Welcome to the seventh edition of the Henley Community Hospital Project Group Newsletter. Through this newsletter we hope to keep all local people, interested groups and organisations updated on the progress of the project.

Next Meeting of the Townlands Community Group

The Townlands Community Group (TCG) is holding its next meeting later this month (November). The group will meet on Wednesday November 18 6.30 pm—8.00 pm at the Maurice Tate Room, Townlands Hospital, Henley. All are welcome.

The TCG formed earlier this year to give the people of Henley and surrounding areas the chance to take part in discussions about the re-development of Townlands Hospital. The meetings give NHS Oxfordshire valuable feedback on what local people want from their health services.

The TCG is Chaired by Henley Town Councillor, Ian Reissmann. The next meeting will hear a project update from NHS Oxfordshire and also from the architect working with the health service to look at the Townlands site. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

For more information please contact NHS Communications Manager (see details on page 2)

Townlands—A Project Update

NHS Oxfordshire has drawn up a shortlist of would-be developers who want the contract to re-develop Townlands Hospital. All those on the list will be invited shortly to submit their plans.

Project Manager, Tony Burrage, said: “The scheme is progressing well, although we have had to allow a small slippage of two months in the timetable. This was to allow us to give more details to would-be developers and to the planners. It’s important to get things right first time and I felt this would prevent a more significant delay further down the line which is something we do not want to happen.”

Meanwhile, NHS Oxfordshire’s new interim Chief Executive, Matthew Tait, has confirmed their commitment to the scheme. He said: “Money for this project has already been set aside and will not be affected by any public sector cut-backs.”
Update from the Townlands Steering Group

Sometimes you only start to understand everything about a project as you get close to finishing. Right now we're close to completing the documents to go to all the potential bidders. These provide all the information needed by those who replied to the advertisement earlier this year so they can start designing the new Townlands. It's important to get this right because once the document has gone out we can't go back. It has taken time for us to get to understand all the pieces of work needed. The most important parts of our current work are the budgets and the specification of the services themselves. However, we've also been making sure that South Oxfordshire District Council, who are the planning authority, are involved. There's no point getting the bidders to offer us a perfect solution if we can't get planning permission!

We will get to the end of this phase but it has taken longer than we expected. In the end, the work we do now is worth it and will result in making our new health facility something we can all be proud of. This means that we're looking at recommending a bid to the PCT board for their approval towards the end of 2010.

Ian Reissmann, Chair Townlands Steering Group.

Key Dates
Jan 2010: Planning Framework agreed with South Oxfordshire District Council  
Sept/Oct 2010: Bidders submit final tender  
November 2010: Recommendation to PCT Board  
February/May 2011: Planning application to South Oxfordshire District Council  
Summer 2011: Building work commences

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, Henley Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, the Local Practice Based Commissioning Consortium, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, South Central Strategic Health Authority, Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, patients and public in the Henley locality – including the Local Involvement Network (LINks), relevant community and voluntary groups and the media.

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