Bicester Community Forum
Notes of Meeting held on 16 November 2009, 19:00 – 20:00
Littlebury Hotel, Bicester

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Welcome and introductions</td>
<td>Tony Baldry welcomed everybody to the meeting and was pleased to see such an excellent turn-out. He gave an overview of the agenda, the reasons for forming a community forum, to allow Oxfordshire PCT to share information such as the Timeline &amp; Newsletter and gain the public view and his ideas for membership of the forum. Finally he thanked Cherwell DC for providing support to the Forum.</td>
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| 2  | Community Forum introduction | Tony Baldry introduced Les Sibley, Bicester Town Councillor and Cherwell District Councillor and invited him to address the meeting.  

Cllr. Sibley gave a speech and the following are the key points;  
- Widespread desire of the community to see an improved facilities and inpatient beds  
- Maintain the existing hospital in the meantime  
- Population growth of 100k expected in and around Bicester  
- That Bicester had been promised a new 30 bed hospital the community sometime ago  
- The fact that the old cottage hospital no longer meets the needs of the community  
- Cllr Sibley also asked the PCT for more detail about whether the services are going to be on one site and to clarify if they had received bids to re-provide services on the SW development site.  

- Cllr Sibley also thanked Tony Baldry for his continued support and setting up this meeting. In addition Cllr Sibley welcomed the setting up of a Community Forum to enable community engagement with the PCT. |
| 3  | Project Update/Timeline | Catherine Mountford, Director of Strategy and Quality gave an update on the project. The following points were made;  
- The PCT is committed to re-providing the services at the Community Hospital using the same financial resource currently used.  
- The PCT Board had decided to adopt a formal procurement route to allow potential for new ideas for bidders and demonstration of value for money.  
- The Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) that will be sent out to bidders in late January/early February will include the SW site as one of the options. Current site being the other option although bidders can still suggest other sites that they may be aware of/have access to.  
- Our activity data/patient flow figures shows that the First Aid Unit sees approximately 1,900 patients a year, the Out of Hours sees 7,500-8,000 patients a year, 6000 patients are triaged, Physio sees 1,200 patients and X-ray sees between 2,500 and 3,000 patients. |
Bedded care has 140 – 150 admissions a year with 12 beds.

- Tony Burrage, Project Manager presented the ‘Bicester Timeline’ which set out the key stages over the next 12 months and explained the process in more detail.
- Tonight is the first stage in creating a community forum for the project.
- Much work on population statistics – growth and demographics
- PCT is working closely with Cherwell DC on site planning and locations. Two locations currently identified, existing site and SW Bicester but others may be identified by Bidders.
- Tony also talked about the financial modelling work that has been carried out. The PCT was committed to re-providing the current services within the current finances, but recognised that it would need to provide extra investment for new buildings.
- Recommendation to the PCT Board is planned for November 2010

4 Why do we need a Community Forum?
This was covered in the opening comments from Tony Baldry MP and Cllr. Les Sibley

5 Public Question Time
The floor was then opened up to the public for questions. The following is a record of those questions;

Q) Financial Modelling – does this include PFI?
A) Tony Burrage replied – No, PFI (Private Finance Initiative) is when a company works in partnership with private companies to provide buildings and services on a much larger scale. This is a much smaller project, so will not be covered by a PFI approach.

Q) What is the invitation to participate in dialogue?
A) Tony Burrage replied that Bidders are asked to submit bids for two different options.

Q) On the Bicester timeline it says January 2010 Completion/Circulation of ITPD (2 options). What are the 2 options?
A) Tony Burrage replied – the ITPD is going out to pre-qualified bidders across three categories
   - Option One (2 contracts)
     - Provider of buildings
     - Provider of bedded care,
   - Option Two (One Contract)
     - Both bedded care and buildings

Q) Will beds be on a separate site in a different area and if so why? Many people will require both types of services and with new houses planned there will be a mixture of young and older people
A) Tony Burrage replied – we don’t know as we are waiting for the bidders to...
come to us with solutions i.e. how would they re-provide the current services. We do know that population/demographics are very important, complex and for Bicester fast moving so we need to consider these aspects carefully.

