

## WESTMINSTER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WORKING GROUP

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 5:30pm in the Town Hall

### Present:

Councillors Anthony Austin [Chair], Lester Taylor			Shaftesbury Town Council [STC]
Cllr Piers Brown	Shaftesbury Town Council & North Dorset District Council	: Richard Thomas	SoB
Carolyn Cox	Friends of WMH	: David Webber J Weston	Melbury Abbas & Cann PC
Lester Dibben Melanie Froggatt	Shaftesbury & District Task Force	: Richard Thomas	Shaftesbury Resident
Ray Humphries	Resident	: Sue Daddy	Retired GP
Emma Unwin	SoB	: Lynne Fish	Donheads & Transport Forum
Cllr Barrie von Clemens	Gillingham Town Council [GTC]	: Richard Tippins	Resident
		: Barbara Carter	Shaftesbury Town Council

### 1. Apologies

Steve Unwin, Tricia Reilly, Jerry Lichfield, Simon Firbank: Bourton PC; Dr Andrew Weir, Cecilia Ferriman: Fonthill Gifford PC, D Cllr Simon Pritchard

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 were agreed.

### 3. SoBs report from Julian Prichard (JP)

Jo reported that over 5,200 completed questionnaires had been delivered to Tim Goodson (TG) at the CCG offices in Dorchester at 3:30pm this afternoon. TG appeared dismayed with the number of people who had turned up to hand over the questionnaires.

With those already sent to the survey company this resulted in over 6,000 in total.

40% of the total number of questionnaires received by ORS, from the whole of Dorset, had come from the Shaftesbury and Gillingham areas.

This represented a substantial success for the support to keep the beds at the Westminster Memorial Hospital in Shaftesbury.

The group expressed their thanks for Julian's tireless work and to those volunteers who had gave up their time to help both in the pop-up shop and by pounding the streets.

#### **4. Sub-Group report from Melanie Froggatt**

The report from Helen Tucker, Community Hospitals Association, had been circulated. TG had been handed a copy together with supporting papers.

It was a good report and confirmed the Working Groups concerns.

Feedback from HT was that our campaign was the most outstanding she had seen.

Comments from the Working Group included:

Although there was a 400 page report from the CCG regarding the consultation, there was no business case behind it and no background information or costings – this should render the consultation null and void.

There was no mention of how good the services offered were now and what they will be in the future.

It had been rumoured that 120 users per year at a cost of £1.2m

This is not just about inpatients but outpatients, relatives and visitors too.

Feedback would be provided to Helen Tucker at the end of the week.

Now the consultation period had come to an end, this was just the end of the beginning.

Bourton PC had offered to assist with further funding as did Melbury Abbas & Cann PC.

#### **5. Feedback from Stakeholders**

A local GP had made a comment that the group had 'lit a hornets nest'

The Chair read out a press statement released by the Council expressing their thanks for the work Julian and SoB had carried out. He also expressed his thanks to Lester Dibben (LD) for his work in getting SW Wiltshire Councils informed and involved.

LD stated that success had been achieved with the help of the SW Wilts Area Board. Julian and Melanie would be attending the next meeting being to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, and would be supported by Andrew Murrison MP. The Board would be encouraged to put pressure on the CCG to extend the consultation, as SW Wilts only knew of the consultation on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

LD reported on the Health Scrutiny meeting and comments that there was no elected member from the County Council present. There were representatives from the Hampshire Community Health Committee, Bournemouth and Poole Hospital, 8 from the CCG, Cllr Bill Batty-Smith and two others.

It was asked why Hampshire had been invited but Wiltshire had not?

One comment made by the CCG was that 'we have to accept that people have to travel at least 2 miles or a bit more' to hospital beds.

Cllr D Walsh was unable to attend due to a prior engagement and STC had not been informed that the meeting was taking place.

## **6. Any other business**

- TG had made the comment that although feedback from the MP's was to extend the consultation period, he was under no pressure to do so.
- Ownership of the hospital site was still be investigated and would continue
- Carolyn Cox, Friends of Westminster Hospital, said the campaign had been wonderful and expressed her thanks for the support. Also that funding could be available if required.
- It was suggested that the hospital could be registered as a Community Asset, and that this needed further investigation. Gillingham Clerk had more information on this and could be contacted. The NHP could do this, but there has to be a buyer for the property. A case should be made to the NHS to hand back to the Community, if it is found they do own it.
- The hospital building is not listed, but is in a conservation area.
- Phil Richardson, CCG, was communicating with MF regarding financial information.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 5:30pm in the Town Hall.

Agenda item for the next meeting would be:

- The future of the Working Group

The meeting closed at 6:28pm