

The Management Suite
The Marlowes Shopping Centre
Hemel Hempstead, HPI IDX

T: 01442 413818
F: 01442 234577
Enquiry@themarlowes.co.uk
www.themarlowes.co.uk



PRESS RELEASE

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The Marlowes Shopping Centre unveils Changing Places facility

The Marlowes Shopping Centre in Hemel Hempstead has received the official accreditation from Changing Places for its recently launched toilets, recognising that the facilities meet the needs of disabled shoppers visiting the hub.

As part of the centre's commitment to make shopping at The Marlowes as simple and enjoyable as possible, the new facilities will offer a height adjustable adult-sized changing bench, hoist system, a non-slip floor and screen to promote privacy.

In addition, a centrally placed toilet and enough space in the changing area for the disabled person and up to two carers will ensure a comfortable and stress-free visit.

Vince Williams, Centre Manager of The Marlowes said: "We're delighted to be able to present this new facility to our disabled customers. We understand how important it is to provide a seamless shopping experience for all the family, which is why we strive to make The Marlowes as inclusive as possible. The new Changing Places facility will be of great benefit to all who access it."

The investment comes after The Marlowes made a commitment to the local community in 2017 to provide updated facilities, enhancing Hemel shoppers' experience. The development includes the enlargement of the downstairs toilets, which features improved family facilities complete with all the equipment needed to look after younger shoppers, alongside a children's play and family area.

Changing Places toilets meet the needs of people with multiple learning and physical disabilities. Over a quarter of a million people in the UK need Changing Places toilets, but there are currently just over 1,200 across the UK.

Rob Burley, Director of Campaigns, Care and Support at Muscular Dystrophy UK, which co-chairs the Changing Places Consortium, said: "We are delighted that The Marlowes has registered a Changing Places toilet and hope that other venues will follow its example and commit to installing these much-needed facilities."

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“Without access to Changing Places toilets, more than a quarter of a million people are faced with a choice of not going out or lying on a dirty toilet floor to get changed. By building more Changing Places toilets, we can tackle the exclusion that many disabled people face.”

The Marlowes is comprised of over 100 stores on one level for easy access and lifts with audios to all floors. Visitors to The Marlowes can also now benefit from an added number of disabled bays in the car park alongside their shopmobility centre, with discount parking available during Monday to Saturday for shoppers with a blue/orange badge.

To find out more about The Marlowes, visit: <https://www.themarlowes.co.uk/>

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Sophiel@bigcatagency.com / 0121 200 0910

About Capital & Regional

Capital & Regional is a UK focused specialist property REIT with a strong track record of delivering significant value enhancing retail and leisure asset management opportunities across its c. £1 billion portfolio of in-town, dominant community shopping centres.

Capital & Regional owns seven shopping centres in Blackburn, Hemel Hempstead, Ilford, Luton, Maidstone, Walthamstow and Wood Green. It also has a 20% joint venture interest in the Kingfisher Centre in Redditch.

Capital & Regional manages these assets, which comprise approximately 820 retail units and attract c. 1.7 million shopping visits each week, through its in-house expert property and asset management platform.

For further information see www.capreg.com

About The Marlowes Shopping Centre

The Marlowes is Hemel Hempstead’s prime retail destination.

The shopping quarter is located in the heart of the town, with excellent links to the M1 and M25 and within close proximity to the train and bus stations. It comprises over 100 retail units across The Marlowes Shopping Centre and adjacent buildings on Marlowes Street. Stores include Marks & Spencer, Wilko, River Island, New Look, JD, The Perfume Shop, Ernest Jones and The Entertainer.

Capital & Regional owns and manages The Marlowes Shopping Centre, Fareham House and Edmonds Parade. The company acquired the assets for £53.8 million in 2016.