Q) Is 12 beds the maximum you can retain on the current site or have provided?

A) We will provide information on the current number of episodes that we are providing and ask bidders to seek a solution to meet this level of need of around 140 to 150 episodes annually but this may grow in future and so the number of beds needs to be consider/may indeed go up.

Q) You mention the Eco-Town and your expectation that it will house younger people. Does this mean that there will be a maternity unit again as we had one 30 years ago.

A) No, we will not be providing a maternity unit as part of the re-provision.

Cllr Les Sibley responded saying we want it back. It could be provided at the South West site as the site is bigger. A town of this size also needs an A&E unit as we had one before many years ago and it included an operating theatre.

A) Tony Burrage responded to Cllr Sibley saying that clinically there are not the numbers going through to staff it correctly 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year.

Q) I am puzzled about the role of the Project Manager and how you operate a moving feast. About a month ago Bicester had the Eco-Town thrust upon it and told that it would bring money into the area. Is there extra budget?

A) Tony Burrage - there are benchmark resources for Bicester Community Hospital based on 2008/09 budgets with inflation uplift. Any population growth from Eco-Town level of investment will need to be reviewed by PCT. When we speak to Bidders we will need to hear how they intend to meet future changes in size and age of population and at this point resources will have to follow.

Q) Are you confident additional money will be given to you?

A) Tony Burrage – the current budget is the same as 2008/09, but no decision has yet been made about additional monies in the future, this will be a decision to be made by the PCT Board when know.

Q) There are two words in the report that trouble me. One is Confidentiality and why everything has to be confidential. Why can’t people decide what is provided and how.

A) Tony Burrage – everything has to be confidential. The main area is around the number of bidders. There were 30 expressions of interest when we carried out short listing, but I am not willing to say current numbers.

Alan Kilham, Procurement Manager, Oxfordshire PCT added that they needed to create and keep competitive tension between bidders to get best bids. The PCT can’t allow bidders to collude together either. The PCT want
to get the best option for the Bicester community.

Q) The other is meaning of the word consultation. In practice who decides what will happen? Do and will you people listen

A) The PCT wants to understand what the community opinion is – what do they want as a priority.

Q) I’ve been coming to meetings for years – all we want is the community hospital – bidders will take you for a ride.

A) There is not a capital allocation to build a new hospital. What we have said is we can provide the land or you can provide your own, you build it and we will lease it. The land at the South West corner would be at a cost to the PCT if taken forward it’s not a free parcel of land.

Q) Why did PCT turn down the offer from Cherwell District Council to build the facilities?

A) There was no offer of a free build. When the bid from Cherwell District Council was assessed it didn’t succeed around competences and skills, no track record/experience of delivering hospital facilities.

Q) We want a community hospital, do you listen to our views?

A) That is the key role of the Community Engagement Forum. We propose two representatives from the Forum to serve on the Project Steering Group

Q) Who owns the current site and is it listed?

A) The PCT do and no it isn’t listed.

Q) What has happened to the money collected for the hospital? You haven’t mentioned the 30 beds or asked us about them.

A) We are listening

Q) I’ve been listening to the discussion so far and there is a high level of interest in the Cherwell District Council bid. If Cherwell District Council were still involved we would see a local interest and also if the Cherwell District Council provided the capital as a not for profit organisation there would be no suspicion about money making. It would appear that dialogue with Cherwell District Council was cut off too quickly due to a lack of expertise. Could the PCT not still communicate with Cherwell District Council to discuss the problems and work together? Other land could be used including the SW corner needs to be explained to bidders.

