



Controversy over proposed apartment block development on Brimstage Road



Local ladies to run London Marathon

Faridah Brooker, Bev Faulkner, Louise Russell and Ali Thompson are running the London Marathon this month in aid of their chosen charity Wellchild.

Faridah told *Heswall Magazine*: "Wellchild is an amazing charity that gets children out of hospital and back in their own homes. We are lucky that we have never needed their services but should they be needed, Alder Hey have specialist Wellchild nurses.

"These nurses are invaluable to the families of children with life-limiting illnesses or injuries, as not only do they provide medical care, they are also the child's key worker, as well as training the family and carers how to use specialist equipment, arrange respite care, liaise with schools, etc. They provide financial advice and much-needed emotional support. Wellchild also organises bedroom and garden makeovers to make the lives of these children as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

"We have already had a few events, such as a cocktail night, cookery class, fashion evening and our own half-marathon, to raise money, and we have a Rock 'n' Roll Bingo, a cake sale and a tea party still to come. We have a target of £6k to raise between us, but we are obviously trying to raise as much as we can for this amazing charity."

The ladies have had fantastic support from friends and families, and would appreciate any additional donations. Their fundraising page is: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Wellchild18>



A proposed new-build scheme for a block of eight apartments in Heswall is meeting with opposition from local residents. A planning application regarding 16 Brimstage Road proposes the demolition of the existing residential property, followed by redevelopment which will incorporate a new building. The proposed apartments have been arranged around a central entrance, with three apartments on ground and first floors, and two within the roof space.

Local residents, however, have expressed their concerns about the development and have been objecting. Julian Diaz-Rainey, a prominent solicitor who lives on Brimstage Road said: "We strongly object to this scheme.

"There are no other similar developments on the road – certainly no flats. The proposed development is just not in keeping with the road and the area. Should permission be given, other similar developments will follow and completely destroy the character of the neighbourhood.

"There are other areas on the Wirral which are desperately in need of vital investment and regeneration for housing, but Heswall is not one of them.

"What's more, Brimstage Road is already a very busy road into and out of Heswall, so from a highway point of view we do not want more cars using it and then causing more congestion on Telegraph Road. The infrastructure is simply not there.

"The entrance to Heswall Football Club is just one house from the proposed development. When there are events going on at the club, that end of the road can become very busy and we do not want it even more congested. To suggest eight parking spaces is sufficient for eight flats these days simply does not work and undoubtedly there will be cars parked in the highway when Brimstage Road is already extremely busy, especially as the proposed flats are on top of the very busy Gayton roundabout."

Julian added: "Any proposed development should simply be a family house in keeping with the area."

When contacted by *Heswall Magazine*, Holly Palmer, Marketing Manager of developers Blueoak Estates, said: "The proposed redevelopment of the application site with eight apartments will provide a mix of luxury accommodation in a building which has been carefully designed to compliment the surrounding area; is compliant with national and local policy; and which has responded positively to comments received at Pre-application Enquiry stage. The parking outlined in this application is in full compliance with Wirral's parking policies."

From L-R: Faridah Brooker, age 47 from Heswall, an optical assistant at Specsavers in Heswall; Bev Faulkner, age 49, from Heswall, a litigation executive at PDA Law Solicitors; Louise Russell, age 41, from West Kirby, a librarian at the University of Liverpool; Ali Thompson, age 35 from Heswall, a dentist at JK Evans and Associates, Ellesmere Port