

Minutes

Minutes of the Hospital Liaison Group (HLG) meeting held on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 6.00pm in the Audrey Emerton Building.

Present	Cllr Tristram Burden (TB)	Local Councillor – Chair
	Terece Walters (TW)	Hospital Nurse Director
	Jonathan Steele (JS)	Strategic Capital Programme Manager
	Liz Cook (LC)	Assistant Capital Project Manager
	Paul Gillen (PG)	Laing O'Rourke
	Julian Redpath (JR)	Local Resident
	Maryliss Redpath (MR)	Local Resident
	Ann Diver (AD)	Local Resident
	Hilda Cater (HC)	Local Resident
	June Jensen (JJ)	Local Resident
	Peter Kutnick (PK)	Local Resident
	Mario Trivalli (MT)	Local Resident
	Jeanne James (JJa)	Local Resident
	James O'Loughen (JO)	Local Resident
	Michael Prendergast (MP)	Local Resident
	J Baily (JB)	Local Resident
	Michael Creedy (MC)	Local Resident
Apologies	Roy Evans (RE)	Director of Capital Development & Property
	Peter Lane (PL)	Hospital Operations Director
	Theo Cronin (TC)	Head of External Affairs – Communications & Engagement
	Trevor Fitzgerald (TF)	Director of Facilities & Estates
	Rob Donaldson (RD)	Local Resident

1.	Hospital Director Welcome and Introductions	
	TW opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and noted the above apologies.	
2.	Chair's Opening Remarks	
	<p>TB welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>TB noted that he will be standing down from the position chairing this meeting and will be introducing a new councillor to take this position in Due course.</p> <p>It was confirmed that agenda will be available in hardcopy at the next meeting.</p>	

3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
	The Trust provided printed copies of previous minutes from the past two meetings, 3 rd October and 28 th November.	
4.	"You Said, We Did"	
	<p>TW presented this section to the meeting, giving an update on how items raised by residents have been progressed or resolved since the last meeting.</p> <p>The infrastructure issue which has impacted the use of the South Service Road since w/c 9th December has been resolved. The disruption was caused by unforeseen circumstances. The service road has been used for temporary generators. The issue was addressed as quickly as possible, and the south service road has been reinstated as a through road. All hospital suppliers and services will be informed of this to ensure this is actioned.</p> <p>There are loose inspection covers along the North Service Road, which are making a banging sound when cars drive over them. The inspection covers have been replaced and the final rectification work will be completed now the south service road is open.</p> <p>Feedback received about clarity of signage. The hospital signage for the Eye hospital, Theatre Admissions Unit, WCs and Barry Building references are all under review and to be scoped for improvement. Along with the Eye Hospital entrance flooring looking to be replaced this month. Use of color-coding signage to be implemented. The hospital has undertaken a peer review to spot our own mistakes and improve the signage and wayfinding across site.</p> <p>A humming noise coming from the catering block An acoustician has been appointed to do a sound survey overnight when the background noise is at its lowest. It was noted that the residents should get in touch via email should they wish to speak directly to the specialist contractor to help identify the source of the nuisance noise.</p> <p>The drop-off layby in front of the Louisa Martindale Building is not being used for its intended purpose. Alterations to the drop-kerb locations have been proposed by UHSussex and agreed by BHCC's engineer, and the Trust is chasing its contractor for a date for the works, which needs Highways' agreement. 1st April sees a new patient transport contract which will improve the situation. UHSussex will reinforce parking use for the front bay.</p>	

	<p>The signage totem on the corner of Eastern Road and Bristol Gate is broken. The Estate team are assessing it to make the decision whether it can be repaired or remove it.</p> <p>There are unsightly marks where parking signage has been taken off the columns by the LMB layby Estates are going to clean what they can and replace signage with what is required for the layby use.</p>	
5.	Residents Questions on Hospital Operational Matters	
	<p>PK raised the issue of U-turns on Eastern Road, can traffic flow be addressed.</p> <p>The litter coming from the hospital on Whitehawk Hill Road needs addressed. TW agreed this unacceptable and the facilities team will be informed to address this issue.</p> <p>Residents noted wheelchairs and pushchairs are struggling up Upper Abbey Road when there is alternative pedestrian access with a lift. TW was in agreement and will request the signage to be addressed to clarify the route with the lift.</p> <p>JO, a resident at Courtney King House (CKH), noted he believes there has been failure in the duty of care for the vulnerable residents of CKH. The closure of Belle Vue Gardens, and relocation of the bus stop are causing problems for the residents. The bin collections are a problem as there is confusion in the signage. It is now a long walk to the bus stop. Ambulances, College Vehicles and College parents are using the area to park. HC noted the situation is making driving very hard due to the tight turning and parked vehicles. Ambulances are also blocking Abbey Road. TB noted that the crossing has been implemented under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO), therefore BHCC Highways will review whether to reinstate the access to Belle View Gardens after the project but many of the other issues raised are council related, and it needs to be taken offline from this meeting. TB spoke to the residents of CKH separately at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>JS explained the need to close the northern footpath on Eastern Road along the length of the Stage 2 site for health and safety reasons. An alternative crossing needed to be provided for pedestrians which affected the CKH bus stop.</p> <p>This is the solution required during the main construction phase because of the existing constraints, with the location of a permanent crossing after completion of Stage 2 yet to be agreed with BHCC Highways.</p> <p>This will be agreed through a Section 278 agreement through which developers enter into a legal agreement with the Council to make alterations and improvements to a public highway.</p>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>

