



Press Release

Heroes Haven Swanage Gets Go-ahead from Purbeck Planners

18 November 2011 – for immediate release

Heroes Haven Swanage Gets Go-ahead from Purbeck Planners

Plans for a specially designed holiday lodge for severely disabled ex-servicemen and women, sited in countryside just a mile from Swanage adjacent to Herston Caravan Site, have been given the go-ahead by Purbeck District Council.

The Heroes Haven Swanage project aims to provide an opportunity for former service personnel who have suffered serious injuries to enjoy a “normal” family holiday, and hence the holiday lodge is intended to accommodate not only disabled ex-servicemen and women but also their families, including young children, and carers. Over 200 British service personnel returning from front line duties in recent conflicts have lost limbs, with multiple amputees now a higher proportion of casualties than ever before. Although holiday accommodation with disabled facilities is offered in the Purbeck area, there is none with the necessary facilities to cater for such severe injuries.

The specially equipped timber lodge will be sited on what is currently agricultural land, adjacent to an existing holiday park, and will be surrounded by its own purpose designed gardens. The proposed garden and landscaping, designed by Rumbold-Ayers landscape designers, was a key factor in obtaining planning approval for a sensitive site in the South Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. “The landscape design had to not only minimize the visual impact of the lodge, but also to provide a garden where former soldiers, many of whom suffer from post traumatic stress, can benefit from the tranquility of being in the countryside” explained landscape designer Svend Rumbold. “As well as being wheelchair-accessible, there are some unusual details like avoiding bright red and orange flowers – colours which could trigger flash-backs.”

Work on site is due to start almost immediately and installation of the timber lodge is due before Christmas, with the official opening scheduled for spring of next year. “We are obviously all delighted, and relieved, to have secured planning permission. The lodge is substantially complete at the factory, and we are now all set to begin preparing the site for installation” commented Steve Churchill, Chairman of Trustees, Heroes Haven Swanage. “The fundraising efforts by our supporters have been absolutely tremendous, and we are really lucky to have secured significant additional support from some major charities such as the Talbot Village Trust, Help for Heroes and Care for Casualties, which will allow us to press ahead quickly.”

Ends

Images Attached (high resolution images available - contact Rumbold-Ayers Ltd)



Trustees Mrs Vicky Fooks and Mrs Linda Welsh review the plans on site.

VIEW FROM THE EVENING TERRACE, LOOKING BACK TOWARDS THE SUNKEN GARDEN

VIEW FROM THE DECK, LOOKING ACROSS THE GRAVEL PLANTING TOWARDS THE EVENING TERRACE

The lodge is approached from the parking area through a gate and along a main board gravel path, leading to the main ramp and observation steps up to the deck area and main doors.

From the access ramp, intermediate landing a path leads into the sunken garden. The sunken garden is bounded on two sides by a rip-rapped retaining wall, with a level path around the outside.

There is a gravel planting area, featuring aromatic plants such as Russian sage and lavender - ideal for attracting bees and butterflies. A lowered area is provided further away from the lodge, which is wheelchair accessible and used as a children's play area.

An evening terrace is sited in the south east corner, to maximise the evening sun. A path returns through a gate to the main access from the parking, to complete a circular route around the whole garden. An alternative, slightly shorter route, cuts the evening terrace.

Shade from the midday sun is provided by linden, whitebeam and poplar trees along the south and south east perimeter. Mixed herbaceous and shrub planting fills most of the area outside the path and retaining wall, and the site is bounded on three sides with native hedging. Various holly and oak on the west boundary, underplanted with bulbs, complete the overall sense of enclosure.

Client:	Project:	Drawn:	Checked:	Scale:	Date:				
HERCULES ARMY SERVICES WARRINGTON LANE, WARRINGTON CHESHIRE, SK10 4SU									
PERSPECTIVE VIEWS									
N.T.S.									
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Landscape Plans 2

Notes for Editors:

Heroes Haven Swanage is a registered charity (no. 1139553), and was established in March 2010 to raise funds and purchase a fully adapted log cabin as a holiday home in Swanage for severely disabled ex-service personnel. Contact: Linda Welsh, tel. 01929 422384 or 07875 142227.

Website: www.heroes-haven.org.uk

Rumbold-Ayers Ltd is a landscape design practice based near Salisbury in south Wiltshire, specialising in garden design and residential landscape architecture. Contact: Svend Rumbold, tel. 01722 714443, email svend@rumbold-ayers.co.uk. Website: www.rumbold-ayers.co.uk