

Minutes

Minutes of the Hospital Liaison Group meeting held on Thursday 6th August 2026

Present	Terece Walters (TW)	Hospital Nurse Director (UHS)
	Jonathan Steele (JS)	Associate Director of Strategic Capital (UHS)
	Liz Cook	Capital Project Manager (UHS)
	Elorm Agbenu	Project Support Officer (UHS)
	Paul Gillen (PG)	Senior Construction Manager (LOR)
	Alick Whitfield (AW)	Social Value Manager (LOR)
	Julian Redpath	Resident
	Maryliss Redpath	Resident
	Ann Diver	Resident
	Peter Kutnick	Resident
	Melanie Vevers	Resident
	James O'Loughlin	Resident
	John Baily	Resident
	Pallab Chatterjee	Senior Environment Advisor (LOR)
	Gabriela Dombek	(LOR)
	Hilda Cater	Resident
	June Jensen	Resident
	Mark Strong	Resident
	Marina Lademacher	Councillor
	Michael Prendergast	Resident
	Michael Creedy	Resident

Apologies	Mary Finlay	Resident
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1.	Hospital Director Welcome and Introductions	
	TW opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees before introducing the representatives from University Hospitals Sussex (UHS) and Laing O'Rourke (LOR).	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	
	No comments raised on the minutes from 26 th March 2026.	
3.	Hospital Operations - "You said, we did"	
	Road Access, Signage and Traffic Management Additional signage has been installed, and further signage ordered on the North Service Road, including "No Entry", "Dead End" and directional signage to improve traffic flow and reduce unauthorized access.	

	- Measures have been implemented to prevent vehicles entering the South Service Road via Upper Abbey Road. - Engineering works at Bristol Gate are nearing completion, allowing the gate to remain closed until 7:00am to prevent early arrivals and vehicle idling. - Additional signage will reinforce that the road is for deliveries only. - Residents reported a delivery vehicle idling at approximately 6:30am. The Trust confirmed this would be investigated and the relevant supplier contacted. - Temporary cones and bollards continue to be reviewed to balance visibility, safety and aesthetics. TAU Access - Additional seating and wayfinding signage have been installed outside TAU to improve the experience for patients arriving ahead of appointments. - Opening times remain unchanged. Eye Hospital Refurbishment - Fire escape and roof work have now been completed. - The Eye Hospital lift refurbishment is progressing ahead of programme, with service expected to resume by mid-August. - No eye surgery appointments were cancelled during the work. Services were temporarily relocated to other facilities. Refrigeration Plant Noise - The temporary refrigeration unit previously located near neighboring properties has been relocated further into the hospital site. - No further concerns have been reported since its relocation. Catering Building Redevelopment - Works to the former catering building have been completed. - The building, now known as the Abbey Building, will provide refurbished office accommodation. - Plans are also being developed for improved landscaped outdoor seating adjacent to the building.	
5.	Residents Questions on Hospital Operational Matters	
	Helideck Operations - The helideck has been operational since March 2026 and has recorded 64 landings to date. - Activity has exceeded the original planning assumptions. Approximately 25% of landings have involved crew movements rather than patient transfers. - The helideck is now supporting a range of emergency services, including trauma, cardiac and specialist patient transfers. - The Trust advised that evidence to date demonstrates positive clinical outcomes and improved patient access to specialist care.	

