

MINUTES

ESSEX AND SOUTHEND LINK: WEST ESSEX LOCALITY MEETING

Date and Time Tuesday 8th September 2009 7pm – 9pm
Location Mountfitchet College, Forest Hall Road, Stansted Mountfitchet
Organiser Julie Harkus

Attendees: John Carr, Michael Walker, Sheila Jackman, Carmen Welch, Cathy Gooding, Roy Howland, Ken Hearn, Marian Ketley, Linda Tubb, Delia Joyce, Liz Jordan, Kathy Poole, David Harrison, Dorothy Harrison, Marion Williams, Maureen Green, C Venn, S Rodgers, CS Clements, E Mollett, M McClinton, John Salmon, Lesley Hawkes, Joyce Russell, Pam Alcock, P Hamilton, H Holland, Cllr Ray Gooding, Therese Clear, K Ayres, S Ayres, Valerie Trundle, Bill Stiles, M Turpin, J Turpin, Margaret Shaw, Robin Ketley, James Wallace-Jarvis, Alan Dean, Catherine Dean, Janet Hollis, P Podgoeski, Sue Rox-Hitchmough, Ray Woodcock, Peter Clear, Sinead Holland, Crelin Collins, Gaye Ellington, Peter Jones, Barry Francis, Pamela Merrifield, Anthony Barrett-Jolley, Christa Barrett-Jolley, Geoffrey Sell.

NHS West Essex - Michelle Bassett, Primary Care Programmes Manager Uttlesford locality
 - Toni Coles, Director of Primary Care & Localities

	Topic	Discussion	Action by who/ when
1	Welcome, Introductions & house-keeping	John Carr, Chairman, introduced himself and briefly explained what the Essex & Southend LINK was. John then introduced Julie Harkus, Project Coordinator who explained the housekeeping arrangements for the venue.	
2	Declarations of Interest	None.	
3	Update on GP surgery at Stansted Mountfitchet	John introduced Michelle Bassett and Toni Coles from NHS West Essex and Councillor Ray Gooding who was giving the Essex County Council (ECC) perspective. Toni gave an overview of the public consultation that had occurred 18 months ago for the proposed site of the new GP surgery. Alternative options were considered when the majority of public opinion rejected the Forest Hall site.	

Michelle explained that a new site was found in Silver Street and that regular meetings were taking place between the architect, clinic staff and the developer. The developer wishes to remain anonymous at the present time but this information will be made public before going to planning and when Heads of Terms (letter of intent) has been agreed.

The building design will be finalised in mid October and it will go to planning in the new year. The Primary Care Trust (PCT) has taken time to ensure that the building is fit for purpose and provides value for money.

Ray Woodcock commented that a petition carried out 21 months ago saw the majority in favour of a site in the centre of the village. The parish council undertook a questionnaire asking if the location should be Forest Hall or the centre of the village and the majority wanted the village centre.

When asked about parking, Toni replied that the required allocation was 50 spaces and that ECC Highways had been consulted in respect of access for both cars and pedestrians.

There was strong feeling that medical facilities fit for the 21st Century were needed and Toni responded that the services would be the same as those for the Forest Hall site. The new build would include GP surgery, community clinic staff, district nurses currently based in Dunmow, NHS dentist, chiropody and some new services.

In response to concerns about capacity, Toni replied that increased capacity is being taken into account and that there were no plans to close any surgeries. There is no NHS dentist in Stansted at the moment but this will change when a full time dentist (currently practicing out of Saffron Walden community hospital) is based solely in the new surgery.

Residents asked for assurance that the current economic climate would not impact on the budget being trimmed and Toni responded that the PCT's priority was to deliver the development.

There was strong feeling from the residents that the PCT was being held to ransom by the developer (who is also the land owner) and that residents feel ignored and insulted by the developer's wish to remain anonymous. The PCT was congratulated for trying its best to meet the wishes of the local population.

Geoffrey Sell, Chairman of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, encouraged residents to look at the plans when they had been submitted to Uttlesford District Council and to agree or disagree with them.

District Councillor Ray Gooding highlighted the impact of the construction work on the village and remarked on his concerns for the short and long term highways issues.

Before Michelle and Toni left the meeting, John thanked them both for

		attending and for giving residents the opportunity to be updated on the GP surgery development.	
4	Approval of minutes of previous meeting – 14 th July 2009	The minutes were approved.	
5	Matters Arising	None.	
6	Locality work plan and £20k funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were expressed about the lack of home helps available for residents and that a study was needed on the subject. Foot care for the elderly is expensive and it was suggested that a foot care clinic service should be considered for the new surgery. Bus routes to the village and the new surgery were highlighted as a concern and John responded that residents should work with ECC to find solutions. Why do ECC use 1 provider for elderly care – Forest Homecare? They are not reliable as carers do not arrive on time. Julie explained that the locality was establishing a Social Care Working Group and this issue would be raised with Social Care at a meeting on Friday (11th). What are Social Services doing for adults in Essex and those on the Hertfordshire border with autistic spectrum disorders? 	JH/JC
7	Meeting with Alison Cowie, Director of Public Health	<p>Julie explained that 2 meetings had been arranged with Alison to discuss the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment document and how the locality could use the information to inform its work plan. Alison had cancelled the meetings due to the pandemic flu outbreak and was seeking availability to arrange another date which Julie will follow up.</p> <p>John remarked that he was due to meet with the newly appointed Deputy Director of Public Health - Pam Hall - regarding the health implications of the wood fires at Nazeing.</p> <p>Discussion followed on access to health services in rural areas, the bus service between Stansted and Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) which has been scrapped and the need for the PCT, ECC and PAH to work in partnership.</p> <p>Ken Hearn, a Loughton resident, explained that a patient participation group had been established at the health centre and more should be encouraged to set up.</p>	JH
8	Any other business	None.	
9	Dates of future meetings	13th October 2009 – 5pm – 7pm Murray Hall, Loughton - Self Directed	

	Support. 11th November 2009 – Harlow area 8th December 2009 – Uttlesford area	ALL
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