

Vale Business Forum Meeting

Thursday 3rd December 2009 - Kingshill House, Dursley

www.valebusinessforum.org.uk

Guest Speakers:

Jill Kearsley, Programme Director, Berkeley Vale Community Health & Social Care Development.

Dr. Martin Freeman, Local GP

Richard Ziebart, Gloucestershire PCT Estates.

Vale Business Forum Chair, Shirley Hill welcomed guests, members & visitors. She introduced Jill Kearsley, Dr Freeman and Richard Ziebart. Jill explained that the project had moved on considerably since her last visit to the Forum in the summer. Then the PCT was looking at three sites, as time had elapsed one site was identified which could meet the PCT's requirements which were: to purchase the site, gain planning permission and deliver a building by 2012. The site which fitted best was that on the Littlecombe development site.

Jill outlined the PCT's Vision for the future. Their aim is to provide care closer to the majority of the population which is now centred in Dursley & Cam, and to build a facility which will give a more person centred approach. The PCT's Key priorities for the new building are to reduce hospital infections, provide single room accommodation and provide integrated care, health and community services under one roof.

The New Hospital will have 20 inpatient beds and provide an extended range of community therapy and outpatients services. There will be some fixed diagnostic services including X-Rays and facilities to accommodate mobile diagnostic services such as an MRI scanner.

Jill explained that the PCT has £20 million available to build two such hospitals, one at Moreton in the North Cotswolds and this one for the Berkeley Vale. These hospitals will be run on business lines; the PCT has to make sure that there will be enough activity to make the hospitals viable.

Plans have been submitted to Stroud District Council for approval. The Full Business Case has to be submitted to NHS Gloucestershire Board on 28th January 2010. Projected date of opening is February 2012.

The timescale is tight and both hospitals are to be developed in parallel. The Moreton & Berkeley Vale hospitals are interdependent with joint budget, timescale etc. The PCT have done it already delivering the hospital in Pershore so they are optimistic that they can succeed.

The question was posed as to why they had chosen the Littlecombe site? It was explained that in order to move the project forward within the tight timescale the PCT had to own the site, gain planning permissions and build the hospital within the timescale. On the Norman Hill site several possible objectors had been identified which could have caused the scheme to fail. Littlecombe has been chosen as SWRDA owned the site, the PCT have negotiated a good deal and will be able to purchase it without delay.

The plan for the hospital was shown to the meeting. The hospital will be situated just off Kingshill Lane. The design has been changed from those shown in the summer, it is now a Square Building with Dentistry, Podiatry, Out Patients and other services on the ground floor and the 20 inpatient beds upstairs. A sensory garden is planned for patients. There will be 150 car parking spaces and discussion is taking place with regard to re-routing buses to include the hospital.

Dr Freeman then addressed the meeting explaining that the clinicians love Berkeley Hospital but it is very old and out of date. He explained the need for a new hospital in the Berkeley Vale as 85% of patients have to travel to access services at present. The clinicians are excited at this opportunity. With experts such as Mr Ziebart who has previously worked in the private sector, they are confident about delivering what is needed. The local GPs have been working with others to get clear pathways identified to deliver a much better service to the community.

The speakers stressed the need for local support for this hospital in order to move this forward within the timescale. They will be meeting with other groups in the area to explain how they intend to "deliver their miracle."

Shirley thanked the speakers and asked them to keep VBF updated. She reminded members that there was a change of date for the next meeting of the Forum. It will be a Business Breakfast on 21st Jan. 2010.

