

Henley Community Hospital Project Group



Newsletter

Issue 6 August 2009

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Henley Community Hospital Project Group Newsletter. Through this newsletter we hope to keep all local people, interested groups and organisations updated on the progress of the project.

Formation of new Townlands Community Group

The first quarterly meeting of the new Townlands Community Group will take place on Wednesday 19 August. The group formed after keen interest shown by the public at a meeting in Henley Town Hall in May. The group will now work with Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) to provide vital community input into how Townlands should be redeveloped. The group will meet quarterly and will have two representatives on the PCT's Henley Community Hospital Project Group—the body in the PCT which oversees the whole project. Project Manager, Tony Burrage, explained: "This will give the Community Group a direct and meaningful input into the decision making process. This is great news because it is very important that we reflect what the community wants from their local healthcare." The Townlands Community Group is Chaired by Cllr. Ian Reissmann. The August 19 meeting is at the Maurice Tate Memorial Room, Townlands. 6.30—8.30 pm. **All are welcome.**

PCT to look at shortlist of would-be bidders

The plans to redevelop the Townlands site are moving to the 'competitive dialogue' stage. This means the PCT will be looking at a short list of submissions made by bidders who are interested in taking on the work. Those short-listed will be asked to submit final tenders this autumn. Project Manager, Tony Burrage, said: "A lot of what we are doing at the moment has to be confidential and I appreciate that it is frustrating for everyone not to have more details at this stage. This is a necessary part of the procurement process which ensures the project's success." He added: "We are making great progress and the PCT has underlined its financial commitment to the project. We are also working with key partners to explore options for the site to develop care to the wider community."

Update from the Townlands Steering Group

The Townlands Community Group is now up and running having had a successful kick off meeting in July. The first of the regular meetings will be held on August 19th. We decided to re-name ourselves from a forum to show that we're not just there to talk but to give clear guidance to the main PCT Project Group as it takes the important decisions on the Townlands project over the next year.

Some people have been asking what the difference is between the new Townlands Community Group and the Townlands Steering Group - particularly as I chair them both. The answer is that the Townlands Community Group is part of the PCT structure and is part of the impressive community involvement in the project. Pat Solomons and I represent the community on the main PCT Project Group; Dr. Peter Ashby represents the clinicians; Dave Smewing is working as part of the PCT Procurement Group; Terry Buckett is a member of the PCT Community and Communications Group. The Townlands Steering Group remains an interest group acting independently outside the PCT to scrutinise the project and speak out freely to represent the community view.

While all these groups and people may look complicated, the important thing is that the project is moving forward: the bidders have met the procurement group and seen the site and have gone back to develop their outline plans. We hope to see these about six weeks.

Ian Reissmann Chair of the Townlands Steering Group

Contact us....

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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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