

## Planning Statement in support of proposed extension to Bluebell Swanton House, Dereham Road, Swanton Novers, Melton Constable, NR24 2QT

07.02.24

SWANTON CARE are a national provider of care and support with a diverse range of services. The people supported have complex needs, they may have autism, learning disabilities, mental health issues or need rehab in a specialist nursing service. Swanton Care believe that with the right health and social care support everyone can achieve greater independence and lead fulfilling lives. Each person cared for is at the heart of the services provided.

Supporting individuals since 2003, with complex needs, including learning disabilities and autism, to live life to the full. Swanton work with each person they support, their family members and support network, to deliver high quality meaningful care. Enabling each person supported to live a full and rich life. Helping them access the opportunities and activities open to everyone in their community.

For every person supported, Swanton travel with them on their personal journey towards greater independence and community living.

Needs and aspirations change and develop over time so our care partnerships embrace self-directed support models, focus on pathways to independence so that real goals can be achieved.

Swanton House is set in delightful, mature grounds extending to some 22 acres in North Norfolk. Registered to support up to 49 individuals within our 3 smaller separate homes, each one can offer both Residential and Nursing Care to the people we support.

The intention is to develop an additional, new lounge facility that will provide significantly improved communal environment for residents within Bluebell building at Swanton House. The current facility is cramped and awkwardly configured and would does not adequately fulfill modern expectations of an additional separate lounge / day area. This revised proposal has fully considered and acknowledged the understandable concerns arising from the previous Planning consultation and envisages a much less prominent and altogether more suitable location for the new lounge.

At present there is an adequate if somewhat limited and institutionalised provision of communal space which is currently focused on only a single, awkwardly shaped lounge at the front of the ward area plus a separate sub-lounge which doubles as a tea/kitchen area and which has been converted within a former en-suite bedroom

The proposed new lounge extension will significantly ease pressure on existing communal space and will ensure there is no loss of existing facilities, with the store cupboard which is converted to provide internal access to the lounge being readily re-provided elsewhere within the wider Bluebell building. The bedroom affected by the formation of the short "link" corridor will still comply comfortably with spatial and other regulatory compliance standards and would continue in its current use.

The new additional lounge is proposed to be of single storey construction in keeping with the design and materials of the original structure, providing a light and airy area for residents to enjoy and its discreet and quiet aspect will be a particularly attractive feature which will be a therapeutic benefit to the residents. The new lounge and its revised location will open up direct access to a safe, enclosed and peaceful garden area which is not currently available to residents and will encourage wildlife to interact and it will allow smaller and more homely groups of residents to congregate.

A primary benefit of the proposed scheme will be a significant increase in both the physical floor area and environmental quality of the communal space that will be made available for use by Bluebell residents.

The proposed new arrangement will improve internal accessibility and, along with related minor internal alterations, will allow full compliance with Part M Building Regulations and much improved access throughout for those with limited/restricted mobility.

**SWANTON CARE**