Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Bicester Hospital Project Newsletter. Through this newsletter we hope to keep all local people and interested groups and organisations updated on the progress of the project.

**NHS Oxfordshire’s Board backs plans to re-develop Bicester’s Community Hospital**

In a key milestone for the project, NHS Oxfordshire’s Board has given their approval to an Outline Business Case which seeks to put all the current facilities – which includes 12 beds – on one site. The Board also agreed for service sustainability, flexibility and to be economically viable, the hospital beds should be part of a larger nursing home facility.

In order to establish where best the new community hospital should be sited, they approved an approach which will allow potential bidders to discuss with the PCT options for delivering services. This will then allow NHS Oxfordshire to ensure a way of sharing facilities with a partner to achieve an affordable scheme and to gain maximum benefit for the local community.

Catherine Mountford, NHS Oxfordshire’s Director of Strategy and Quality, said: “A great deal of hard work has gone into ensuring the plan to provide health facilities for the people of Bicester and surrounding areas takes this significant step forward. We remain committed to the scheme and I look forward to seeing the project succeed. Bicester is a growing town and we need to make sure the health facilities we provide can accommodate future needs.”

Detailed work has been carried out by NHS Oxfordshire and by the Community Hospital Engagement Forum (CHEF) to score each of the three potential sites for the new hospital. However, the conclusion was that no one site was a clear winner.

As a result, the next stage of the project is to start a procurement process which will include issuing a Prior Information Notice (PIN) This will enable discussions to start with would-be bidders to consider what site, service model and contractual framework will be taken forward. The Board will consider the plans again in December.
Update from the Community Hospital Engagement Forum (CHEF)

The CHEF continues to work closely with NHS Oxfordshire giving valuable thoughts and feedback from the community.

The group met in July and plan to meet again early next month (October) In July’s meeting CHEF members discussed the Project Plan and started an exercise to score the three potential sites for the new hospital.

A discussion will now be held at next month’s meeting to look at how members scored each site and how their views will be used in the project.

Meanwhile, CHEF Chairman, retired Bicester GP, Dr. Michael Curry, commented on the NHS Oxfordshire Board’s decision to accept the recommendations in an Outline Business Case (please see page 1 for full story)

Dr. Curry, said: “The problem with the provision of a new hospital for Bicester has always been one of affordability. Not withstanding the present economic climate, the PCT board has given the green light to see what developers can come up with." We await their response with keen interest."

Come and Talk Health

NHS Oxfordshire is encouraging people to register with Talking Health. This takes five minutes and once registered you will be able to access this newsletter online.

You will also be able to participate in other consultations that affect services in your local area. Talking Health gives you the chance to say what areas of health interest you the most and in what way you wish to be kept informed.

For example we are currently encouraging people to have a say in pharmaceutical needs at a meeting in Oxford Town Hall on 14 October. Once registered with Talking Health you can share your views and comments with us. To register please click here: https://consult.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/consult.ti/system/register

If you are not reading this online then please give us a call on 01865 334641 to get registered.

Contact us…

If you would like further information or have any questions about the information in this newsletter, please contact:

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