

**The Harpenden Society**  
**Meeting convened by the Health and Social Welfare Working Group**  
**Friday 10 October 2014 - At the Friends Meeting House**

**Present**

Chris Marsden	Chairman of the Harpenden Society - in the Chair
Eric Midwinter	Convener of the Health and Social Welfare Group
Diane Brent	Hertfordshire Community Trust
Derek Bird	Chairman, Friends of Harpenden Memorial Hospital
Marjorie Biggs	Secretary, Friends of Harpenden Memorial Hospital
Sarah Brindley	Practice Manager – The Elms Medical Practice
Helen Clothier	St Albans & Harpenden Patient Group and 3 Valley Acute Care Patient rep
Rosemary Farmer	Harpenden Town and District Councillor
Patrick Fisher	Harpenden Mencap
John Harris	Davenport House PPG /L&D Hospital Governor
Heather Hassall	Practice Manager - Davenport House Surgery
Teresa Heritage	Herts CC Councillor
Nicola Linacre	Harpenden Town Councillor
Mary Maynard	Mayor Harpenden Town Council
Bert Pawle	Harpenden Town Councillor

**Apologies**

David Law, Chief Executive Hertfordshire Community Trust

**Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone, sought introductions and invited Diane Brett to update the Group.

**Diane Brett (DB)**

The key points from DB's update were as follows:

- Looking at the big picture first, an estates strategy covering some 60 properties for which HCT is responsible (owned or rented) was taking 2 months longer to complete than planned. HCT is collaborating with Hertfordshire County Council on re-generation strategies and population growth.
- The estates strategy and how Harpenden fits into it will include CCG support and be presented to the HCT Board in November 2014.

***The Red House***

- It was already concluded that HCT will need to re-develop services in Harpenden town.
- Following the earlier Gateway review, there was a requirement to develop a list of 9 options for Harpenden out of which a short list would be identified.
- In addition, a health needs assessment was critical and in course. **(Teresa Heritage requested information on the contacts and enquiries being made for this review)**
- Realistically, HCT will need to identify the most cost effective way of delivering the health needs for Harpenden Town where the Red House might struggle to fully meet these needs.
- The next stages were preparation of an Outline Business Case, a further Gateway Review and

completion of a full business case taking about 9 months.

### ***Chairman's comments (CM)***

The understanding was that an outline business case including the options was presented some 12 months ago which appeared to represent a re-build on the site which was followed by a Gateway Review. So the current update gave the impression that "we had been here before".

DB highlighted that the earlier Gateway Review recommended that more process was required, including a comprehensive review of the options and completion of a needs assessment.

### ***Questions/Comments/Requests***

- How will the short list of options be selected and against what will they be measured? What if 2 or 3 are not acceptable to the Group? **Mary Maynard (MM) requested the criteria and measures against which options will be selected together with details of the initial 9 options.**
- Teresa Heritage observed that if a Health and Well being Centre was not included in the short list of options HCT would have a problem. Which bodies are part of the consultation process on the basis that West Herts Hospital Trust, the HVCCG and GPs are involved? DB confirmed that Mencap and the Mental Health Trust are being consulted.
- Eric Midwinter (EM) commented that although a Health and Well Being Centre would be in Harpenden it would serve the Local Government area including the surrounding rural villages. In addition to Redbourn and Wheathamstead the L&D Hospital uses the Red House. The wider catchment area indicated a population of 50,000 whereas Harpenden town was 30,000.
- **MM requested information on the population measure for provision of health services in a town based on a minimum level of 30,000. What services were required at the next level up?**
- Helen Clothier questioned whether the private hospital would have a bearing on the provision of services in Harpenden. DB responded that the HVCCG were at liberty to purchase services wherever they could be delivered cost effectively. Conversely, consultants might wish to rent rooms at the Harpenden NHS facility.
- John Harris enquired about the level of discussions with HCCCG and what encouragement HCT was receiving for delivering proposed services. DB responded that letters of approval to the selected option would be sought from the commissioners.
- CM enquired how the group could help HCT, and what were the next steps and timetable.

### ***Next Steps/timetable***

1. The estates strategy with commissioners support to be considered by the HCT Board in November 2014
2. A further meeting of this group was arranged for **Thursday 11 December at 9.30 am, venue to be confirmed.**
3. A member of this group (to be identified) to join the HCT project team to be involved in the process, subject to approval by HCT.
4. The various documents requested from DB during the meeting to be forwarded to EM for circulation to members of the group.