

# Notes of Meeting of Community Council Reps with NHS Lothian to discuss reprovisioning of services on the REH and AAH sites

**Board Room, St Roque, Astley Ainslie Hospital  
5.30 pm Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

- Present (for CCs)** Jo Scott (JS) Southside CC (Chair)  
Tony Harris (TH) Grange Prestonfield CC  
Alastair Philp (AP) Marchmont and Sciennes CC  
Sue Tritton (ST) Grange Prestonfield CC  
Goff Cantley (GC) Morningside CC  
Fiona Bell (FB) Morningside CC  
Daniel Johnson (DJ) MSP
- Apologies:** Heather Goodare (HG)  
Helen Zealley (HZ)
- (For NHS Lothian)** Andrew Milne (AM) NHSL, Project Director Major Hub Initiatives (including Royal Edinburgh Campus Redevelopment)  
Jennifer Thwaites (JT), Project Manager, Phase2, REH Campus Redevelopment

**Introduction:** All welcomed and introduced themselves. A note of items the CC reps wanted to discuss had been circulated. Also noted that Daniel Johnson, MSP would be joining the meeting.

**Note of the meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2015:** This had been previously circulated and agreed.

**Planning for Phase 2:** Andrew Milne explained that the planning application for Phase 2 is imminent (expected to be submitted in November). Small adjustments are being made – these will include integrated rehabilitation.

GC asked about conditions applied to Phase 1 – in particular the suggestion of a railway bridge into the site from Myreside. AM said this had been considered but was uneconomic. The cycleway through is being introduced in phases, due to the demolition of the Andrew Duncan building, and will be a complete route through the site when completed.

**Masterplan for the AAH site:** AM said that this is linked to the Business Case for Phase 2 – this is expected to go to the Government in February and work on the Masterplan will start then. There will be a lengthy consultation period with engagement with the public, Scottish Futures Trust, advice from Planning Consultants, lawyers etc. with a plan for disposal in about 3 years.

NHS Lothian is looking at considerable community engagement and recognises that this is a very sensitive site etc. etc. There will be lots of surveys, looking at tree preservation orders, listed buildings etc. The NHS is looking to obtain “best value” from the sale of the site and this may not necessarily be the highest bid. The NHS is looking at the whole site and trying to get as clean a sale as possible. Other matters to be considered are the archaeology of the site, and sensitive issues such as burial grounds, pet graves, leper colony etc. Community engagement is expected to start in early 2017 after approval of the business case for phase 2.

**Myreside Road:** GC reported several complaints about Myreside Road – delays at the junction with Colinton Road, bad repairs and excessive litter. AM said the main complaints referred to the junction and said there is daily sweeping up of litter.

**Verandah Café:** JS said there are concerns about the long-term future of the café – in particular, what is the future in 2-3 years. AM and JT said there may be possibilities of a café in the new build and that volunteering is still considered to be very important.

**Listed buildings on the AAH site:** AM said this had been looked at about 2 years ago. AP said that several buildings at the Sick Kids site had recently had their listing downgraded and there was therefore concern about the AAH site. AM said there were no plans to ask for downgrading.

**Public Engagement for the future of the AAH site:** AP commented that, although there had been occasional contact with NHS Lothian about the future of the Sick Kids site, the decision to sell had only been discovered when men with clipboards were seen in the street. AM reiterated that the NHS wants full engagement on the future of this (AAH) site rather than comments on submitted proposals; also that various matters need to be teased out before the Masterplan is produced such as what is “best value” – additional points:

- **Masterplan and PAN:** The Masterplan is earlier – prior to sale. Any PAN/s will be the responsibility of the developer/s.
- **Smart Centre:** Not yet decided if this building will be retained.
- **Sale of site:** Not yet decided if the site will be sold as a whole or in parcels
- **Primary School site; GP surgeries etc.:** DJ has a meeting with Shona Robinson on November 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss these matters.
- **Rights of Way:** These should now be formally approved – AM said they will consult about exact details.

**The Hive:** JS reported concern about the future. AM said because of construction work nearby temporary accommodation had been provided. The current intention is to refurbish the Hive but there may be an opportunity to provide something better. This is still being discussed with the Planners and is not part of the current planning application.

**Phase 2 and Myreside Road:** AM said the best routes to the hospital would be via Tipperlinn Road and Morningside Road – they are trying to separate construction traffic from hospital traffic. When Phase 2 is complete Myreside Road should be quiet again. Traffic lights should be installed in early 2017 – construction should start in late 2017 for about a year.

**Hydrotherapy Pool and Kennedy Tower:** The pool is part of Phase 2; unfortunately the University want to retain the Tower.

**Liberton Hospital:** NHS is still modelling for bed use etc. Phase 3 will include Learning Disabilities facilities etc. In principle there could be a 170 bed unit at the Tipperlinn end of the site

**McKinnon House:** £100m had been allocated for three buildings and work should start in mid-2017.

**Rugby at Myreside:** AM said the NHS has concerns about this proposal so close to a hospital and would be interested in CC views of the proposal. GC said they wanted to see the results of the trial period before finally deciding.

**Public Information, website etc.** AM said there is nothing on the website regarding Phase2 yet but that would be the main place for details of public meetings etc. (NHS Lothian Capital website). He agreed to tip off CCs when new information goes up. The CC reps stressed that having full information in the public domain can help to stop rumours.

**Jennifer:** JT said she would be leaving in early 2017 for a new job – Emma Cochrane would be the main contact for the CCs. The meeting wished to formally record its thanks to Jennifer and to wish her well in her new post.

**Date of next meeting:** provisionally Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> (after the Business Case for Phase 2) *(agreed that the CC reps and DJ would meet before then – possibly early December – to agree how to advertise the information about the future of the AAH site)*