

Minutes

Minutes of the Hospital Liaison Group (HLG) meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2021 at 6.00pm to 8.00pm in the Audrey Emerton Building.

Present:

Robert Cairney (RC) - Chair	UHSx Director of Capital Development and Property
David McLaughlin (DM)	UHSx Director of Estates & Facilities
Richard Beard (RB)	UHSx 3Ts Head of Communications and Engagement
Ali Jenkins (AJ)	UHSx 3Ts Programme Administrator
Jane Moseley (JM)	BHCC Planning Manager
Andy Renaut (AR)	BHCC Head of Transport, Policy & Strategy
Roy Freeman (RF)	Local Resident
Maryliss Redpath (MR)	Local Resident
Julian Redpath (JR)	Local Resident
Andrew Crowley (AC)	Local Resident
Nina Achilles (NA)	Local Resident
Peter Kutnick (PK)	Local Resident
Ann Howard (AH)	Local Resident

Apologies:

Cllr Nancy Platts (NP)	Local Councillor
Gavin Body (GB)	LOR Project Director

1.	Welcome and apologies for absence	
	<p>RC opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and outlined the scope of the meeting, with the first part discussing the RSCH Service Roads and the second part discussing usual HLG matters.</p> <p>Apologies were received from NP and GB.</p>	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting (July 2021)	
	The minutes were accepted as an accurate representation of the last meeting.	
3.	You Said, We Did	
	<p>DM gave a presentation explaining what the Trust have done in response to the comments and complaints received from local residents since the last Hospital Liaison Group meeting.</p> <p>PK thanked the Trust for the work done to resolve a number of the issues mentioned, however PK also informed the Trust that there is still some noise from one of the extractor fans overnight, and it is disturbing local residents. This is sporadic, and is likely to be caused by a member of staff forgetting to switch it off at night. MR noted that this may be coming from the laundry rooms as they have also caused some disruption.</p> <p>DM advised that the Trust will organise another night-time review on the west of</p>	

	<p>the site to investigate the origin of this noise.</p> <p>MR said that there has not been an improvement in vehicle noise coming from vehicles using the South Service Road (reversing alarms, engines running, cooling units). RC advised that the Trust have spoken to all of their regular suppliers and reminded them of the operating times for deliveries and collections and the need to be respectful of local residents, particularly in regard to minimising disturbance from their activities.</p> <p>DM will remind the teams managing the South Service Road that they should ask drivers to turn off their engines and cooling unit compressors whilst on site.</p> <p>PK noted that the amount of litter in the surrounding roads had not improved. One of the main issues is with cigarette butts. DM advised that the Trust has been carrying out more cleaning around the site and are putting together a proposal to amend their smoking policy. This is going for approval of the Executive Team in the coming months. This will hopefully reduce the amount of litter in the surrounding areas.</p> <p>PK also asked if there was a shift change around 3am as there tended to be groups of people gathering near houses on Upper Abbey Road and having loud conversations. DM said he would not want this outside his own home and that this was an issue for the team managers to raise with their staff.</p> <p>JR questioned if it was possible to install a smoking area within the hospital boundary, meaning there is less need for people to stand on the surrounding streets to smoke. DM advised that as part of the proposals for changes to the smoking policy there are a number of mitigations suggested which would decrease the number of smokers seen in the surrounding areas. It was generally acknowledged that this remains a difficult issue due to the national ban around smoking on NHS property.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>DM</p>
4.	Traffic Impact Assessment	
	<p>RC gave the meeting an outline of the scope for the traffic impact analysis survey. The scope of the TIA survey will be shared with representatives of Brighton and Hove City Council.</p> <p>PK commented that the times mentioned in the scope of the survey are not when the local area is busy. The busy times are linked to school opening and closing times, and shift changes at RSCH. He highlighted a time between 3 and 4 pm when there is heavy use of the roads. There is also an issue with cars waiting on double yellow lines and this should also be recorded as part of the survey.</p> <p>RC explained that the scope of the survey is not yet set and that local knowledge, such as that shared by PK, would be taken into consideration in agreeing the scope with WSP, the company that will run the survey. RC also explained that the survey will avoid times, such as school holidays, when traffic is reduced and will take place once the operation of the multi-storey car park returns to business as usual.</p> <p>DM gave details of the new park and ride schemes that are coming into effect and explained that a new parking permit system for staff is being introduced. As part of this the multi-storey car park will return to its pre-Covid mode of working which will change the traffic profile on the hospital site.</p> <p>PK asked if the local residents can be included in the initial planning application for Stages 2 & 3. This would be of benefit for the Trust as any potential issues and objections which might not be immediately obvious could be highlighted</p>	

