

## NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RED HOUSE FORUM 3 MARCH 2015

1. Further to The Harpenden Society meeting on health matters of 26 February where encouraging news was heard from David Law about progress on the Harpenden Memorial Hospital project, the chairman, Chris Marsden, asked Diane Brent, Estates Strategy and Estates Contracts Manager HCT NHS, to give an update on the current situation as a means of providing the Forum with information and as a device for prompting questions and discussion.
  
2. Diane Brent referred to the HMH Project team meeting papers previously distributed to Forum members. She described how the scheme fell into the middle rankings of such proposals, that is valued at over £1m and less than £15m, inclusive of land and build costs. This meant it would have to have the approval of the Treasury Director of Finance but not the uppermost tier of Treasury sanction. Waterhouse and Cooper had been secured as consultants to help construct the Strategic Outline Case which would require approval prior to the preparation of the more detailed Business Case. Consultants had also been recruited to provide an updated assessment of the public health needs of the greater Harpenden area, while the System One mechanism would be utilised to plot what the providers were currently offering by way of local medical and allied services.
  
3. Among the several issues raised were;
  - the interface of private insurance care with NHS in the area and its effects, good and bad, on demand management.
  - The criteria for evaluation, especially in regard of the public health needs aspects.
  - The involvement of volunteers, which had been specifically and positively commented upon at the HS public meeting of 26 February, especially in terms of the nuanced management required for and of volunteer help.
  - The component of preventative as a balance with curative care in recognition of the 'wellness' element of the project's vision.
  
4. In terms of forward movement, the project was regarded as one of 'Significant Development'. It was believed that from the list of nine options, previously cited, and with the help of the consultants, a short list of two or three options would emerge from the middle of the roster, that is, those involving a strong 'build' component. Diane Brent invited the group to nominate a representative experienced in local health voluntary work to assist in this evaluation. Helen Clothier was asked and agreed to fulfil this role. It was suggested that this activity would be completed by the Project Team in mid April 2015 preparatory to HCT Board approval in June. If all went well with the

Strategic Outline Case, it was hoped that the more complicated Business case could be prepared by March 2016 and, subject to the approval of the Central Development Agency, building would commence in late i2016 with a view to completion and opening of the new Health and Wellness Campus in 2018.

5. In acknowledgement of earlier discussion with HCT, it was agreed that, at some opportune point, the Forum would engage to generate intense public support for the scheme as an essential part of its promotion

6. It was decided to meet thereafter the results of of the 'options evaluation'. Thus the next meeting of the Red House Forum will be at Park Hall, Harpenden

9.30 a.m Thursday 29 April 2015

Eric Midwinter  
Co-organiser, the Red House Forum