

West Suffolk hospital launches second round of pre-application public planning engagement for outline planning application

Dear

Last year, West Suffolk Hospital was named as one of 40 hospitals that would be replaced by 2030 under the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan. This is the biggest hospital building programme for a generation – a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver a new health and care facility for the people of West Suffolk.

It is widely recognised that our buildings on Hardwick Lane are coming to the end of their useable life, so in order to continue providing services we need a new hospital.

In December 2020, we announced Hardwick Manor as our preferred site for the new hospital and we aim to submit an outline planning application early in 2022. We are seeking permission at this early stage to ensure the viability of building a new hospital on the Hardwick Manor site. The outline planning application will seek planning permission for a series of development parameters with more detailed design proposals to be the subject of future planning applications known as reserved matters applications.

Earlier this year, the first phase of pre-application planning engagement for our new healthcare facility was launched in order to gather people's views about the potential that the preferred Hardwick Manor site has to offer and how and why the preferred site was selected. In total more than 800 feedback forms were received and 150 people spoke to us both face to face and virtually at our events.

In order to continue supporting the preparation of our outline planning application, our second phase of pre-application planning engagement will launch on Monday 1 November and run until Sunday 12 December. This will provide an update on the progression of the project and include initial plans and illustrations setting out what might be possible to deliver on the site.

This is a once in a generation opportunity and it is important that we get this right. These initial plans aren't finalised and have been prepared purely for the outline planning application however the illustrative plans do give an exciting glimpse of what our community's new health facility could look like with finer details to be addressed via future detailed planning applications.

We remain at a very early stage of our project, and it is paramount that everyone has the opportunity to be involved and have their say. Therefore, a series of COVID secure face to face events have been arranged and we encourage you to attend.

The first hour of each event is reserved as being quieter and sensory friendly.

- 16 November - 3pm – 7pm - Mildenhall – The Jubilee Centre, IP28 7HG
- 17 November - 2pm – 8pm - Bury St. Edmunds – The Apex, IP33 3FD

- 18 November - 3pm – 7pm - Sudbury – Assembly Room, Sudbury Town Hall, CO10 1TL
- 23 November - 2pm – 6pm - Haverhill – Main Hall, Chalkstone Community Centre, CB9 0JB
- 25 November - 3pm – 7pm - Newmarket – Memorial Hall, High Street, CB8 8JP
- 29 November - 4pm – 8pm - Stowmarket – Main Hall, Stowmarket Community Centre, IP14 2BD
- 2 December - 4pm – 8pm - Brandon – Brandon Leisure Centre, IP27 0JB
- 7 December - 1pm – 5pm - Thetford – Main Hall, The Charles Burrell Centre, IP24 3LH

A virtual meeting will be held on Monday 22 November 7pm – 8.30pm and can be joined using the following web address: <https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/Live-event>

For those unable to attend any of the planned events, the information available at the events and an online feedback form will be on the Trust website www.wsh.nhs.uk/planning from Monday, 1 November until Sunday, 12 December. To make sure everyone has a chance to share their views, the online form is compatible with screen readers and the language can be amended.

For your information, a press release (which will be issued to the media on Wednesday 27 October) and the public information leaflet, which will be available at our face-to-face events and on our website, are attached.

Securing outline planning permission is a significant milestone on our journey to a new hospital and we hope you will support us in bringing this to fruition.

Best wishes

Gary

Gary Norgate
Programme Director
Tel: 07775593472