	<p>before the application is sent to BHCC.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note from RB: There will be a consultation period prior to any planning application for Stages 2/3. Local residents will be informed of this.</i></p>	
5.	Potential Mitigations	
	<p>DM informed the meeting that there is a hospital wide review on how they handle waste removal, and as part of this, the ramp on the North Service Road (NSR) is due to be removed imminently.</p> <p>RC also explained that despite the ramp being removed, it was not decided if the NSR will be returning to two-way traffic. There are safety implications to consider with a large number of Staff, Patients and Visitors walking alongside and crossing the NSR. The Trust are however open to all possibilities and are supportive of reinstating two-way traffic.</p> <p>AR asked the local residents in attendance for some feedback on the temporary changes to the parking regulations on Whitehawk Hill Road and Upper Abbey Road, and what impact they might have had on traffic flow. The changes were initially temporary, and this period is now coming to an end. The options available are to either extend the temporary changes further, apply to make the changes permanent or to return the parking regulations to their former state. There will be a review period before any decision is made and residents will be welcome to make their thoughts known. There was general support in the meeting for making the arrangements permanent.</p> <p>PK asked if it was possible for the relocated disabled bays at the bottom of Whitehawk Hill road could be moved further up the road as this would make it easier for HGVs to exit the hospital site. AR advised that it is something that can be reviewed, but the disabled bays were originally located there to allow for access to the hospital site and this will need to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>MR commented that there are often cars waiting in the parking bays and on the double yellow lines to collect people from the hospital. They are often sitting there with their engines running continually, especially in the colder months. AR pointed out that this is a difficult issue for BHCC to manage, as parking regulations allow a grace period of 10 minutes before issuing any tickets. AR also advised it is possible for BHCC to install some signage reminding drivers to not have their engines running whilst waiting.</p> <p>RF asked if it would be possible for the UHSussex staff who are responsible for helping the delivery vehicles to access the hospital site to also ask the waiting cars to move on. It was confirmed this could not be done as the public highway is outside the hospital site.</p>	
6.	Stage 1 Update	
	<p>RC gave an update on the latest progress of the stage 1 development. This included information about the internal fit out programme and the fact that the Stage 1 Building is now one year away from being handed over to the Trust.</p>	
7.	Other RSCH Site Developments	
	<p>RC updated the meeting on other works being carried out around the RSCH site.</p>	

	<p>This included the installation of a modular building in front of the A&E department to create a new Urgent Treatment Centre. The modules that make up the building will be lifted into place at night as this is the only time when the works will not interfere with the flow of ambulances bringing patients to the hospital. The module lifts are due to start on the evening of the meeting and to be completed by the end of the week, weather permitting.</p> <p>The presentation for sections 3 and 4 above can be found on the 'get involved' section of the 3Ts redevelopment webpage: www.uhsussex.nhs.uk/3ts</p>	
8.	Any Other Business	
	<p><u>Email Issues</u> – It was noted that there have been issues with people receiving emails informing them of the meetings. AJ advised he will look into the issues with a view to resolving them.</p> <p><u>Clinical Services</u> – JR asked if the Trust have any plans to move services away from RSCH as part of the opening of the Stage 1 building and recent merger between BSUH/WSHT. Robert advised that there is currently a review taking place of the Trusts Clinical Strategy, however, this is unlikely to result in immediate service moves, which would always be subject to separate public consultation.</p> <p><u>Paston Place Taxi Rank</u> – AH raised an issue about the taxi rank located at the top of Paston Place. She said that some of the issues noted at the last meeting do appear to have stopped following the intervention of NP. She noted however that taxis continue to run their engines when waiting to join the taxi rank when enforcement officers are not present. A new issue with some taxis parking on the pavement and also on double yellow lines is blocking access for wheelchair users and people pushing buggies.</p> <p><u>Planning Application</u> – NA asked that local residents be informed of the scope of future planning applications before they are submitted so residents can judge whether they need to seek more information about the application or take action. RC explained that the current section 73 application covers a number of small changes to the new building and the existing planning consent. The changes are not material in themselves, but do have to be formally submitted to the Council for approval. RB confirmed that the group would be informed of any substantial planning application before it was submitted.</p>	
9.	Date of the next meeting	
	The next meeting is planned for 4 th April 2022.	