	<p>MP enquired for the reason new generator had exploded and was there details of the alternative generators being used.</p> <p>TW noted there is an investigation being carried out into the explosion. The other two LMB generators have been checked and are in good working order. This is sufficient for any power outage, which is unlikely as the hospital is powered directly by two diverse supplies from the grid.</p> <p>PK noted the front of the LMB is dirty and asked if there is anything that can be done about it. He also noted Viola waste collection well before 7:00.</p> <p>TW noted waste has always been collected very early and this will need to continue. However, now the south service road is open again they will access from Bristol Gate again so should be quieter.</p> <p>JJa enquired if vehicle 'alarms' can be turned off, as these vehicles arrive onto the hospital site on the very early hours and through to very late at night. Can they be asked to be more considerate to the local residents.</p> <p>TW noted now the traffic will be flowing through the south service road there should be less manoeuvring, therefore less warning alarms. The service road signage will be reviewed to ensure all vehicles are aware to not beep horns and keep noisy manoeuvring to a minimum. Manoeuvring alarms cannot be disabled for safety reasons. The only out of hours vehicles should be waste collection. All deliveries and service vehicles will be notified about the reinstatement of the South service road. Other small deliveries will also need to follow protocol.</p>	
7.	Update on 3Ts Stage 2	
	<p>JS introduced himself. Presented this section to the attendees. This included an update confirming the demolition works are now complete and giving an overview of the scope of further enabling works the Trust is looking to progress next.</p> <p>The construction downtime has been due to NHP funding and Planning approval.</p> <p>Paul Gillen – Construction Lead for Laing O'Rourke presented the enabling works in more detail.</p>	
8.	Residents Questions on 3Ts Stage 2	
	<p>JJa noted the right to light law, 'The Rights of Light Act 1959' and asked if it had been taken into consideration with the new development.</p> <p>JS responded that a Daylight, Sunlight, and Overshadowing Assessment has been undertaken and submitted to the council as part of the Section 73 amendment application (S73). BHCC are appointing an independent reviewer of the assessment as part of their determination process.</p> <p>PK enquired if any of enabling works are building specific as the actual design has not yet been approved:</p>	

	<p>PG Explained the enabling works were to stabilise and level the site and provide essential rainwater attenuation for Stage 1 (Louisa Martindale Building) and were not based upon any specific building.</p> <p>JJa voiced their concern about the noise and dust from the construction. JS replied that whilst disruption is unavoidable during a major construction project, the Trust is committed to minimising this for residents, patients, staff and visitors. Monitoring is in place with limits agreed by BHCC Environmental Health, and methods will be reviewed if unsuitable.</p> <p>JJa requested information about the project's funding and cost, siting concerns raised in the Health Services Journal 23rd Aug 2024 about costs and affect on tertiary services elsewhere. JS explained that the article mentioned was referring primarily to the operational costs of the Louisa Martindale Building (LMB). The Trust delivers tertiary (specialist) healthcare services out of the LMB. The Trust is working closely with the New Hospital Programme as the plans for the New Cancer Centre are developed, but capital projects are funded from a different 'pot' than operational services, so increasing costs on a construction project wouldn't take funding away from frontline services.</p> <p>JJa voiced their concern that if the centre is for patients over Sussex and Kent where will they park if there is no additional parking. JS explained that cancer treatment will continue to be delivered in hospitals across Sussex after the centre is opened. A Transport Assessment has been submitted with the S73 application for BHCC Highways' review. The key change from the previously consented scheme is that staff parking is now off site and will continue to be, to reduce the number of vehicles accessing the hospital.</p> <p>JJa asked if wind tunnel had been taken into consideration JS confirmed a wind assessment has been undertaken, submitted with the S73 application. BHCC are appointing an independent reviewer of the assessment as part of their determination process.</p> <p>MT enquired if the Helipad is going to be used TW noted work is happening to enable the helipad to come into use.</p>	
9.	Any Other Business	
	<p>TB asked for residents of CKH to wait behind so he could speak to them about their council related concerns.</p> <p>TB informed the meeting that he will be stepping down as chair of the Hospital Liaison Group and will confirm which councillor will take over as soon as possible.</p>	
10.	Date of the Next Meeting	
	The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 th March 2025.	