

Henley Community Hospital Project Group



Newsletter

Issue 9 June 2010

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Townlands Newsletter

Chief Executive gives reassurance on Townlands

The project to re-build Townlands Hospital is back on track, that's the message from NHS Oxfordshire's Chief Executive Sonia Mills. She was speaking at a public meeting in Henley (June 22) held to reassure people in the town and surrounding areas that the project was going ahead as planned.

Sonia Mills, who came into post in March, told the meeting: "The PCT is absolutely committed to the development of Townlands Hospital." She added that she had 30 year's experience in the NHS which included building a number of new hospitals, most recently a £450 million development in Bristol.

NHS Oxfordshire was invited to the public meeting by the Townlands Steering Group following a setback with the procurement process to establish a developer for the planned services. Routine legal advice changed and NHS Oxfordshire was warned that the procurement process was at risk of legal challenges and might fail completely.

A new plan and timetable has now been drawn up (please see page 2)

Sonia Mills explained: "We have settled on the current Townland's site and we will have a single procurement process rather than a phased one and this means instead of having different building companies building separate parts, we are looking to have partners or to form a consortium to deliver the project successfully."

Meanwhile, NHS Oxfordshire continues to work closely with the community on the project. Details of the next meeting of the community forum, the Townlands Community Group, will be circulated shortly.



Sonia Mills, Chief Executive

Update from the Townlands Steering Group

I'm pleased that the senior PCT executives accepted our invitation to our public meeting to reassure the community by making clear their complete commitment to the project. This is the first time we've had the chance to hear from the new CEO Sonia Mills and her words could not have been more clear.

We were dismayed at the legal problems earlier this year which led to the procurement being stopped. The new plan looks simpler and builds on the successful parts of the previous project. The new project does appear more achievable. The TSG will be continuing to scrutinise the progress of this project making sure that our new hospital is to be what we want and need. We'll also be monitoring progress to make sure we're on track with the dates which are in this newsletter.

We're aware that there are no guarantees, especially at this difficult time.

However, the PCT's commitment, not just in words, but in people and finance continues to be real.

Ian Reissmann Chairman TSG

New Timetable for Townlands Project

2010

July/August	Finalising Project Plan/Business Case drafted
September	Business Case to NHS Oxfordshire Board
October/November	Short list of bidders drawn up
December	Invitation to Participate in Dialogue issued

2011

March/April	Successful bidders to submit final tender
May	Recommendation to NHS Oxfordshire Board
July/Sept	Planning Application by bidder
Autumn	Work starts on the Townlands site

2013

October	Building work completed
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Any questions? Please contact Cathryn Bullimore on 01865 334648 or write to:

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† This newsletter is distributed to the following stakeholders: PCT staff, local MPs, local NHS trusts, Henley Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, the Local Practice Based Commissioning Consortium, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, South Central Strategic Health Authority, Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, patients and public in the Henley locality – including the Local Involvement Network (LINKs), relevant community and voluntary groups and the media.

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