



The fundraising efforts of two charities are picking up pace thanks to the ninth annual Blythe Valley Park Charity Fun Run.

Registration for this year's run – which takes place on Sunday, September 11 – has now opened and race organisers Liberty Property Trust UK and Shirley Lions Club have selected the Marie Curie's Big Build Appeal and Solihull Leisure Opportunities (SoLO) as their chosen charities.

The event includes a 500m fun run for children under 12 as well as 5km and 10km races around the countryside park and pathways of the business park, located at Junction 4 of the M42.

Virgin Active Solihull, residents at Blythe Valley Park, will also be supporting the event and all the money raised from entry fees and sponsorship will be split equally between the two causes.

Kate Smith, of Liberty Property Trust UK, which develops and manages the business park in partnership with Doughty Hanson & Co Real Estate, said:

“We are delighted to be supporting Marie Curie's Big Build Appeal and hope the money raised will help towards the charity's fundraising goal of £7million for a new hospice for the West Midlands region.

The new hospice will be based on Marsh Lane in Solihull and will provide first-class care to terminally ill people and their families across the region, completely free of charge.

“We chose this charity in particular as we like to support local causes and give something back to the local community and the new hospice will make an enormous difference to people across the region.

“The event has grown and grown every year since it began and over 400 runners raised more than £4,000 last year so hopefully we can keep that going.”

Shirley Lions Club help to organise the event alongside Liberty Property Trust UK and felt Solihull Leisure Opportunities (SoLO) was a great cause worth supporting.

“The Blythe Valley Park Charity Fun Run is a big community event so I think it is important the money raised goes back into the local community,” said Martin Conlon, president of the Shirley Lions Club.

“SoLO provides young people with disabilities with a range of leisure opportunities, everything from sport, singing and dancing to drawing and simply having fun.

“The work they do is crucial to the families of these disabled young people, some of whom have to cope with a high level of disability.

“Not only do they give these kids opportunities they would not get elsewhere but it also gives the parents some respite from constantly providing care and support.

“Hopefully we can raise as much money as possible for SoLO to enable them to continue with the great work they are doing.”

The Blythe Valley Park Charity Fun Run can be entered online at www.runnersworld.co.uk/events or contact Shirley Lions on 0845 833 9547 to obtain an application form. Picture caption: left to right - Ken Barker (Shirley Lions Club), James Watkins (Marie Curie), Martin Conlon (Shirley Lions Club), Steve Bosworth (Virgin Active), Kate Smith (Liberty Property Trust UK) and Clare Gadd (Marie Curie).