

Go-ahead given for the key new Cancer Unit

A new cancer unit within Eastbourne DGH has been given the go-ahead.

The proposed location is the administration block of the hospital on the ground floor opposite the physiotherapy department and it could be up and running by 2011.

It will replace the existing Pevensey Unit, which is bursting at the seams and in desperate need of expansion and modernisation.

The possible site of the new facility, which will include a day unit and rooms for young people with cancer, was announced at the annual general meeting of the Friends of Eastbourne Hospitals, which has adopted the Pevensey Ward Appeal, the campaign to raise funds for the new cancer unit, for the last two years.

Countless events have been held over the last two years and the total money raised to help create the new unit stands at £600,000.

The Tuesday O'Hara Fund and the friends and family of Eastbourne businessman Chris Lambird have also been raising money for specialist side rooms of young people with cancer. The East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, will stump up the rest of the cash and a detailed business plan is expected to be drawn up early next year and construction work will begin soon after.

Chair of the Friends of Peter Nash said this week he was delighted a site had finally been identified within the hospital.

"It's brilliant news" said Dr Nash "and it's very good news for the people of Eastbourne and surrounding area.

"The new unit will have more individual side rooms an adolescent area, an improved out patient area and it will provide a much better environment for the patients and

staff to work in."

A spokesperson for East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, said "The new cancer unit will enable care to be provided to the cancer patients in a more comfortable environment.

"It will expanded facilities for patients including en suite side rooms, treatment and drug preparation rooms and specific facilities for the needs of young people and adolescents who have to battle cancer.

"The unit will cost around £2million of which £600,000 had been raised by an appeal by the Friends of Eastbourne Hospitals.

"An outline business case had been agreed by the trust board and detailed design work is currently being undertaken."