

# Raven courts elderly

Anton Bilton, chairman of AIM-listed housebuilder Raven Mount, and Nick Sanderson, owner of care home company Audley Court, are teaming up to build 5,000 flats for the elderly as part of a £100m joint venture.

The new company, Raven Audley Court, has submitted planning applications for around 500 assisted living apartments in schemes across the UK, of which 130 have consent. It will also take over ownership or management of 168 completed flats in Harrogate and Tunbridge Wells.

The plans centre on the former 220-acre High Royds Hospital site in Menston, near Leeds, which the company intends to redevelop as 650 homes – 83 being for assisted

living. Shops, offices and a school are also included.

Raven Mount – formed in 2003 to take over luxury housebuilder Swan Hill – decided last year to change its focus to the assisted living sector, commercial regeneration and eastern and central Europe.

Raven Audley Court is working up applications for 73 homes in Sevenoaks and 65 at Mote Park in Maidstone, Kent, as well as redeveloping the Grade I Flete House in South Hams, Devon, as 30 apartments.

Residents will buy a home and pay a standard service charge, typically £500 a month, which can be topped up to pay for any extra services required. Prices range from £125,000 to £350,000.