

**Minutes of the RSCH Hospital Liaison Group Meeting
Held on Wednesday 14th October 2020 from 7pm
Online via Zoom**

Present:

Cllr Nancy Platts (chair)
Paul Nicholls – BHCC
Sarah Lewis – Local Reporter
9 Local Residents

Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals

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

Laing O'Rourke

No attendance this month

Apologies:

None

Welcome and Introductions

1. Cllr Platts welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting (8th July 2020) were agreed as accurate.

Richard gave an update on some outstanding matters from the last meeting. Richard is liaising with colleagues at the Trust to reduce the amount of littering on the roads surrounding the hospital site. The Trust are looking into providing additional bins which will help reduce the amount of litter on the streets. A Local Resident pointed out that there are staff congregating to smoke by the steps to the rear of the hospital, and they are also not following social distancing guidelines. Richard will look into the situation and work with Trust colleagues to find a solution.

3. **3Ts Main Scheme Update**

The final Tower Crane has now been removed and this signals the end of most of the external work on the building. The building is now watertight, apart from two areas (one at the front and one at the rear of the building) which is used for the delivery of equipment to site.

Work is now focussing on the internal areas of the building. The internal fit out is progressing well, however due to the social distancing measures in place meaning there are less staff on site as we would like, it is not progressing quite as quickly as we would have hoped.

Question: Local resident, Carole Donovan, asked about the Helideck, and when it is due to open. Carole has said that there are lots of rumours circulating, and it would be good to send an update to local residents so they are kept in the loop, as well as stopping rumours spreading.

Richard has said that he will post more regular updates on social media and the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals website. Richard also advised that we are unable to give an exact date of opening for the Helideck due to the sign-off process. There are also some issues with the quality of work carried out by a former subcontractor, which Laing O'Rourke are having to re-do. As soon as there is an update regarding trial landings, Richard will ensure that Local Residents are aware.

Question: Local resident, Stef Missen, asked about the traffic flow along Bristol Gate and Bowring Way. The current levels of traffic from people being dropped off and also waiting for parking is causing disruption to residents. Will there be a new drop off area in the Stage 1 building?

Richard said that there would be a new drop off area along Eastern Road for the main entrance of the Stage 1 building. In addition to this, there is also a new car park as part of the redevelopment which will provide 300 spaces. With regards to the A&E drop off, this will not be changing, but the congestion along Bristol Gate and Bowring Way is expected to improve with the measures mentioned.

Question: Local resident, Samir Bagaeen, asked about the graffiti which has appeared on the Portacabins at Sussex House. Although the Trust have been good in the past with removing this when it has appeared, the latest additions have been there for a while and is yet to be removed.

Richard said he will speak with colleagues at the Trust to ensure this is removed as soon as we can.

Question: Local resident, Peter Kutnick, asked when the South Service Road (SSR) is likely to re-open, and is this likely to be soon. Peter also asked if it was possible to open one level of the basement carpark under Stage 1 early to help with the parking issues on the surrounding roads.

Richard advised that there is currently a hoist in place on the SSR to help with the delivery of equipment into the Stage 1 building, which means it cannot be opened. The hoist is expected to be in place until the building is complete. Richard also advised that there is only one level of underground car park on the Stage 1 development, and this is very unlikely to be open before the building is due to the locating of staff welfare facilities there currently. Stage 2 has two levels of car park.

4. Parking

Paul Nichols from BHCC Parking Dept addressed some parking concerns from local residents relating to the central government-led NHS free parking scheme. At the start of the scheme there was less of an issue with parking as most people were in lockdown, and not needing to park. Now more people are outside, this is becoming more of an issue. BHCC have made changes to the scheme to limit it to Pay and Display spaces only, and not resident parking bays. BHCC issued 68 warning notices in the week before the change, and have issued 83 penalty charge notices (PCNs) since the changes to the scheme to NHS staff parking in resident only bays. BHCC are also using a lot of resources in this area to ensure the regulations are being upheld. Richard advised to the meeting that since the start, BSUH have communicated to staff that they should only be parking in the Pay-and-Display spaces, and have re-communicated this on multiple occasions.

Question: Local resident and local business owner, Alan Towler, has said that whilst the new restrictions are helping with the residents parking, there are no spaces available for people wishing to visit the area and use local businesses.

Paul advised that the steps which have been taken so far are only the first steps, and BHCC, along with BSUH, are committed to finding a solution which helps all parties. In addition to this, Madera Drive is due to re-open soon, and this will also include the 200 spaces which will be available again. BHCC are carrying out surveys on the parking in the area, and will continue to monitor the situation.

Question: Local Resident, Lloyd Bracey, has asked if there is any sign of the scheme coming to an end.

Paul said that this is something which has been raised with central government, however the feedback received so far is that the scheme will be in place for the time being.

Local Resident Tom, from Community Engagement, asked to make sure it was clear that this was not a *'Residents v NHS staff'* situation, and local residents are just looking for a compromise where all parties are happy with the solutions in place.

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 **21st July 2021** at 7pm (Exact date and Location TBC)