

**Minutes of the RSCH Hospital Liaison Group Meeting
Held on Wednesday 8th July 2020 from 7pm
Online via Zoom**

Present:

Cllr Nancy Platts
4 Local Residents

Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals

Richard Beard, 3Ts Head of Communications & Engagement (Chair)
Ali Jenkins, 3Ts Programme Administrator

Laing O'Rourke

No attendance this month

Apologies:

None

Welcome and Introductions

1. Richard Beard welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologized that the April meeting was unable to be held due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Richard also thanked the attendees for their understanding that we are unable to meet in person currently.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting (15th January 2020) were agreed as accurate.

3. **3Ts Programme Team Update**

Richard started by informing the meeting of some changes within the 3Ts Programme Team. Former Director of 3Ts, Duane Passman, has now left the project to take up a new role in the NHS. Gary Beacham has stepped up from his former position of 3Ts Business Manager to take on the Director's role in the interim, and will be supported by senior members of the Trust.

Richard paid tribute to what Duane had achieved over the last 12 years: taking the project from a point where there were three people working out of a single room to the construction of the multi-million pound building that stands on the south east quarter of the hospital site today.

4. **Trust Development Update**

Richard gave an update on the other works being carried out around the hospital.

The works to expand the bed base in the Millennium Building are now complete and the extra capacity is available to the Trust.

An update was requested on the works on the exterior of the Children's Hospital. Richard agreed to get an update to be included in the minutes.

4.1 Post meeting update

The majority of the external works on the Children's Hospital are complete. There is some work continuing on the east side of the building and minor changes still to be done elsewhere. It is anticipated that the works will be completed early next year, however any changes to the ongoing Covid-19 control measures could affect the project.

5. 3Ts Main Scheme Update

Due to the different set up of the meeting this month, there was no request for attendance from Laing O'Rourke (LO'R) personnel and the update was given by Richard Beard. The meeting was shown a presentation featuring some pictures of the work which has been carried out around the Stage 1 site over the last few months. This included work on the link bridges to the Thomas Kemp Tower, work on installing some of the plant equipment on the roof and also work on the Helideck.

Richard explained that the Helideck work has been delayed because the sub-contractor who was carrying out the work at the top of the Thomas Kemp Tower had gone into administration. LO'R have appointed a company to complete the work. However work on the final aspects of the helideck has been hampered by the Coronavirus outbreak, as has work on Stage 1. The full extent of this impact is not yet clear.

It was reported that the third tower crane would be removed from the Stage 1 site over the weekend of 11-12th July. This would require a full closure of Eastern Road. The closure would also be used to bring some of the building's large mechanical and electrical plant to site, a process that might otherwise require a further road closure. The closure of Eastern Road had been agreed with the Council and other services that would be affected, such as the bus company and emergency services had been informed of the works. Suitable diversions would be in place throughout the weekend.

It was also reported that the removal of the fourth crane will require a further weekend road closure. This would be likely to take place in late August or during September. When the date is known it will be shared with members of the HLG.

5.1 Post meeting note: The crane removal and equipment delivery went well, allowing Eastern Road to be re-opened by lunchtime on both Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July.

6. Trust Merger

Information about the proposed merger between Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust and Western Sussex Hospitals Trust was shared with meeting's participants. Richard reported that the two Trusts have been sharing an Executive Team since April 2017. Over the past four months it had become apparent that there were real benefits to operating more closely together both clinically and managerially. A local resident asked if the merger is likely to see any of the current services move out of Brighton to either Worthing or Chichester. Richard explained that the proposal is still in the early stages and the exact details are still being discussed. However the Royal Sussex County Hospital is the main specialist centre for a range of services and it was unlikely that there would be a change of scope. Part of the 3Ts project is aimed at ensuring that more than 40 wards and departments including many specialist services have the most modern facilities.

Richard offered to bring further updates to the group as work on the merger progresses.

7. Responses to questions from local residents submitted before the meeting.

1. *“Can something be done to stop staff, patients and visitors from RSCH smoking on the streets that surround the hospital and dropping their cigarette butts on the floor? There was talk of a designated smoking area within the hospital at one stage.”*

Richard explained that the new smoking policy was due to be reviewed, but that regrettably this has slipped down the priority order over the last 6 months. Richard agreed that there is no excuse for littering of any type, and has promised that he will follow this up with the relevant people within the Trust.

2. *“Thank you for the work carried out on the Laing O’Rourke office space at St Mary’s Hall to stop staff from looking into the neighbouring houses. Unfortunately the measures put in place do not seem to have stopped the issue, and some staff are still using the fire escape and raised walkway to make phone calls. Could something else be done to remind staff that this is not an appropriate area to be using the phone and standing around in”*

Richard advised that he will speak again with the Laing O’Rourke team, and ask that all staff are reminded that no phone calls should be made on the fire escapes. He will also discuss the possibility of further screening on the building’s east staircase with relevant Laing O’Rourke staff.

3. *“When sending emails to the 3Ts team, it often takes a long time to receive a reply or even an acknowledgement that the email has been received. Can an agreed timeframe be put in place for a response to an email, even if it is just to acknowledge receipt?”*

Richard apologised for the time taken to respond to emails recently. It was agreed that there would be an initial response to all emails within 48 hours, and if a more detailed response was required or other departments within the Trust needed to be consulted, then a timeframe for a full response would also be given.

4. *“Can contractors be asked to not park their vans in residential streets whilst they are working at RSCH? There is parking available at Marina way and other areas that are no immediately surrounding the hospital.”*

Richard has said that he will certainly speak with the relevant people within the Trust about where sub-contractors are parking their vans. It should also be noted that there are often multiple maintenance and upgrade works being carried out around the Trust that is not linked to the 3Ts project. The parking at Marina Way is paid for and managed by LO’R, and contractors not linked to the 3Ts project cannot use it. The size of the other projects generally do not allow for a cost effective off-site parking site to be set up.

5. *“How far behind schedule is the project? Is there an opening date for the first phase and when is the second phase (demolition of Barry building) now due to start?”*

Like many major projects around the country we are reviewing the construction programme with our contractor, Laing O’Rourke, to better understand what impact Covid-19 has had on the planned completion of the building. It would not be helpful to speculate about a date before that process is complete. That being said, the last publically mentioned completion date was December 2021, however the programme for this date was not signed off. Although an agreed completion date is not currently available, it will not be before December 2021. When the information is available it will be shared with Hospital Liaison Group members.

6. *“When do the remaining cranes come down and when does the helipad come into use?”*

The use of the helideck has not been constrained by the cranes, the last of which has now been removed. We are working towards operational approval with the CAA but this is not a time limited process. The helideck will come into use when the requirements for its operation are met.

7. *“Are there plans to move the taxi rank (hospital carpark or forecourt, perhaps?) or does it stay on Paston Place?”*

There are no plans currently to move the taxi rank.

8. *“Is the outpatient department at the top of Paston Place (opposite Barry building) being demolished? If so, when? And what replaces it (how tall a building)?”*

There are no plans currently to demolish the Outpatient Building.

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be **Wednesday 14th October 2020** at 7pm (Location TBC)