

Tarporley Parish Council

Informal Meeting with Landowner and Tarporley Health Care Representatives. Monday 14th March 2016, Tarporley Baptist & Methodist Church.

Present :

Parish Council - Gill Clough, Elaine Chapman, John Millington, Jeremy Mills, Ken Parker (Chairman), Gordon Pearson, Richard Statham, Nigel Taylor, Andrew Wallace.

S. Posnett, C Pattison from Turnberry , GP Julia Dancy, C Lees-Jones * G Murphy-Walker Tarporley War Memorial Hospital.

Clerk - Ann Wright.

The following points were raised during discussions:-

Councillor Gill Clough noted she is a trustee of Tarporley War Memorial Hospital.

Mr Pattison explained that the land in question off Forest Road had been submitted to CW&C as part of the Local Plan call for sites. Mr Pattison and the landowner were aware of the development pressures on Tarporley and had supported the aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan for balanced growth for both housing and infrastructure.

The landowner has a long term commitment to Tarporley and wants to see 'good growth' hence the creation of the Tarporley Design Code and would like the site in question to deliver more than just housing. As such discussions had taken place with both doctors practices about possible relocation of the Health Centre.

Dr Dancy report the current health centre had been built in the 1970s and extended a number of times, it is now at capacity with all rooms in use, there are also major issues with parking with the majority of patients coming from outlying settlements and villages. The building itself is becoming tired and increasingly costly to maintain and run. As the number of people registered at both practices grows there is a need to obtain a new purpose built building which will allow the practices to deliver a wide range of services so patients do not need to travel to the Countess of Chester Hospital to be treated.

The local practices including Bunbury and Kelsal which are part of the same cluster are looking to work more closely together, developing a hub and spoke model referring patients to the proposed new health centre for a range of services making all the practices more sustainable.

The close working relationship will continue with the hospital, in the long term it maybe that the hospital relocates to the same site, but there were no plans to do so at the moment, despite the similar constraints the hospital is operating under in terms of the age of the building and available space.

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Mr Pattison confirmed no plans have been drawn up for the site which it is hoped will be mixed use including business premises as well as homes and the doctors surgery. It was hoped a plan might be developed with the community through consultation.

It was noted the Doctors practices have already began to investigate funding for the new building with NHS England. The building would not be owned by the practices but rented through specialist developers.

Councillors noted that it was refreshing to have a discussion about possible development which brings with it community facilities and infrastructure not just more housing.

It was noted a site would have been preferred on an existing bus route however the proposed sited does have a number of advantages including taking traffic off the High Street.

It was noted the proposal is broadly in line with the Neighbourhood plan ambitions.

Mr Pattison confirmed he would write to the Parish Council in respect of the Doctors' application to the Clinical Care Commission regarding the principle of a new surgery and whether the Parish Council could support that application. Mr Pattison will return to discuss the site in more detail at a later date.

Ann Wright
21st March 2016