



LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 6.45pm in Liddington Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Bunney, Hill, Lomax, Moore, Wilson (Chair)

Also in attendance: Gary Sumner (Ward Councillor) and Val Curtis (Clerk)

Other attendees: Nerissa Vaughan, CEO and Hilary Walker, Chief Nurse, Great Western Hospital. Two members of the public were present.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

These were approved and signed by Cllr Wilson.

2. ANNUAL REPORT FROM LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

There were no questions on the annual report.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS – NERISSA VAUGHAN, CEO AND HILARY WALKER, CHIEF NURSE, GWH

Nerissa Vaughan and Hilary Walker gave a verbal update and answer questions raised about the CQC quality report. They both said that there was a lot in the report that was pleasing, not least care and compassion in the team. The most pressing issue was A&E. Staffing levels were reviewed and resources found to pay for the additional staff, predominantly nursing staff, however recruitment was a challenge. Some posts have now been filled and a new work around for assessing patients on arrival has been introduced. Two cubicles have been set aside to facilitate early assessment which is good for safety, as very ill patients can be identified sooner, but not so good for people if they end up back in the queue. There is evidence of a short term improvement as the new process works well when the department is not under pressure. Recruitment of nursing staff and junior doctors is difficult due to the lack of qualified people but vacancies for Consultants are easier to fill.

There has been a 40% increase in admissions in recent times which is the equivalent of 6 wards, due primarily to the lack of GP availability, the population increase in Swindon and an expansion of the catchment area. Due to changes in A&E provision in Cheltenham & Gloucester, more cases are being seen from the Cirencester area, for which funding is being provided to GWH. They have also experienced a growth in cases from Newbury and Oxfordshire.

Issues in Primary Care are particularly acute in Swindon due to vacancies in and retirements from GPs practices. With the lack of appointments available, patients are going to A&E as an alternative. Due to the waiting times to see a GP, some patients are becoming more ill which is creating extra referrals to GWH needing admission. 25 out of 26 GP practices in Swindon have now signed up to a co-operative agreement and will share resources and back office functions and staff.

Discussions are currently being held re the PFI. The original cost to build the hospital was £150m but due to the set-up of the agreement and an 8% interest rate, the current debt stands at £234m. If this can be renegotiated or bought out that would allow much needed monies to be returned to the budget.

It is acknowledged that there is a problem with car parking. A new car park is currently being built for staff of which 100 spaces will become available in June and the remaining 300 by September. The barriers

have also added to the problem so these are being removed and digital number plate recognition being introduced which will speed up the process.

The new Radiotherapy unit building works are due to start in 2016 but the construction lorries will add to the problems already in existence with regards to traffic congestion. Talks are currently underway with the Highways Agency to create a new works access. Until the access can be arranged, building works will not start.

The cleanliness of the site is becoming more of an issue, due to patients smoking outside of the main entrance and not disposing of their cigarette butts in the bins provided. Smoking shelters are provided but patients do not use them.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....