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

**Keen Interest in Project**

More than 30 organisations have expressed an interest in re-developing Bicester Hospital.

This follows an advert which was placed in specialist magazines and websites in January. The advert asked would-be developers to put themselves forward to submit plans for the project.

Alan Webb, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust’s (PCT) Director of Commissioning, said: “We are very encouraged by this significant level of interest. The PCT is pleased to have attracted a high number of potential bidders. We now need to work carefully to ensure we get the best developer and outcome for the Bicester project.”

Work is now taking place to assess the bidders and invite them to the next stage of the process. Because of the high level of interest it is likely to be a few weeks before this next stage is reached.

**Key Dates**

- **February – December 2009**: Expressions of interest are evaluated and discussions with bidders take place. Final tenders should be submitted by bidders

- **January – February 2010**: Evaluation of tenders takes place and a paper presented to the PCT Board with a proposal to award the contract

- **Summer 2010**: Work should start on site

*Ambitious about improving the health and wellbeing of local people*
Background to the Project

Just a reminder of some of the key points about the Bicester Hospital Project:

- The new health facility in Bicester will have all the services currently in existence, which will include an outpatients clinic, X-ray facilities and all therapies, in addition to a minor injuries unit.
- We will keep the current 12 intermediate care beds.
- We are also committed to providing any new services that are required.
- The PCT realises how important it is to work with local people to get the right outcome and this work will take some time. Potential developers or providers will come forward over the next year or so with ideas which can be tested with the project group and with local people, to ensure that the right outcome is achieved. The final option, therefore, will not be known until the end of this process (see key dates).

Contact us….

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

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† This newsletter is distributed to the following stakeholders: PCT staff, local MPs, local NHS trusts, Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council, the Local Practice Based Commissioning Consortia, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, South Central Strategic Health Authority, Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, patients and public in the Bicester locality – including LINk organisation (Local Involvement Networks), relevant community and voluntary groups and the media.