch) and the Crouch family on the proposal to lay a foundation stone in memory of Ernest Crouch and the names being considered for the new development. Whilst they are greatly saddened and still coming to terms with their loss, they are delighted to learn of the proposal to install a foundation stone in memory of Ernest.
18. Captain Steve Dainton OBE Commander of HMS Collingwood has been consulted on the naming options and is pleased that the links with HMS Collingwood will be maintained.
19. The Executive Leader has met with the former residents and discussed his proposal for naming the new building.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

20. There is no cost associated with the decision to name the building in memory of Alderman Ernest Crouch.
21. Provision exists within the total budget approved by the Executive for the project, to install a foundation stone.

## **CONCLUSION**

22. The Executive is invited to discuss and agree the name for this new development having regard to the proposal endorsed by the Council and the views of the former tenants.
23. The Executive is also invited to approve the proposal to install a foundation stone within the new development as a tribute to Alderman Ernest Crouch.