	Future Landing Numbers - The Trust confirmed that an application will be submitted to increase the permitted number of annual landings. - It was noted that restricting helideck use could present a clinical risk to patients requiring urgent specialist treatment. Noise Concerns - Residents raised concerns regarding helicopter noise. - The Trust confirmed that discussions continue with other hospitals and operators to understand whether any practical mitigation measures could be implemented. - It was acknowledged that mitigation options are limited due to the elevated location of the helideck and operational safety requirements. Manhole Covers - Residents continued to report noise and movement from manhole covers. - Repair costs received from contractors were considered excessive and have been challenged. - The issue has been escalated due to both noise nuisance and trip hazard concerns. Children's Hospital Plant Noise - Concerns were raised regarding intermittent high-pitched noise from the rooftop air conditioning plant. - Recent heatwave-related adjustments to cooling systems may have contributed to the issue. - The Trust agreed to continue monitoring and investigating if the issue persists. Lighting on Upper Abbey Road - Residents advised that lighting previously switched off had been reactivated. - The project team confirmed this was not expected and would be investigated. Car Horn Signage - Additional permanent signage has been installed to discourage unnecessary use of vehicle horns. - Feedback from residents will continue to be monitored.	
6.	Update on Helipad	
	Operational Update - Since becoming operational in March 2026, the helideck has facilitated 64 landings. - Usage is significantly higher than originally anticipated, demonstrating increasing reliance on the facility across the region. - The Trust is continuing discussions with Brighton & Hove City Council regarding increased operational permissions.	

	• Patient outcome reviews continue to demonstrate substantial clinical benefits. • Residents queried reports of triple glazing being installed in nearby council properties because of helideck operations. • The Trust agreed to investigate this with Brighton & Hove City Council.	
7.	Update on construction of the Sussex Cancer Centre	
	JS and PG presented an update on the construction of the Sussex Cancer Centre. Overall Programme Construction Progress • Significant progress has been made since groundwork commenced earlier this year. • Ground floor slab works are nearing completion. • The final remaining slab sections, cores, and lift pits are currently being constructed. • Link corridor excavation and enabling works to continue. Concrete Pours • Large bunker roof slab pours remain ongoing. • Due to radiation protection requirements, bunker pours must be completed continuously without construction joints. • Challenges with concrete delivery times and traffic congestion have resulted in occasional requests for earlier starts to ensure works are completed within permitted working hours. Precast Installation • Precast concrete installation is progressing well. • Over 2,000 off-site manufactured components will form the structure. • Façade panels are arriving complete with insulation and windows already installed. • This approach reduces on-site activities, improves programme certainty, and accelerates enclosure of the building. Programme Update • The main structural frame remains on target for completion by March 2027, subject to weather conditions. • Construction completion remains scheduled for Autumn 2028. • The building is expected to become operational during early 2029 following commissioning activities	
8.	Residents Questions on construction	
	Noise from Pile Breaking • Residents reported noticeable vibration and noise associated with pile breaking works. • The contractor advised that works had been consolidated into a shorter period to minimize overall duration. • Acoustic barriers remain in place where practicable.	

	- Current pile breaking operations are expected to be completed shortly. Dust Management - Residents continued to raise concerns regarding dust accumulation on vehicles and properties. - The contractor confirmed dust suppression measures remain in place, including: - Water bowsers. - Damping down work areas. - Temporary concrete haul roads. - Regular road and site cleaning. - Additional emphasis has been placed on site teams undertaking enhanced dust suppression during dry and windy conditions. High-Pitched Construction Noise - Following resident concerns, investigations identified a crane winch motor as the source of a previously reported high-pitched noise. - Adjustments were made to the equipment, and the issue appears to have been resolved. - Residents were encouraged to continue reporting any recurrence. Community Engagement - New artwork has been installed on the site for hoarding. - The displays support charitable fundraising for the Sussex Cancer Centre and improve the appearance of the construction boundaries. - Residents welcomed the initiative and improved the visual appearance of the site.	
9.	Any Other Business	
	Council Representation - Residents expressed disappointment that no Brighton & Hove City Council representative was present. - It was acknowledged that changes in personnel have affected attendance and continuity. - The Trust will continue to engage with the Council to secure representation at future meetings. Eastern Road Condition - Concerns were raised regarding road surface deterioration and significant dips in Eastern Road. - The Trust confirmed the matter has previously been raised with the Council and will be followed up again. Postal Service Provision - Residents highlighted the lack of a convenient local post box. - The Trust has approached Royal Mail regarding the possibility of locating a post box within or adjacent to the Louisa Martindale Building. - A response is awaited.	

10.	Date of Next Meeting	
	The next meeting scheduled is Thursday 61 st October, 18.00-19.00.	