Welcome to the eighth edition of the Henley Community Hospital Project Group

Project Update

It is very important to NHS Oxfordshire that the plan to re-provide health facilities for Henley and the surrounding areas succeeds. We know how valued and much loved Townlands Hospital is and we have been working hard on the complicated project to ensure future health provision.

In the past few months we have been carrying out a procurement exercise to decide on who should take on the task of re-providing the health facilities. However, following legal advice, we are now making some changes. Our plan is to re-start the procurement process and make it clearer and more straightforward. If we don’t make these changes now, we run the risk of the project failing further down the line. This will inevitably mean an alteration to our timetable. We had hoped the project would be put before the PCT Board in November this year, but 2011 now looks more likely and we are currently working out the revised timetable. It is regrettable that we have a delay, but, we feel it is better to have a short delay now, than risk a more serious setback later on. Meanwhile, all the detailed planning and survey work we have carried out in the past few months will be used in the project as it progresses and has not been wasted.

It is also important to stress that NHS Oxfordshire remains committed to the Townland’s project. The money for the scheme is protected and our new Chief Executive, Sonia Mills, said earlier this month (May) that she wants to see it succeed.

Ambitious about improving the health and wellbeing of local people

Next Meeting of the Townlands Community Group

The Townlands Community Group (TCG) is holding its next meeting later this month (May) The group will meet on Thursday 13 May 6.30 - 8.00 pm at the Council Chamber, Henley Town Hall. The TCG formed last year to give the people of Henley and surrounding areas the chance to take part in discussions about the re-development of Townlands Hospital. All are welcome.
Update from the Townlands Steering Group

The community and everyone involved in the Townland’s project will be disappointed at this setback. After all the work done we had hoped that bidders would finally be able to start work on outline solutions. However, most of the work is not wasted but is reuseable. We do need the PCT to move quickly to produce a credible and robust plan in order to regain the community’s confidence and develop the momentum of the project so we can keep any delay to a minimum. I hope the PCT will move quickly to announce the new plan so that everyone can accept the reassurances that the PCT remain committed to a successful conclusion to the project.

Ian Reissmann, Chairman of the Townlands Steering Group

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will all the forecasted public spending cuts affect the plans for Townlands?

A: The money to reprovide Townlands is already with NHS Oxfordshire and it remains something we are committed to.

Q: Will the community get a say in how the project develops?

A: There is a well established community forum—the Townlands Community Group which is open to everyone. It updates on the project and listens to what local people say (see page 1 for details of the next meeting)

Q: Will we lose current services or hospital beds in the new plans?

A: No, NHS Oxfordshire is committed to re-providing all existing services, which includes the current intermediate care beds.

Contact us....

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† This newsletter is distributed to the following stakeholders: PCT staff, local MPs, local NHS trusts, Henley Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, the Local Practice Based Commissioning