



Press Release

### ***Huge Boost to Northside Health Care***

#### ***Mayfield To Get State-of-the Art Medical Facility***

The Cork suburb of Mayfield is set to become the location for the country's most comprehensive and advanced primary healthcare facility.

Cork City Council has indicated its intention to grant planning permission for a €14 million Community Health Centre which is located off the Northern Ring Road in Lower Mayfield.

The 42,000 sq.ft. facility will provide an integrated range of medical services for both public and private patients. In what will be a significant enhancement of health services in the Northside of the city as a whole, the centre will house 6 GP surgeries, medical procedure rooms, dentists, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and other services. Sports medicine will be one of the Centre's elements and the facility will include treatment facilities and advanced diagnostic equipment such as x-ray and radiography, not normally available in standard surgeries.

In addition, the centre will house a pharmacy, optician and coffee shop. A key feature of the Centre is a Health Care Pavilion with a strong focus on preventative health care, general well being and community connectivity. The Centre will not only dispense health promotional information but can also house lectures and information sessions on specific health subjects for community groups, local schools and medical professionals. Underground parking for 66 cars will be available.

It is intended that construction which will take about 18 months to complete, will commence this summer. Forty construction jobs will be provided and the Centre will employ another forty people when completed.

Local City Councillor, Mairin Quill, said the Council decision was very, very good new for the North East of the city. "The Centre has the potential to deliver comprehensive health services of a type which local people have had to travel and queue for in Cork University Hospital. Having to cross the city and to put up with

delays in traffic was an added burden and hardship on people who were sick and on their families.”

The developers, Meitheal Projects, are a local business consortium focused on the provision of public infrastructure. According to spokesperson, Fergus Murphy, the facility will be the most integrated to be built in the country to date. “The facility is very much in keeping with the thrust of current primary care policies and best international practice. Efficient health care is now about seeking to prevent serious medical issues arising if possible but also to make a critical mass of diagnostic and treatment facilities available within communities to treat many health issues without reference to hospital or to busy A and E. departments,” said Mr. Murphy.

“There has been significant local consultation on the project and there is widespread community support. The consultation process fed into the final shape of the project and the Council planners had regard for the concerns of near neighbours by reducing the height of the building by one storey, at one point. The design by Magee Creedon Kearns is very attractive and contemporary and the building ranges in height from one storey closest to neighbouring houses to three storeys facing the Northern Ring Road,” Mr. Murphy said.

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