

Minutes of the Hospital Liaison Group Meeting
Held on Tuesday 4th February 2013 (7pm to 9pm) in the Lecture Theatre Sussex House
Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton

Present:

Cllr Warren Morgan (Chair)
Mrs Jackie Nowell (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Chaun Wilson

16 local residents

Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals:

Anna Barnes, 3Ts Associate Director for Governance
Bridget McGee, Capital Projects Manager
Duane Passman, Director of 3Ts (BSUH)

Turner and Townsend

Johanna Wallwork

Apologies:

Richard Beard, 3Ts Head of Engagement & Communications (BSUH)
Simon Henderson- Head of Cancer Environments (Macmillan)
Karen Hicks- Project Leader-3Ts (Laing O Rourke)

1. Welcome

1.1 Apologies

Cllr Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Cllr Chaun Wilson who had been elected to B&HCC following Cllr Turton's resignation.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (3rd December) were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Construction and Environmental Management Plans

It was confirmed that regular updates regarding the St Mary's Hall School development and the Cardiac scheme were being provided via the web site and on site hoardings.

4. General update on 3Ts development

Duane gave the meeting an update on the approvals process:
He explained that the Treasury (HMT) was still scrutinising the Outline Business Case and (as previously) the main issue was whether the Trust could demonstrate that it was a financially sound organisation before a scheme of this size could be formally approved.
Duane expected to hear from HMT in the near future.

More positively NHS South of England had approved 3 of the 6 decant schemes:

- Front Car Park (2 storey modular build)
- Courtyard (3 storey extension)
- Conversion of some space in the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital (RACH) to house the Paediatric Audiology Department.

These schemes would allow BSUH to begin preparations for the main scheme by closing several substandard wards within the Jubilee Building. Once approval had been granted and the resources were available, the site could then be made ready for construction.

Duane made the point that whilst these schemes were necessary as part of the main scheme, they were also clinically desirable in their own right. For instance, the move of the Children's Audiology Department was welcomed as a way of enhancing specialist children's services at BSUH within the RACH. Duane finished by saying that the administrative staff would be moving into St Mary's Hall School (SMHS) in the autumn which would free up space for clinical services on the main site.

4.1 Questions from the HLG

"If you don't get approval for the main scheme will these building still be required"

Duane explained that Nuclear Medicine in the Front Car Park would have to be re-housed regardless of the main scheme. Similarly, it made sense to move administrative functions away from clinical functions and that the new development would provide the staff with far better accommodation and a more acceptable amount of space in which to work. The present accommodation was unacceptably cramped. Similarly the Department of Nuclear Medicine had been in temporary accommodation for over 30 years and urgently required relocation to ensure the service can be maintained, so the decant location in the front car park building would provide a better interim solution than the current premises.

Why don't you take the opportunity with the main scheme to bring catering back in house?"

Regrettably, Duane said that there was not enough space within the design to provide an on-site kitchen. The gardens would also not be of a sufficient size to grow the amount of food required, as previously discussed (with over 2000 patients and visitors on the RSCH site on any given day). There was a discussion about the quality of food for patients and Duane said feedback historically had generally been very good. Anna said that there had been some less positive feedback following a recent survey by the Patient Experience Panel. These were being investigated.

Do the rest of the decant schemes require approval from HMT?

Duane said that approval for the other decant schemes would be granted by NHS South of England as they were below the delegated limited for approval.

Cllr Morgan thanked Duane for his update.

5. Refurbishment of St. Mary's Hall School

Johanna Wallwork from Turner and Townsend gave a brief update about the progress of the scheme. She said that it was progressing well, and was currently on programme. This was a 9 month programme and Kiers were currently in week 5.

5.1 Planning permission

Johanna said that planning permission had just been granted to widen the gates to the site which would reduce the congestion and make access easier for construction traffic. The planning conditions require that the gates would need to be replaced to their original width once the refurbishment was complete. 2 members of HLG thought that this was rather a waste of resources, particularly as the narrow gates restricted the views of drivers coming in and out of the site. However, 1 person thought that the appearance of this historic building was important and supported this stipulation. Duane said that he personally would like some flexibility to ensure the entrance/exit was more functional,

and that he would consider whether to approach the planners to request that the gates stay widened once the programme was complete.

5.2 Conservation

Duane then gave some information about the refurbishment and conservation activities on site including fixing the roof and making good the interiors after decades of neglect.

5.3 Local residents' concerns and plaudits

One local resident commended the contractors for their professionalism in the way they accessed the site. Despite one instance of needing to unload on the street (prior to receiving permission to widen the gates), care and attention had been paid to avoid being a nuisance to local people. Johanna agreed that the contractors were being responsive and gave an example where a speed bump had been removed after a phone call had been received from the Junior School.

Cllr Morgan thanked Johanna for this update and reiterated that people should make contact if they had any concerns at all. He made the point that this was a “*dry run*” for the main scheme and should be managed as such.

6. 3rd Cardiac Theatre

Bridget McGee from BSUH then gave an update regarding the 3rd Cardiac Theatre scheme. She reported that the scheme was currently 2 weeks behind schedule owing to the severe weather just after Christmas. However, the external building cladding was being replaced at the weekend and the internal works were nearing completion.

6.1 Delivery of Air Handling Unit

This was being delivered in the 2nd week of February and would mean that there would be 10 minute delays in accessing the site up to 6 times a day on the day of delivery. Bridget apologised for the inconvenience and potential congestion in advance, but explained that this staggered approach to reducing access to the site had been planned to minimise disruption to patients, visitors and staff.

6.2 North Service Road Exit

Bridget also explained that the bollards had been left down in error a couple of weeks ago which led to 2-way traffic in Abbey Road for longer than had previously been agreed. She asked local residents to contact the site manager if this happened again, although she understood that there had been a problem contacting the office in one occasion. More positively she said that the metal plate on the North Service Road had been fixed so that it would not make a noise every time a car drove over it.

Cllr Morgan thanked Bridget for this update.

7. Any Other Business

Cllr Morgan explained that the City Plan would be looking at traffic management in Eastern Road and would incorporate the implications of the 3Ts development.

Cllr Morgan thanked everyone for attending.

8. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 15th April 7pm-9pm 2012 AEB TBC.