

Henley Community Hospital Project Group



Newsletter

Issue 11 September 2010

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Townlands Newsletter

NHS Oxfordshire Board approves business case to re-develop Henley's Townlands Hospital

NHS Oxfordshire's Board has backed plans to re-develop Henley's Townlands Hospital on its current site.

The Board accepted the recommendations in an Outline Business Case (OBC) which pave the way for an ambitious health campus on the town centre site. The plan is to seek a solution which aims to work with partners such as Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust and voluntary organisations to make maximum use of the development opportunities.

Partnership work will begin with OCC to explore opportunities around their plans to redevelop the Chilterns End Care Home, on Greys Road, Henley. This could involve the transfer of services and resources that then share facilities on the Townlands site. There will also be provision for mental health care and other services, while at the same time, keeping the hospital beds and all the other services, such as the minor injuries unit, outpatients clinic and therapies, currently provided by Townlands.

The Board also agreed to an approach that would utilise excess land on the Townlands site and the redundant listed buildings. The aim would be to restore the buildings to provide housing with an emphasis on extra care housing. The Outline Business Case also makes it clear that only the current Townlands site is being considered for the development.

Catherine Mountford, NHS Oxfordshire's Director of Strategy and Quality, explained: "We would like to see the development of a health campus in Henley which serves the town and surrounding areas and will meet their changing health and social care needs into the future. The Board's decision is an important step in ensuring this plan goes forward."

The next stage of the project is to start a procurement process which will include issuing a Prior Information Notice (PIN)

This will then enable discussions to start with would-be bidders to consider what service model and contractual framework will be taken forward. NHS Oxfordshire's Board will consider the plan again in December.

Update from the Townlands Steering Group (TSG)

The TSG are delighted that NHS Oxfordshire (the PCT) have approved the Outline Business Case to reprovide the services at Townlands hospital. This is a major step forward and shows how far we have come in just six months since the procurement was cancelled earlier this year.

TSG members were alarmed at the cancellation and made clear to NHS Oxfordshire that they needed to put together a credible and achievable plan as a matter of urgency in order to reassure the community of their continued commitment to Townlands. The TSG were very pleased that NHS Oxfordshire Chief Executive, Sonia Mills, attended the TSG public meeting in June to underline NHS Oxfordshire's and her own personal commitment to the project.

The target date of September 2010 looked very ambitious. However, the NHS Oxfordshire leads involved have put in a huge effort, and with the help and positive involvement of the County Council, we now have an approved plan which looks to be a big improvement on the earlier failed procurement. The TSG and its members will continue to work with NHS Oxfordshire on the next phase of this project. We will provide constructive support, acting as a critical friend when necessary.

Come and talk health!

NHS Oxfordshire is encouraging people to register with **Talking Health**. This takes five minutes and once registered you will be able to access this newsletter online. You will also be able to join in the discussion forum for Henley and participate in other consultations that affect services in your local area. Talking Health gives you the chance to say what areas of health interest you the most and in what way you wish to be kept informed. For your information we are also currently encouraging people to have their say on pharmaceutical needs at a meeting in **Henley Town Hall on 19 October (5.30 - 7.30 pm)**

Once registered with Talking Health you can share your views and comments with us. To register please click here: <https://consult.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/consult.ti/system/register>

If you are not reading this on line and would like to register then please contact us on 01865 334641.

Next Public Meeting in Henley

NHS Oxfordshire Chief Executive, Sonia Mills, will attend a public meeting on **Monday 22 November** in the Main Room, Henley Town Hall, 7.00 pm. All are welcome.

Receive your newsletter by email

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