A) Everyone had to be treated the same when short listing. The PCT clearly could not coach Cherwell District Council into providing the perfect bid. The PCT has been liaising with Ian Davies, Strategic Director at Cherwell District Council and the SW option is made clear to bidders, so SW is still on the table and is subject of continuing dialogue. Mary Harpley, the Chief Executive of Cherwell District Council has written a piece that will be included in the ITPD to say that they will work with other bidders on use of the SW Bicester land
Q) I understand that you have to work within a framework and confidentiality, but you need to understand that local people want to have an input, want to have a legacy for future generations. It states that recommendations will be made to the PCT Board, but they are not Bicester representatives. I welcome more transparency and the fact that the SW site is an option. I do ask that you bring back Cherwell District Council into the procurement system. If there is an offer of a million pounds is on the table please accept it and use it for the benefit of Bicester. The people of Bicester want to contribute. Who sits on the PCT Board? I’ve tried to find out via the website, but couldn’t find the information.

A) The PCT Board has to make the decision as they are the healthcare provider. There is a local project group which includes 2 local GPs and Ian Davies from Cherwell District Council. The project group reports back to the PCT Board and within its Terms of Reference there are 2 places available for local residents to join.

Cllr Les Sibley informed the Forum that the money set aside is actually 2 million and is for the provision of a new community hospital with inpatient beds.

Q) All the talk sounds very positive. There is a very strong local view that all facilities should be on one site. The PCT should get the message that all services should be located together on one site. In 10 years time the PCT Board members will have disappeared and we will have to live with the consequences. I am concerned that bidders will give an option and PCT will choose.

A) There is a direct link between feedback from the public via events like this and what we portray to the bidders and indeed how we will score the final submissions. That’s why the Community Forum and public representation on the project group is very important.

Tony Baldry felt that there was a very clear message from those present that they want a Community Hospital and beds on 1 site as they fear that if services get separated they will get lost in the system.

Comment: You mention about caring for patients in their own home – this is fine if they have relatives nearby, but if not, the District Nurses who do a fine job are already very stretched. The PCT really needs to listen to what is being said here tonight.

Comment: The PCT should get the message we want a hospital on one site. We don’t want to be ferried across town for different things. Also in 10 years time the PCT will have disappeared, but the people of Bicester will still be here.

Q) What current clinical needs does the Community Hospital provide in relation to a Primary Care Health Centre

A) The current services are provided include FAU, Outpatient services, x-ray etc but this all takes place in facilities not fit for purpose The PCT has asked for and is committed to them being re-provided. We are also looking at population changes to see what services will need to be provided in the future.
Q) Are you including the population of Kidlington in your projections? Kidlington is a large village with a large older population and they will want to come to Bicester for their hospital care.

A) We are looking at our activity data and where patients come from, so Kidlington will be included in this.

Comment: We have told you what our requirements are, but you need to relay these to the bidders not have them dictate to you.

Comment: I would like to hear that all services will be on 1 site. In addition it would be nice to include an X-ray and Ultrasound facility as well to improve services for the number of people in this area.

Comment: I don’t believe that until the site has been surveyed you can say it can all go on 1 site.

Q) With regard to the Community Forum I have sat on these before and it ends up just being an information distribution arrangement and people want to have their say. Can you clarify the role/status of the public representative?.

A) The Community Forums views will be used to assist scoring of the final tenders received as part of the community acceptability scoring. In addition there are 2 places available on the Bicester Community Hospital Project Group and they will be a full and equal member of the group. The group reports directly to the PCT Board.

Q) Is the money for this re-provision ring fenced?

A) Yes, the PCT has said that the money currently used for the site and its services will be in place for the re-provision.

6 **Actions**

- Nomination/Appointment of Chair – it was **agreed** that Dr Mike Curry would be the Chair of the Bicester Hospital Community Forum
- Membership/Attendees – a number of those present stated that they were interested in joining the Forum and were asked to register their contact details with Cathryn Bullimore, PCT Communications Manager at the end of the meeting.
- Tony Baldry confirmed that Cherwell District Council will provide secretariat support to the Forum if required.

7 **Any other business**

None

8 **Closing remarks**

Tony Baldry thanked everyone for attending and noted the PCTs pleasant surprise at the number of people who turned up. He proposed to hold another public meeting in June/July next year.

He also thanked those who had shown an interest in joining the Forum and welcomed the cross section of representation that will be on it.