

WESTMINSTER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WORKING GROUP

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 7th February 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	: Carolyn Cox	Westminster Memorial Hospital League of Friends
Steve Unwin	Shaftesbury Resident	: Tricia Reilly	'Save Our Beds!'
J G Lichfield	SCS	: David Webber	Melbury Abbas & Cann PC
Lester Dibben Melanie Froggatt	Shaftesbury & District Task Force	: Richard Thomas	Shaftesbury Resident
Andrew Weir	Retired GP	: Sue Daddy	Retired GP
Jose Green	Wiltshire Councillor and SW Area Board	: Lynne Fish	Donheads & Transport Forum
Cllr Barrie von Clemens	Gillingham Town Council [GTC]	: Richard Tippins	Resident
Sue Wilthrew	Shaftesbury Town Council	: Barbara Carter	Shaftesbury Town Council

1. Apologies

Simon Firbank, Bourton PC; Maureen Vickery & Jackie Hiscock, The Mellows, Gillingham, Peter Fineman, Julie Hawkins, Gillingham Town Council; Julian Prichard, Save Our Beds!; Ray Humphries; Annie Garnett

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2017 were approved, with one amendment to item 5 para 8 – should read patient who live in Ludwell not Salisbury. It was noted that Julie Hawkins name was incorrectly spelt in the list of apologies.

3. Report by Cllr Austin on meetings attended

There were no meetings to report on.

4. Report from Julian Prichard, Save our Beds Campaign

JP was unable to attend the meeting. Tricia Reilly (TR) provided an update from the 'Save Our Beds! Action Group.

The shop being used as the Action Group's HQ at 45 High Street, Shaftesbury was opened by the Mayors of Shaftesbury and Gillingham together with Councillors and members of the public present.

Footfall was increasing and many were not aware of the questionnaire and thought the original public meeting WAS the consultation, which came as a surprise.

Volunteers were still required for taking the documentation to residents in their homes.

The SoB website had been updated with a new page for those to share their story. This has been cross referenced with the facebook page. Social media has had a positive effect and made an impact.

It was hoped that volunteers could apply on-line, but this is not viable due to the short timescale.

Concern was expressed by a member of the Working Group regarding the leaflet drop at the weekend being counter-intuitive. It was confirmed that the campaign was non-political and that no political party had been referenced in the documents.

TR advised that 200 consultation document and questionnaires had been delivered to the Abbeyview Surgery as they had run out and had been waiting 2 weeks for a delivery. The Surgery stated that they would not display the documents in the waiting room, but would hold them behind the reception desk.

It was commented that it was a huge benefit with JP distributing the documentation and that a tremendous amount of documents had been given out.

LT reported that 250 questionnaires had been handed out outside Tesco at the weekend and some filled in on the spot. It would make sense to do it again. There was no pressure put on anyone to fill in the questionnaire or to agree with the beds being removed from WMH.

TR stressed the need for volunteers to spent an hour or two at 45 High Street and passed round a rota for those who were able to oblige. People were coming in constantly during the day and have had queues on occasions.

5. Reports and Feedback from Stakeholders

- STC & NDDC Cllr Piers Brown (PB) reported that the consultation had been raised at the NDDC Scrutiny meeting and will be discussed at Cabinet next Wednesday. There was no indication on the direction the District Council would take - there are 35,000 people affected and more than half in NDDC. PB would be attending and will raise relevant points. It said a lot that the item had been added to the Agenda at the last minute.
- Jose Green, Cllr Wiltshire CC asked if there was an opportunity for Wiltshire residents to sign the petition. TR confirmed and said that BA12 and SP3 postcode lists had been printed today. It is still hoped that every street will be covered and the consultation document hand delivered. SoB are surveying to see how many people knew about the consultation and how many had already returned the questionnaire. Cllr Green also stated that the CCG Consultation had been discussed at the SW Wiltshire Area Board meeting recently, as Shaftesbury Hospital was used by Wiltshire residents. Cllr Green had only been aware of the consultation post Christmas, by the articles in the

Blackmore Vale Magazine and by L Dibben, who had attended the Area Board Meeting.

- It was advised that Salisbury Hospital had 9 patients waiting to be admitted to Shaftesbury Hospital. Although there were empty beds, there was not enough staffing resources to enable the patients to be transferred. 9 beds blocked in Salisbury because of this.

Yeovil Hospital had commented and responded directly to the CCG. It is not known what their response had been.

- It was raised that a leaflet circulated by a political party, had the incorrect website address and could it be assured that no further leaflets would be delivered as it was causing confusion. AA stated that the Working Group was non-political and could not get involved.
- Concern was expressed that the Dorset CCG had not consulted beyond the Dorset boundary or with Wiltshire County Council or with Salisbury Hospital. Surely an extension could be requested through the Health Scrutiny Committee as the consultation had not been inclusive.
- Dr Sue Daddy raised the call for volunteers at last weeks Shaftesbury Community Choir meeting. Thanks was expressed as 5 members of the choir had been in touch with SoB.
- TR confirmed that more than half of Shaftesbury's streets had been allocated, but that 90% of Gillingham still had to be covered. BvC confirmed that local shops in Gillingham, including Waitrose, had supplies of the document and that Councillors were also doing their best to reach residents.
- Melanie Froggatt (MF) reported on contact with the Cottage Hospitals Association.
- It was asked whether the local GPs were on board. It was difficult because Dr Yule was a member of the CCG. BvC said that Gillingham doctors didn't have any of the documents but were happy to have some. BC agreed to contact Silton Surgery.

MF advised that there will shortly be a GP consultation take place, which could place them in an awkward position.

- BvC advised that GTC were pushing the SoB campaign on Facebook, and that piles of the consultation document in shops were going down.
- Concern was expressed regarding the impact on travel with beds being blocked at Salisbury. A lot of 'children' were in their 60's with parents in Hospital, and public transport would be reducing even further in April.
- LD had provided a good set of questions to be asked at the public meeting.
- MF had not received a reply from Baroness Scott, Chair of Wiltshire CC. Cllr Green asked for MF to forward her the email and she would look into getting a response.
- JG also said that she would be proactive and report to Wiltshire CC Committees.

6. Proposed Public Meeting on 15th February

Publicity and notices had been distributed and a press release to the BMV Magazine.

AA asked for volunteers for the evening of 15th February to be at Shaftesbury School as from 6:30pm.

Those that offered were Cllrs Taylor and Brown, Cllr von Clemens and Barbara Carter.

Copies of the presentations were to be provided in advance and would be circulated.

Each speaker had been asked to keep their presentation to 3 minutes to allow plenty of time for questions and answers to follow.

7. Any other business

The Environmental impact on the proposals and the Chairs report to the STC General Management Committee would be on the next meeting Agenda.

8. To agree agenda items and date for next meeting

- Environmental impact of the proposals
- Chairs report to STC General Management Committee

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place on Tuesday 21st February 2017, 5:30pm in the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 6:45pm