



An artist's impression of how Inglewood will look when the work is complete

# Inglewood House – villagers' concerns

Facilities will be available for community use but fears remain over traffic

A CRICKET pitch and cookery lessons are some of the benefits Kintbury residents can expect as part of the transformation of Inglewood House into a retirement home.

Audley Court was announced as the new owner of the multi-million pound site at the end of last year, which it plans to transform into a retirement home.

However, Kintbury villagers, currently petitioning for less traffic and a lower speed limit in the village, are concerned over the traffic impact the home will have both during construction and once the residents have taken occupancy.

At a Kintbury Parish Council meeting recently, the chief executive of Audley Court, Nick Sanderson, assured parishioners that traffic once the retirement home had opened would be minimal but admitted traffic during the construction could be a problem.

"We can certainly impose conditions on the construction traffic to ensure that it

Report by Sofia Zagzoule

takes a certain route and do our best to see that it avoids the most problem areas," Mr Sanderson told the council.

"Perhaps it could go through Inkpen."

As part of the planning process, a traffic impact assessment concluded that there would be only eight additional car movements during peak hours.

"The reason for this is that not many of our residents are expected to own cars and those who do won't usually rush to the shops at 7am in the morning when traffic is at its worst," said one of the directors of Audley Court, Ben Krauze.

Mr Krauze added that a residents' bus service running to and from village would lessen a need for cars.

Audley Court has promised to restore the dilapidated house to its former glory which has in its time been a monastery, the Dowager's House to nearby

Hungerford Park and most recently a leading hotel and spa.

The 55 acres are expected to include a cricket pitch and a patch of allotments which will be open to villagers.

The house will provide up to 95 units of accommodation and include an on-site restaurant, a swimming pool and treatment rooms for hydrotherapy.

The swimming pool may also be offered to villagers with the possibility of using parts of the house for community meetings such as mother and toddler groups and cookery lessons.

The retirement home is expected to create around 35 jobs with the integration into the village of the 95 inhabitants bringing a beneficial affect on the local economy.

The plans are expected to go for consideration in October with the first residents moving in about one year later if the proposal is approved.