

Judges' Citation RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2019

Category: Excellence in Health and Well-Being

Winner: [Vail Williams LLP](#)

Heatherwood Hospital Redevelopment

The submission from Vail Williams Planning Team was for the development of a new elective care hospital, 230 residential units and the conversion of an existing building for a GP Hub and office; together with the opening up of an area of woodland to public access.



The judges noted that the existing site had a number of constraints that had to be overcome, not least the requirement to ensuring continuous provision of hospital services during the redevelopment; but also making the case for part of the development in an area of undeveloped Green Belt. A hybrid application was prepared supported by a robust evidence base. The Planning team working with the Frimley Health NHS

Foundation Trust to draw together, within set timescales, the evidence base to demonstrate the benefits of the scheme.

The Planning team had undertaken a significant amount of public engagement in advance of submitting the application.

The judges noted that despite the above constraints the development will provide public access to open space within walking distance of Ascot town centre whilst protecting and enhancing the woodland priority habitat. It also has secured the provision of a healthcare facility in a sustainable location, a key priority of the local community. The new elective care facility will support the NHS Trust to improve patient experience and deliver healthcare improvements by providing all facilities within one building.

The judges felt that the achievements were worthy of being recognised with a Commendation in the RTPI SE Award for Planning Excellence 2019.