

Aged care facility proposed for Whitby

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A new 60-bed aged care facility is in the pipeline at Whitby Lakes Retirement Village and director Sandy Foster says it is an important part of moving forward.

Resource consent for the 1220-square metre facility was lodged this year and following public consultation, Porirua City Council and village management teams are considering the objections and submissions received.

If the proposal is accepted, the \$16 million, three-storey building would be located at the northern end of the retirement village, next to Samuel Marsden Whitby. Though the facility would not be a hospital where operations were performed, it would still provide a high level of care.

Foster said the idea had been around for three years and a lot of research had gone into how it would happen.

"There's enough demand out there for something like this. It is a big development, but so was the village itself," Foster said.

"We understand there have only been four objections, which is a positive outcome for us. Our residents have been very positive

towards the proposal as it will benefit them. But the wider community also understands it is something that's needed. It will be slightly different than others in the market, but we will still provide the same level of care."

Foster said the hope was to start construction towards the last quarter of 2016. The building process would likely take up to 20 months.

The new facility would also open up more opportunities for employment, with about 15 nursing staff needed on a day-to-day basis.

"We want to create a place that helps people who live there and is also an asset to the community."

Foster said Capital & Coast District Health Board had given provisional approval for funding, subject to accreditation once complete.

Adrian Ramage, the Porirua City Council's manager of resource consents, said though the applicant – Whitby Lakes – liaised with neighbours beforehand, there had been four submissions from the public and all wanted to have their say.

A hearing for objections and submissions has been scheduled for November.



An artist's impression of the proposed aged care facility at Whitby Lakes Retirement Village.