

HENLEY-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE TOWNLANDS STEERING
GROUP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 1ST JUNE 2015

Present: Councillor L M Hillier - Mayor
Councillor J Brookes – Henley Town Council
Councillor S Gawrysiak – Henley Town Council
Councillor W Hamilton – Henley Town Council
Councillor I Reissmann – Henley Town Council
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith – Oxfordshire County Council & HTC
Mrs J Nimmo-Smith – Chairman FROTH
Dr C Langley – Bell Surgery
Dr P Unwin – Hart Surgery
Councillor R Aitken – Bix & Assendon Parish Council
Dr B G Wood – Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council
Councillor M Winton – Benson Parish Council
Councillor Mrs L Longley – Swyncombe Parish Council
Councillor Mrs S Webb – Hambleden Parish Council
Councillor Mrs S Biggs – Kidmore End Parish Council
Dr T Dudeney – Rotherfield Greys Parish Council
Councillor K George – Harpsden Parish Council
Councillor C Walters – Highmoor Parish Council
Councillor Mrs G Austin – Nuffield Parish Council
Mr T Lloyd – Wargrave Parish Council
Mrs V Alasia – Community Representative
Dr P Ashby – Community Representative
Mr R Atkin – Community Representative
Mr P Bradbury – Community Representative
Mrs P Buckett – Community Representative
Dr F Galton-Fenzi – Community Representative
Mr R Heginbotham – Community Representative
Mr G Probert – Community Representative
Mr D Smewing – Community Representative

In attendance: Mr M Kennedy Town Clerk
Administrator: Louise Hastings

Also present: Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor Mrs J Smewing
District Councillor Mrs J Bland
37 members of the Public
1 member of the Press

390. **MAYOR'S WELCOME**

The Mayor, Councillor L M Hillier opened the meeting and informed members that on the advice of the Town Clerk, the meeting held on 26th May 2015 was improperly convened because it did extend to the whole group and should be regarded as void. It was confirmed that the Townlands Steering Group is an advisory group and should not be regarded as a sub-committee of the Town Council Committee. As such all members of the group are entitled to speak and vote.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith addressed the group and confirmed that based on information given by the Town Clerk, the correct procedure had been followed but that upon further reflection the Townlands Steering Group is a wider community group and therefore everyone should be able to vote. Our focus of attention should be the consideration of the Clinical Commissioning Group's model for the Townlands services.

391. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN/LEADER**

The Mayor called for nominations for the election of Leadership of the Townlands Steering Group for the year 2015-16.

Dr P Ashby proposed and Dr B Wood seconded that Councillor I Reissmann be elected. There being no further nominations, and following a vote, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Ian Reissmann be elected Leader of the Townlands Steering Group for the year 2015-2016.

Councillor I Reissmann took the chair and thanked everyone for supporting the TSG. He added that the TSG's responsibilities were to challenge the consultation and services that the CCG were going to provide and get what we know we need. What we do is a small part of the process but we need to work out an exact way to continue our successes.

392. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN/VICE LEADER**

The Leader called for nomination of the election of Vice Chairman/Leader of the Townlands Steering Group.

A motion proposed and seconded that Councillor D Nimmo Smith be elected was put to the meeting. There being no further nominations, and following a vote, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor D Nimmo-Smith be elected Deputy Leader of the Townlands Steering Group for the year 2015-2016.

393. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Akehurst.

394. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations received. In the past all Members were required to sign the Code of Conduct but the Town Clerk, advised that this was now not the case as the TSG is an advisory committee with now powers to act.

395. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Townlands Steering Group held on 26th March 2015 and 26th May were received.

Mrs V Alasia advised that page 3 there was an additional part to the question “if so where are the District Nurses coming from”

Mr R Atkin – page 5 comment made by Dr A Burnett and not Dr B G Wood. Minute 388 first paragraph Dr’s Langley and Unwin and not Dr P Ashby.

The necessary amendments were made and the minutes signed as a true record.

It was confirmed and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th May be regarded as void.

396. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No questions were received.

397. **CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP UPDATE**

Councillor I Reissmann advised that the consultation period will end on the 15th June. Documents are on the Henley Town Council website and the PCT website. The consultation placed greater focus on homecare and the 18 bed service is not to be re-provided. The Clinical Commissioning Group are holding a number of meetings in parishes and GP surgeries.

The meeting held on 21st May at Phyllis Court was well attended. The TSG need to respond as a community group.

398. **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Councillor R Aitken – asked whether there have been a sufficient number public meetings. The community expects the TSG to host a meeting. People did not get into the meeting at Phyllis Court as they reached their capacity. The questionnaire had no input from the TSG or Sub Committee. It ignores the people outside of Henley. If the beds were for Henley people only – that would equate to the number of beds.

The questionnaire was also worded to get the answers they want. No mention of beds. Did they leave it out accidentally? They will attempt to rely on the answers on the questionnaire. The MP should be asked to take the matter up with the Minister.

