

**Minutes of the Hospital Liaison Group Meeting**  
**Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 (7pm to 9pm) in the Lecture Theatre**  
**Audrey Emerton Building (AEB) Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton**

**Present:**

Cllr Warren Morgan (Chair)  
Cllr Gill Mitchell

12 local residents

*Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals:*

Anna Barnes, 3Ts Associate Director for Governance  
Richard Beard, 3Ts Head of Engagement & Communications (BSUH)  
Rob Brown, Head of Capital Development

**Apologies:**

Simon Henderson- Head of Cancer Environments (Macmillan)  
Karen Hicks- Project Leader-3Ts (Laing O Rourke)  
Mrs Jackie Nowell (Vice-Chair)  
Duane Passman, Director of 3Ts (BSUH)

**1. Welcome**

**1.1 Apologies**

Cllr Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting (4<sup>th</sup> February 2013) were agreed subject to an amendment to item 4: "*Front Car Park (2 storey modular build)*" should read "*Front Car Park (6 storey modular build)*".

**3. General update on 3Ts development**

Anna gave the meeting an update on the approvals process:

She explained that since the last meeting enormous changes had taken place across the national and local health economy. This meant that the Trust Development Authority (TDA) was now responsible for approving the business case as the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) had been abolished. However, this meant that an intense period of activity and proactive liaison between BSUH and the TDA was now underway which would result in a report for the TDA which would be sent to the Treasury (HMT) in order to secure approval. This report is required to be complete by the end of May 2013. It would contain the following information:

- Savings plans for 2013/2014
- Savings plans for 2014/2015
- Savings plans for 2015/2016 (less detail)
- Refreshed construction programme
- Service development/modernisation plans.

This was so that BSUH could demonstrate it was financially viable within the context of a national efficiency programme for the NHS. Anna gave some examples of some of the efficiency initiatives which would deliver financial savings, as well as improve the patient experience such as the Out Patient Booking hub, the Electronic Patient Record and the

centralisation/rationalisation of the Estate to be achieved by selling off underused buildings.

Anna finished by saying that this review was a positive development and there was no reason to believe that the scheme would not be approved. She added that delays to schemes of this size were not unusual and that it was right for the TDA/HMT to seek assurance that BUSH was financially solvent and organisationally ready to run a scheme of this magnitude.

### 3.1 Questions from the HLG

One local resident (Stephanie Krachan-Lashbrook) raised concerns about the operation of the taxi rank in Paston Place. Anna asked her to explain more about the nature of her concerns, which were then outlined as follows:

- There were too many cabs queuing, many with their engines running.
- The camber of the slope meant that they were forced to keep their engines running even whilst stationary.
- They had increased in number recently, possibly as a result of the recession.

Stephanie asked what the arrangements there were for taxis in the redesigned hospital. Anna explained that there would be a drop-off point outside the main entrance for taxis and other vehicles. Stephanie asked whether A&E and the discharge teams could consider a phone line solution instead. She pointed out that she had asthma and that she believed the constant flow of traffic breached air quality standards. Stephanie said that she had circulated a petition which had circa 50 names on it, calling for a reduction in the numbers of taxis at the rank. Cllr Mitchell agreed that the current arrangements were a cause for concern and said that she understood Stephanie had written a letter for the Transport Committee where the issue would be discussed. She suggested that if local residents saw taxi drivers leaving their engines running, they should note down the registration and report it to the licensing authority; B&HCC.

Stephanie asked how many new staff were moving into 3Ts? Anna said that the number envisaged within the planning application was 450 (over a 10 year programme, as Rob confirmed). This compared with 4000 staff currently working at RSCH.

A local resident asked how the changes to the organisation of the NHS at the national level, as mentioned by Anna, would affect the timetable for development. Anna explained that it would delay completion of stage one and stage two by another year, so completion was expected to be in 2018 and 2022 respectively. Start on site would probably be in 2015 subject to satisfactory completion of the decant project (still due to start in 2013).

There was an additional question regarding whether these changes would make the development less affordable. Anne answered that sufficient resource had been planned for this possibility by the Programme Director (known as "*optimism bias*") so although this inevitably meant the money was tighter, there was still sufficient to execute the scheme.

Cllr Morgan thanked Anna for this update.

#### 4. Refurbishment of St. Mary's Hall School

Rob Brown gave a brief update about the progress of the scheme. He showed some slides which illustrated the extent of deterioration of the building prior to the renovation such as dry rot, ingress by vegetation and severe damp. Rob reported that the £8.5million scheme was still on track. It included a programme of works to renovate the residential blocks as well as the hall. This would provide an amenity for clinical staff on rotation as well as increasing housing stock in the local area. As Rob explained 64 units of accommodation

would be available at SMHS, BSUH would dispose of 45 units, thus releasing additional accommodation onto the residential property market.

A local resident asked if the listing was restrictive and limiting what could be achieved at the hall. Rob explained that he was in active dialogue with the conservation officer, but that the listing had not prevented BSUH from achieving the standard of renovation required. The Trust was committed to conserving the architectural heritage wherever possible and it was satisfying to see the building being restored ready for a new lease of life.

Gill asked if the £8.5 million was a good use of public money as 3Ts was being delayed. Rob said that a green field site of a comparable size would need circa £42million to be spent to create sufficient capacity to house the administrative services moving in, so this represented excellent value.

Cllr Morgan thanked Rob for this update.

#### 6. 3rd Cardiac Theatre

Rob continued by providing an update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cardiac Theatre scheme as follows:

- The link bridge infill is now nearly complete.
- The roof is water tight, structural decking is installed, and only the underside soffit remains to be fitted, and cladding replaced.
- This will take place over the weekends of 20/21 and 27/28, when the last of the scaffolding is removed (most has already gone).
- It is hoped to keep half the road open whilst these works take place, to avoid diverting traffic wherever possible. This will be the last works that affect the north service road, and therefore there will be no further closures of the road.
- Rob added that all remaining work is internal.
- The theatre is currently scheduled to open at the end of October 2013.

Cllr Morgan thanked Rob for this update. He also said that if any further diversions were needed, could BSUH ensure that local residents were notified using the usual methods. Richard said that he planned to issue a letter to local people thanking them for their patience whilst the works were carried out.

**Action: Richard Beard**

#### 7. Macmillan Cancer Centre

Anna read an email from Simon Henderson which explained that complex legal negotiations were continuing concerning the purchase of the lease:

- *Progress continues on the Sussex Macmillan Cancer Support Centre to finalise the legal agreements between the three parties, Macmillan Cancer Support, BSUH and Sussex Cancer Fund.*
- *Legal closure is necessary before the construction tender can be let, and this process has proved more complex than originally anticipated. However, negotiations are now at an advanced stage and Macmillan hope to be able to let the contract by end of June, with a contract start on site by end July. This includes an allowance for updating the original construction tender, which has now lapsed.*
- *The scheme has not otherwise changed from the proposals previously presented, and local fundraising is proceeding well.*

Cllr Morgan thanked everyone for attending.

8. **Date of the Next Meeting:** Initially scheduled for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 7pm-9pm 2013 AEB. This meeting was cancelled. The next meeting date was agreed as 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at AEB.