

WESTMINSTER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WORKING GROUP

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 31th January 2017 at 5:30pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Councillors Anthony Austin [Chair], Phil Proctor and Lester Taylor			Shaftesbury Town Council [STC]
Cllr Piers Brown	Shaftesbury Town Council & North Dorset District Council	: Cllr Simon Pritchard	North Dorset District Council [NDDC]
Steve Unwin	Shaftesbury Resident	: Ray Humphries	Shaftesbury Resident
J G Lichfield	SCS	: David Webber	Melbury Abbas & Cann PC
Lester Dibben Melanie Froggatt	Shaftesbury & District Task Force	: Richard Thomas	Shaftesbury Resident
Julian Prichard	Save our Beds	: Sue Daddy	Retired GP
Andrew Weir	Retired GP	: Lynne Fish	Donheads & Transport Forum
Cllr Barrie von Clemens	Gillingham Town Council [GTC]	: mih	CCH

1. Apologies

Simon Firbank, Bourton PC; Maureen Vickery & Jackie Hiscock, The Mellows, Gillingham, Peter Fineman, Barbara Carter, Shaftesbury Town Council; Julie Hawkins, Gillingham Town Council

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2017 were approved.

3. Report by Cllr Austin on various meetings attended and future meetings proposed

Cllr Austin [AA] reported on his meeting with Simone Yule, the notes of the meeting having been circulated.

Cllr Austin together with Cllr Brown met with the Matron of the Hospital, which was a constructive meeting.

It had been confirmed that the current cost of a bed was £400 per day.

The 'SoB' website contains a quote from a previous matron, which is relevant to the ethos and the emotional support that people feel about the hospital today. <http://saveourbeds.co.uk/westminster-memorial-hospital-shaftesbury/>

It was requested that all papers be passed by the Chair before being circulated to the wider group.

There was a meeting last Friday with Cllr Andrew Kerby the DCC portfolio holder for Wellbeing. Cllr Kerby made it clear that he had no influence over the CCG in an official capacity, although his work does overlap and they work

together well. He personally supports what the Working Group are saying, the points raised and the arguments made. There is an issue with the CCG not being forthcoming and questions should be answered without having to make a Freedom of Information request.

NDDC Cabinet would be meeting on 8th February to discuss the CCG's proposals, and it was agreed Cllr Piers Brown would represent the WMH Working Group at that meeting.

4. Report from Julian Prichard, Save our Beds Campaign

Julian from SoB reported that he now had a village co-ordinator for Motcombe, and the village shop were collecting in completed questionnaires.

35 streets were covered in Shaftesbury, 10 in Gillingham, 3 in Mere, 3 in Tisbury and 15 villages. More support was needed for Shaftesbury and Gillingham.

Shops had been approached to put up posters and have flyers and appreciation was expressed for the support being received. There had been a lot of activity on facebook and twitter.

An empty shop at 45 High Street, Shaftesbury had been offered by Richard Sheen for SoB to use for a month, for the campaign. Volunteers were sought for a couple of hours to assist Julian, for back office support and especially to respond to emails which he hadn't had time to do. It was confirmed that neither Shaftesbury TC or Gillingham TC could provide funding for payment for help.

Julian reported that over 2000 copies of the consultation document and questionnaire had been handed out since last Friday. More copies of the document were being delivered, but that the CCG were unable to provide more supplies through the usual channel and would have to go through the central number.

5. Reports and Feedback from Stakeholders

Gillingham TC reported that they had had a number of hits on facebook and they had reposted the call for volunteers to help SoB. The Consultation document had been distributed to shops, lunch clubs and Councillors were also handing them out. The doctor's surgeries in Gillingham did not have any of the documents, but have now. The library was also being kept supplied.

It was noted that the CCG website stated that the documents could be picked up at Gillingham, but there was no mention of where in Shaftesbury.

There were apparently 35,000 copies of the questionnaire still at the printers.

It was commented that there were 10,000 Mental Health Consultation documents being sent out. Although not relevant to WMH, it had not been mentioned in the Improving Dorset's Healthcare consultation document.

SDTF were in touch with the office of Baroness Scott, Head of Wiltshire CC. Momentum was growing and it would be suggested that they have questionnaires for distribution. Barford St Martin PC passed a resolution recently about the consultation. Most of the areas affected in Wiltshire had no idea the consultation was taking place.

AA stated that he had yet to receive a reply from the CCG regarding the analysis of postcodes and confirmed the response will be circulated as and when it had been received.

It was suggested that perhaps the MPs could put pressure on the CCG to extend the consultation time, as whole sections of the affected community had been missed. Both Simon Hoare and Andrew Murrison were on the Working Groups email circulation list.

Dr Wier expressed concern regarding a patient who lived in Ludwell with relatives in Shaftesbury was sent to Warminster as Wiltshire NHS would not pay for a nursing home in Dorset.

LD advised that the Hospital wasn't just gifted to Shaftesbury, and that the NHS should deliver what the Grosvenor family intended.

Cedars Castle Hill advised that they had been given the costs by the CCG for hospital beds and would circulate to the group.

Acute beds need more care and more money, and was £1,400 per day in 2006/7.

6. Proposed Public Meeting

Shaftesbury School had been booked for Wednesday 15th February 2017 for a public meeting to take place from 7pm to 9pm.

Each speaker has been asked to give a few minutes presentation. They will have a lot of tough questions to answer.

AA asked for volunteers to help with marshalling on the evening.

Publicity had been supplied to the BVM and it was hoped it would be in this week's magazine. The Valley News would be published too late for the meeting. It was said that something had been heard on Breeze Radio regarding the consultation.

7. The Long Term Future

A discussion took place regarding a sub-group, and AA would report to the next General Management Committee meeting on 21st February 2017.

8. To agree agenda items and date for next meeting

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place on Tuesday 7th February 2017, 5:30pm in the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 6:45pm