Welcome to the seventh edition of the Bicester Community 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.

We Want to Hear from You...

It’s vital that during a project as ambitious and complex as re-developing Bicester Hospital we talk to the community who will use the services about what it is they want from their local healthcare. With this in mind we are setting up a Community Forum to hear first hand from people in Bicester and surrounding areas about how their hospital should develop. You may have an interest in healthcare, be part of a Bicester community organisation or just simply want to get involved because you live in the area served by the hospital. If you do, then we would like to hear from you.

You are invited to take part in a Community Forum Meeting on **Monday November 16: 7.00 pm— 8.00 pm at the Littlebury Hotel, Kings End, Bicester.** This will be an opportunity to hear an update on how the project is progressing and a chance to tell us your views. If you would like any more information then please contact:

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

NHS Oxfordshire to look at short list of would be bidders

The plans to redevelop Bicester’s Community Hospital will shortly be in the ‘competitive dialogue’ stage. This means we are looking at a short list of submissions made by bidders who are interested in taking on the work to build the new hospital. Those shortlisted will soon be asked to submit their plans. Project Manager, Tony Burrage, said: “A lot of what we are doing at the moment has to be confidential and I appreciate that it is frustrating for everyone not to have more details at this stage. This is a necessary part of the procurement process which ensures the project’s success. However, we are making great progress and NHS Oxfordshire has underlined its financial commitment to the project.”

Frequently Asked Questions

What facilities will the new hospital have?
The new hospital will provide all the existing healthcare services and therapies, which will include an out-patients clinic, a minor injuries unit, X-ray as well as 12 intermediate care beds. Potential developers can suggest providing the new facilities on the existing Bicester Hospital site or at another site, for example to the SW of Bicester, where significant development is anticipated. Services may be provided together in one unit, similar to the model we currently have at Bicester Hospital. Alternatively, services might be offered in different locations. It’s important to remember that which ever plan goes ahead, all current healthcare services will continue.

I’ve heard we are losing beds, is this true?
No, the new hospital will provide all the services currently in existence at Bicester – including the current 12 intermediate care beds.

Bicester’s population is set to increase, don’t we need a larger hospital?
The population of Bicester is due to increase significantly in the years ahead and this is a key consideration in selecting the most suitable location for a facility. We need to ensure that there is space to grow and develop the new facility so that it can continue to meet the needs of Bicester and its surrounding villages both now and in the future.

† 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.

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