



Partners in Construction

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Beard to build new doctors' surgery at Old Basing

The construction of a new doctors' surgery and four flats at Old Basing, Hampshire, will begin this month following a six-year battle for planning permission and Government funding.

The £1.5m building contract has been awarded to southern England construction company Beard, which employs 160 people and operates throughout central southern England.

The architects and project managers, CMS Bath Ltd, have designed a two-storey surgery building featuring stack-bonded brickwork, two mono-pitched roofs (one of zinc, the other of living Sedum), and parking spaces for staff and patients. The reception area, waiting room, minor surgery suite and consulting rooms will be on the ground floor, while the first floor will provide offices and seminar rooms for staff.

An adjoining single-storey pharmacy will save patients a journey to Hook or Basingstoke to collect their medicines.

The building project, at Milkingpen Lane near the centre of Old Basing, also includes a separate two-storey block of four flats featuring traditional brickwork and roof tiles, in keeping with their village setting.

Dr Tony Weaver, Senior Partner of Old Basing Surgery and Odiham Health Centre, said the new surgery represents a big step forward for his practice and its patients.

"We bought the land for this project four years ago, so we are delighted and relieved

that building work can finally go ahead. Our existing surgery in Old Basing is too small and out of date and doesn't offer disabled access. It was a case of either closing down or getting a new surgery.

"We currently have 3,000 patients in Old Basing, but the new surgery will give us the capacity to look after all 7,000 village residents so that they don't have to travel elsewhere to see a doctor. We also believe that the new pharmacy will save road journeys totalling 100,000 to 200,000 miles per year.

"We awarded the building contract to Beard because it is a quality company with a good reputation. Beard's team for this project have shown us that they are committed to delivering an excellent building for the people of Old Basing, and will go out of their way to minimise the effect our building work will have on local residents."

Project Architect Paul Rogers says CMS came up with a completely new design for the Old Basing Surgery project after local residents objected to the original plans. "We changed the building's position, shape, height and materials so that it would have less impact on the village setting. The new surgery will be striking and interesting to look at, and purpose-built to meet the needs of the doctors and their staff and patients."

Allan Bland, Construction Director of Beard Swindon said: "Beard is delighted to have been awarded the contract to build this exciting new addition to Old Basing. We look forward to working with CMS and Dr Weaver to ensure that the new surgery lives up to their expectations."

Beard (www.beard-construction.co.uk) operates throughout central southern England and undertakes construction projects worth up to £6m. Established in 1892, Beard has offices in Swindon and Oxford and employs 160 people. The company is engaged in the Construction Best Practice Programme and achieved a turnover of £33m in 2005 (up from £22m in 2004). Beard is an Investor in People and a Chartered Institute of Building training partner, and won the 2006 Wiltshire Business Training and Development Award. Beard's Managing Director, Mark Beard, was Oxfordshire Businessman of the Year in 2004.

Beard company facts and figures

- Established 1892
- £33m turnover in 2005 (up from £22m in 2004)
- 160 employees
- Engaged in the Construction Best Practice Programme
- Quality assured to BS EN ISO 9001:2000
- SAFE Contractor
- Member of the Considerate Contractor Scheme
- Investor in People
- Chartered Institute of Building training partner
- Mark Beard awarded Oxfordshire Businessman of the Year 2004
- Beacon Company
- Winner of the 2006 Wiltshire Business Training and Development Award

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