

Henley Community Hospital Project Group



Newsletter

Issue 12 December 2010

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the Townlands Newsletter

Public reassured over Townlands redevelopment

Plans to redevelop Henley's Townlands Hospital are on course and will include ambitious plans to create a 'health campus' on the site. That was the message from NHS Oxfordshire's Chief Executive, Sonia Mills, who spoke at a packed public meeting in the town.

The project also has a new Project Lead with the appointment of Richard Darch, who has an extensive background in healthcare estates development and has the knowledge and experience needed at this stage in the Townlands redevelopment to bring different organisations together to deliver both health and social care services.



Richard Darch

Richard has been involved in building a number of community hospitals and other health facilities, including South Bristol Community Hospital at Hengrove Park; Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre in Dudley, West Midlands and the East Oxford Health Centre on Cowley Road, Oxford.

He said: "I'm delighted to have joined such an exciting project. I think it's a clear demonstration that NHS Oxfordshire is really committed to the scheme, despite a difficult economic climate, and is determined to see it succeed."

He added: "The public meeting in Henley made it clear to me just how important Townlands Hospital is to the community and I'm working hard to make sure this project is delivered."

Concern was expressed at the meeting about a three month delay to the project. Richard Darch explained: "This is a complex scheme and it's vital that we get it right. There is a slight delay but it was felt necessary to ensure that the process was carried out properly."

Meanwhile, work is continuing with the next stages of the project. This will include working with Oxfordshire County Council who want to redevelop the Chilterns End Care Home, currently on Greys Road, and move it to the Townlands site. The redevelopment will also include a permanent base for mental health services and extra care housing.

The next key date for the scheme will be in January when a procurement process will start with the issue of a Prior Identification Notice (PIN) This is a formal way of starting to talk to would-be partners who are potentially interested in working on the redevelopment.

Another public meeting will be held at Henley Town Hall on January 24.

Message from the Townlands Steering Group (TSG)

“The Townlands Steering Group were pleased that senior NHS Oxfordshire figures were able to attend the TSG meeting in November. This continues to give credibility to their commitment to a successful outcome for the project to redevelop the health services on the Townlands site. After the successful approval of the Outline Business Case on time in September, of course we're disappointed that the date for the award of contract has been delayed to the end of next year. We realise it's important to do things properly, but delays do increase the risk of the project not going ahead.

Our job on the TSG is to press NHS Oxfordshire to avoid unnecessary delays, while supporting them in pushing the project forward. The wish of the community to get the plan agreed and rebuilding started, is as strong as ever and everyone needs to work together to finish the job.

2010 has been a good year for Townlands - we have an approved Outline Business Case and clear direction and dates from NHS Oxfordshire. Let's hope we can at last award a contract to give us the new hospital we so badly need.”

Ian Reissmann Chairman of the Townlands Steering Group

FAQs

Q: When will the hospital actually get built?

A: We are aiming to have a contract signed in October 2011 and work to begin after that.

Q: Will we keep all the facilities we currently have at Townlands?

A: Yes. The redevelopment will include all the services on the site, including the beds, the minor injuries unit and all the therapies.

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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