

Notes of Meeting of Community Council Reps with NHS Lothian to discuss reprovisioning of services on the REH and AAH sites

**Board Room, St Roque, Astley Ainslie Hospital
5.15 pm Thursday 19th November 2015**

Present (for CCs) Heather Goodare (HG) Tollcross CC
Tony Harris (TH) Grange Prestonfield CC
Ian Clement (IC) Merchiston CC
Sue Tritton (ST) Grange Prestonfield CC
Dorothy Ryle (DR) Marchmont and Sciennes CC
Jo Scott (JS) Southside Association
Goff Cantley (GC) Morningside CC

Apologies: Alastair Philp (AP) Marchmont and Sciennes CC
Robin Morris (RM) Merchiston CC

(For NHS Lothian) Andrew Milne (AM) NHSL, Project Director Major Hub Initiative
Jennifer Thwaites (JT), Project Manager, REH Campus Redevelopment

Introduction: All welcomed. There was no specific agenda; the CC reps wanted an update on plans; in particular on matters raised at the previous meeting.

Phase 1: Andrew Milne explained that Phase 1 is being built and about half complete – handover to the NHS is planned for December 2016. In early 2016 there will be disruption in Myreside when the crossing point at the entrance will be introduced – sightlines will change. Suggested that everyone looks at the website where there are aerial views showing progress.

<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/OurOrganisation/PropertyDevelopments/CurrentProjects/REHCampus/Pages/default.aspx>

Phase 2: Jennifer is project manager for Phase 2 – scoping and design being progressed. This will include McKinnon House (200 years old and B-listed) which will be the outpatient department, next to the integrated rehabilitation unit. Also include plans for AAH services which are moving across e.g. physiotherapy. Construction should start in mid-2017 with completion in 2019. For logistic reason the REH will be a split site with Facilities Management at the Myreside end and Gardeners etc. at the Tipperlinn end. Government has provided £120m with £94m for building costs.

Phase 3: Andrew Duncan Clinic will be retained until 2019 and then knocked down to be replaced by a new learning disability centre.

Questions and comments:

- **Dental and Ophthalmic services:** IC asked if these services will be provided on site. JT and AM said there are no plans for these services at present.
- **Royal Victoria Hospital facilities:** IC asked whether these facilities would be replaced when the RVH closes. AM said the original masterplan included space for 120-bed facility – not yet decided where this would go. This would be part of Phase 3.
- **Refectory and Catering Facilities:** IC asked about these provisions and commented that NHS staff tend to be more obese than the general population – could this be due to unhealthy snacks in vending machines? AM replied that the Facilities Management Building would have full catering facilities – all food would be prepared in house - not yet decided how to transport food around the site. There will be a staff refectory in McKinnon House. JT said the plans include restoring the refectory to its former glory.
- **Verandah Café and boutique:** JS asked where this would go – very useful for providing refreshments for visitors etc. She also asked that the small boutique be retained. AM said they are looking for a grant to replace the Verandah café – there are several options. JT said there will be a

small shop and café near McKinnon House. Noted that the REH is a large site and there is a need for more than one café.

- **Food vending machines:** HC commented that these tend to dispense unhealthy products. AM said that there are no full sugar drinks now; however, there is a need for such facilities to provide refreshments – especially for night staff - when the main facilities are closed.
- **Kennedy Tower:** TH asked about proposals for this tower. AM said they are still in discussion with Edinburgh University who want more money than the NHS can afford. The University requires a presence on site for education and admin – there is space in McKinnon House. If the University can be engaged in sensible discussions the tower could go – possibly a good location for the Verandah.
- **Liberton Hospital:** Some acute beds will go to the RIE; some beds to “Community Hospitals” in East and Midlothian. Timescale of closure depends on other developments such as the creation of “Home Treatment” teams designed to keep people out of hospital.
- **Parking on site:** AM said there are never enough spaces. JT said there a number of concerns being looked at by a “Transport Group” – including the need for “drop off” points at all buildings.
- **Security of Site:** JT said that the limited entrances will make it easier to make this site more secure than the present AAH site.
- **Hydrotherapy Pool:** This is out for consultation – AM thinks the pool will probably come and there is space within the Integrated Rehabilitation Facility.
- **Smoking on site:** AM passed on the concerns of the CC reps about staff smoking at entrances. AM said that NHS Lothian is promoting smoking cessation classes.
- **Headway Unit:** Discussions about the future are ongoing – but there wouldn’t be as much space available as on the present site. Headway is looking elsewhere.
- **The Hive:** AM said no changes are proposed which require planning consent. The proposals are mainly cosmetic and they are engaging with Historic Scotland. The building is B-listed (mainly because it is demountable) – cost expected to be about £660m and alterations to be done in early 2016.

AAH Site and Facilities: AM said there would be an outline Masterplan looking at timescales etc. with a probable 2020 disposal. Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) will write the brief – probably in about a year - to maximise the value of the site. This will be an indicative plan for any Developer and provide details of restrictions on the site.

- **Woodburn House:** This will be part of the disposal site – new building required for these facilities in about 5 years.
- **Smart Centre:** The services will move to the REH – however, the building, which has flexible space, may be retained – possibly for a GP Practice or similar.
- **Rights of Way etc.:** There are various restrictions on this site – including listed buildings, TPOs and rights of way. The Masterplan will respect the rights of access to this site.
- **Cedar Tree:** DR noted her concern about the loss (about a year ago) of one of the most beautiful trees on site. She did not think it needed to be cut down. AM was not aware of this tree.

Possible Museum: IC asked if any thought had been given to recording the 200 year history of these hospitals. AM and JT are keen that the identity of both hospitals is captured and space for various artefacts needs to be found. The name (or names) of the new hospital has still to be decided.

Date of the next meeting. Provisionally arranged for Thursday June 9th 2016 (5 for 5.15pm).

Sue Tritton

24th November 2015