Councillor I Reissmann – the services at Townlands are held by the Clinical Commissioning Group. Any changes in those services would result in a consultation. A report would have to go to Oxfordshire County Council Scrutiny Committee on the basis of a full 90,000 people catchment. They will clarify if it is fair and reasonable.

Councillor D Nimmo Smith – advised that the Health & Scrutiny Committee is not a decision making body. It is more concerned with the process being carried out in the proper manner. Councillor D Nimmo Smith also advised that he had spoken with his director at Oxfordshire County Council and people should submit their own comments and ignore the questionnaire.

Dr P Ashby – There is a lot of talk about beds being unaffordable. The funding was put in place for 18 beds and there is no extra expense. I support the new service model in principle but there is not an acceptable home care service in the County. There is nothing signed regarding the emergency beds in the nursing home. In November the new services take over and at the moment there will be no beds for 8-10 months.

Councillor W Hamilton – Fill in the questionnaire and add your own points of view. They have to take notice of your answers.

Councillor S Gawrysiak - We do need a proper public meeting for Henley and the surrounding parishes. The Clinical Commissioning Group can come here and we can ask questions. No doubt they want to get rid of 18 beds. For the last 6 months the Sub Committee has been urging them to come up with a scheme. Our focus is on putting the beds in and if it is proven that Social Services, Step up and step down works well, then slowly phase them out. We also asked if they would speak with all the GP's in all the parishes. We have tried for 6 months to get a plan and service model. We have just received another draft consultation paper – it is criminal and it is wrong.

Councillor Dr B Wood – Henley holds 12% of the catchment for the new hospital. It is too easy to have a Henley centre consultation and not for other parishes. On the 11 June the Clinical Commissioning Group will be visiting Peppard.

The Sub Committee has not been slow, we have been to a number of meetings. A transition plan is needed and so is information on social care and beds. Endless promises have been made. Libby Furness advises that the transition plan is being done. Councillor Dr B Wood also advised that on Monday 8 June he has a meeting with John Jackson to ascertain the social care model.

Councillor Mrs S Biggs – advised that she had taken a look at community hospitals and in particular Abingdon. They have 34 beds and a Rapid Access Unit. It is a good idea and works well with the support of beds. The step up system, patients are there for 72 hours and then moved to another hospital.

Dr T Dudeney – If you need help in an evening or weekend then forget it. The new Social Services need to come up with the goods.

Mr G Probert – We were promised 18 beds. There is a lack of integration between social care and medical care. A patient will receive 15 minutes care a day. Extra care would mean a private care home. Complete care package – what is a care package? We are being offered 5 beds in a care home. I doubt if 5 beds will always be on call – just in case! These people need a caring nurturing environment. It cannot be delivered by Social Services. It looks wonderful on paper.

Mr R Hegginbotham – spoke of the tremendous leadership of the group and advised that he was appalled at the standard of the document. It is full of general statements – with no detailed evidence.

An expected increase of 20,000 people within the next 20 years, could culminate in 3 times the increase in money needed for social beds. We were advised that a 50% increase in funding had been agreed but with the standard at the moment, that will not be enough.

Is Townlands an opportunity that presents itself or is it a soft target taking the whole hit for South Oxfordshire? A model has been introduced in Abingdon and Witney – we are asked to accept what is true with no evidence.

On the 26 March we were told that we could not have beds and services. What services? What services will remain and what will we get with 12 beds or 9 beds. There is no analysis. We cannot support anything they do on this matter.

Councillor I Reissmann – Before the consultation started, we were involved with discussions with the Clinical Commissioning Group. We were advised that we would see a 20 page summary of the social and healthcare model – not received. The transition document – not received. A document did arrive this afternoon. There is a County wide plan – we have not seen it.

We have made it quite clear that we needed to see the documents and that they needed the input from the GP's. There is no evidence that they can deliver safely and with dignity. We were promised a visit to see the beds in operation and talk to the GP's, patients and nursing staff. There is a great deal of rush. The hospital cannot stand there empty.

Mr D Smewing – the documents are rubbish. There are no Key Performance Indicators and no analysis. There is no evidence of services provided.

Dr F Galton-Fenzi – at Wycombe hospital we have the unit – it is fantastic and assessments can be sorted out in 24 hours. The only way it works is having a geriatrician there 24 hours a day. Deep set into secondary care. It is a whole community, not just the elderly.

Mr R Atkin – the practical view is that as the project is nearly finished – don't change the plans now. The new model should last 30 years – very unlikely. When the hospital opens, the Peppard Ward will be taken down – will 18 beds be available at Wallingford Hospital. Why has Wallingford got 18 beds?

Councillor I Reissmann – There will not be any beds in Henley for 6-9 months. We can argue against beds in the car home but think of the patients.

Mrs V Alasia – What is the cost of stopping the building going on any further and the cost of putting the beds in and taken out later? We have never seen a comparison. The Peppard Ward closes on the 1 November. Public transport is not good going to the hospital.

