

Parky and Rolf speak of their charity joy

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TWO celebrities and an MP who have solidly supported plans to build a children's hospice in Berkshire have spoken of their delight after planners gave the go-ahead for the project.

TV personality Sir Michael Parkinson and entertainer Rolf Harris spoke to the Observer shortly after the news that the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice was successful in its bid to build on Green Belt land in Snowball Hill, Woodlands Park, Maidenhead.

Sir Michael, founder patron said: "I am delighted that the local council has granted planning consent and I think when you look back at what has been achieved in such a short time the whole community should feel a deep sense of pride. There is still a long way to go but what was started from the grief of two parents is now becoming a reality and all the local community, including our MP Theresa May, have been really supportive." Mr Harris added: "I think that is absolutely marvellous and I know that Michael Parkinson has been a very keen fundraiser for the charity. It is a fantastic thing and this will be a brilliant facility for the county." The Slough-based charity was set up by Fiona and John Devine after their eight-year-old son died of a brain tumour.

Mrs Devine from Windsor said the celebrity support had been brilliant in raising awareness of the cause: "It has been wonderful to have the support of Sir Michael Parkinson and his family. He has been with the charity since its inception and has been nothing but totally supportive in every way. Having a legend like him on board I am sure has made a huge difference." MP Theresa May, who is also a supporter of the charity said: "I am pleased that this application has gone through. Fiona Devine had been working hard to secure this, and it is an important hurdle to have overcome." The Maidenhead Development Control Committee unanimously gave the project its blessing at a meeting on Wednesday last week and it will now be considered by the Secretary of State.

<https://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/13433560.parky-and-rolf-speak-of-their-charity-joy/>