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Go-Ahead for Private Hospital?

MORE than 100 new jobs could be provided in Scarborough if plans are approved next week for a new health village, including a private hospital.

The long-awaited private hospital is now looking likely as Scarborough Council's planning and development committee is now being recommended to finally approve a £20 million scheme on the site of Scarborough Rugby Club in Scalby Road.

It has been five years since the BUPA Belvedere Hospital closed on the South Cliff. Many Scarborough people have had to travel to York, Hull and further afield for treatment.

Last month the planning committee deferred by 9-8 a decision on the health village because of various concerns. However, members are now being recommended next Thursday to approve the application after the original plans were amended.

The health village scheme put forward by Buckinghamshire-based developers Ashley House includes: a private hospital with 25 beds and two operating theatres; a medical centre to replace the existing GP practice at Danes Dyke with a pharmacy; a care home with 93 private bedrooms; sheltered apartments, comprising 14 two-bedroom flats.

Work on building a new rugby ground, between Scalby and Burniston to the north of Silver Royd, is scheduled to start in late summer and be completed in time for the start of the 2008-09 season.

It is expected that next summer Ashley House will be able to start building the health village development in Scalby Road.

The new GP surgery to replace the Danes Dyke practice is expected to be completed first. But it will take around 18 months to complete the whole development.

Peter Juster, business development manager for Ashley House, said: "The health village could provide about 100 new jobs without taking account those involved in the construction of the new buildings and associated works.