The workload of 1,000 carers integrated based on a 15 minute visit Safety and care of ambulatory patients – who assesses the capability for the carers? There were two designated respite beds in Townlands that disappeared a long time ago. They were very important. There is a great difference between the care in a general hospital and community hospital.

Councillor I Reissmann – The decision has been made. The hospital will be completed inside by July and outside by August. Details are needed into the improvement of transport and accessibility.

Councillor D Nimmo Smith – the transition arrangements are still being thought through. Buying beds in local nursing homes. With the demise of Sue Ryder, why can't beds be provided on the third floor if Sue Ryder were having beds?

There will be new services, the traffic pattern will be different to what was originally said. 72 parking spaces. If they are changing facilities, do they need planning permission?

399. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs J Wood – Sue Ryder not taking the third floor is not a disaster. Why can't we have services and beds? This has never been bottomed out. The patients are not considered they are just numbers. It's disgusting why can't we have all three floors?

Councillor I Reissmann – Sue Ryder were a key part of the financial model. Money coming from Sue Ryder must be used to provide income. The Clinical Commissioning Group has passed this back to NHS Property Services to find a new tenant.

Mrs C Nortaras – the system sounds fantastic – step down care does take over night care. Need to expand step down. The Henley Standard petition holds admiration. Time is moving on. Have a meeting in the Town hall.

Councillor Mrs J Bland – the Henley Standard petition is in available throughout the town and in the teddy bear shop for those who want to sign it.

Councillor Miss L M Hillier – advised that the petition has gone out to all shops and is available in the Public Library.

Mr C Langler – we would like to see evidence about the bed usage at Townlands. Nobody knew about the meeting. I agree with Dave Smewing, the town is being treated with contempt. In 5-10 years' time, we will be here with what is left.

Mr D Silvester - there is 1.5 trillion pounds in national debt. The ambulatory care package seems to be a great idea. However we do need 18 beds. I don't see why we can't have them and gradually reduce them when the ambulatory care rolls out. Keep both going?

There is room for both beds and services. Townlands is taking people from other parts of the county. People should be cared for in their nearest hospital. Clinics may only run 3 days a week. 108 car movements per hour. If there are 12 clinics all day long, you will have to pay to use the car park. If this happens, people will go shopping after their visit to the clinic adding pressure on available parking spaces at the hospital. This has not been addressed.

Mrs A Sanders – advised that she was a district nurse. If the Sue Ryder care beds are there – they must be used. In 10/15 years’ time there will be an increase in the number of people needing the care. Sign the petition, write to your MP, and put a banner across the road.

Mrs J Jones – advised that she was a retired nurse and worked at the War Memorial Hospital and Townlands Hospital. The War Memorial had 16 beds, overnight casualty and operating theatre. Where did the money go? Why is there such a fuss over 18 beds? If Townlands isn’t finished on time will they get fined?

Councillor I Reissmann advised that the developer would have to pay if the building is finished late.

Mr D Fletcher – I urge you to keep it very simple.

1. Plan – there is no evidence that the plan should not be implemented. Any last minute changes can be dangerous.
2. Top floor – need to have a paying organization.
3. Give the Clinical Commissioning Group a respectable way out.

Councillor I Reissmann – thanked the public for their contribution.

Councillor S Gawrysiak – felt that a campaign was needed to fight to save the hospital beds until a comprehensive plan was seen.

Councillor S Gawrysiak proposed and Dr P Ashby seconded and

RESOLVED that due to the fact that the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has failed to prove its case for change, we the Townlands Steering Group propose that the 18 beds and services as in the original business case are retained and put into the new hospital now. After the beds are put in the Clinical Commissioning Group should produce a new comprehensive plan for consultation. The Townlands Steering Group will continue to engage with the Clinical Commissioning Group on its proposals for the services at Townlands.

Dr B Wood – felt that the Clinical Commissioning Group needed to be given a reason for the TSG going down this route.

400. **ELECTION OF SUB COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY REPRESENTAVES**

Councillor I Reissmann called for nominations for the appointment of a sub group, who engage with NHS Property Services Ltd. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillors J Brookes, S Gawrysiak D Nimmo Smith and I Reissmann be appointed plus Drs P Ashby and F Galton Fenzi and Councillor Dr B G Wood

Nominations were considered for the appointment of Community Representatives. It was

RESOLVED that Dr P Ashby, Mr R Hegginbotham and Dr F Galton Fenzi be appointed

A motion that Mr Ken Arlett, a former mayor and representative from Badgemore Golf Club, be also appointed as a Community Representative was also considered. A vote was taken. Motion lost

Councillor R Aitken asked if the TSG should submit their conclusion or wait until after the meeting.

Councillor I Reissmann advised that documents were arriving. A meeting of the Project Group will take place Tuesday morning.

401. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next TSG public meeting will be 9 June at 7:30pm in the Large Hall, Town Hall.

Councillor I Reissmann thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Cllr I Reissmann
Chairman