

# TAPS

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## Iconic Heswall Landmark under Threat – Former Police Station for Sale

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside has authorised the sale of the former Heswall Police Station and its attached car park. The foundations of this building were laid in 1911, although it was not commissioned until 1919 due to difficulties occasioned by the First World War. Built as the Divisional Headquarters of the Wirral Division of the Cheshire Police, it retained this function until 1940 when the Headquarters were transferred to Bromborough. Heswall subsequently became a local Police Station.

This very attractive building was designed by the architect Harry Beswick and is constructed in a distinctive red brick with fine sandstone detailing to the mullioned windows and to the gables, complemented by imposing chimneys. Together with the Lloyds Bank Building and the Methodist Church, it is one of the few buildings of significant architectural heritage merit in Telegraph Road, and it is a very characteristic and well-known feature on this major thoroughfare through Heswall.

In an expert planning appraisal commissioned on behalf of the vendors, the architectural merit and the positive contribution the former police station makes to the street scene were acknowledged. However, the redevelopment of the whole site involving the demolition of the building was also proposed as a possible approach.

The Heswall Society is committed to take all possible measures to preserve the special features of the building such as the front and side elevations, the roofline and the chimneys. A fast-track listing application has been submitted – applications for such listing are only possible when a building is under threat.

For further updates, please consult the Heswall Society's website: [www.theheswallsociety.org.uk](http://www.theheswallsociety.org.uk)

If you share our views on the need to preserve the Police Station, perhaps you could consider joining the Society, or possibly contributing to crowdfunding for the protection of the building.



## Ridgewood Court Residential Care Home

*Offering residential and residential dementia care*

Simon Doherty, Ridgewood Court's home manager, began his career as a care assistant in his early twenties and with over 16 years' experience in care management he is the perfect person to lead the home's new team.

Simon said: "It's been great being involved from the beginning. We have recruited some amazing staff, and we're excited that our beautiful new home is now open."

The home, which opened this month, offers residential and residential dementia care and features 60 spacious en-suite bedrooms, with underfloor heating throughout, light and airy open-plan lounge and dining areas, an on-site café, residents' shop, hairdressing and beauty salon, themed cinema room and landscaped gardens.

In the lead up to the opening of the home, Simon has enjoyed meeting local people and creating links with key community groups in Pensby, including a group of 11-year-old pupils from Pensby Primary School. The visit, which took place earlier this year, saw the imaginative youngsters bring memory sticks filled with masterpieces created by their entire school depicting what they imagine life to be like in 60 years' time and telling people about life in 2017 and 2018. These memory sticks were placed in the capsule along with a box of the pupils' favourite chocolate wrappers, a catalogue of toys, and a T-shirt featuring pictures of all of their teachers. The capsule was then buried in the home's landscaped gardens.

Simon commented: "Intergenerational projects are beneficial for both the older and younger generations, so we are really looking forward to inviting the children back to Ridgewood Court to meet our residents and create some new memories with them and also welcoming the community into our wonderful home."

**Visit [www.sanctuary-care.co.uk](http://www.sanctuary-care.co.uk) for information on upcoming community events, including Care Home Open Day on Saturday 21 April.**

