

OX12 Task and Finish Group Meeting
6th October 2020
Action Notes

In attendance: Cllr Paul Barrow (Chair)
Cllr Jane Hanna
Dr Alan Cohen

Officers: Sam Shepherd
Martin Dyson

Apologies were received from Cllr Rooke.

The group discussed the update from OH on Wantage Hospital at the last HOSC meeting. It was noted that whilst there was a lot of talk about a vibrant hospital with lots of outpatient services, there hadn't yet been any evidence presented of the inpatient beds not being needed. Nor has any of the evidence been shared with the wider community. It was noted that this evidence base should be part of the formal consultation.

Members noted that the announcement had come somewhat as a shock to the community and urged some community engagement, to help clarify some of the messaging being received. Specifically to help the community understand the vision for the hospital and why outpatient services would be more beneficial than the inpatient beds. Members felt this would be best done via the Wantage Town Council Health Sub-Committee (Nick and Ben committed to speaking to the sub-committee during the HOSC meeting).

Action: Martin to liaise with Nick/Ben and encourage them to engage with the local community via the WTC Health Cttee. Jane to send through Clerk's details for the Health Cttee in Wantage (to Sam and Martin)

Cllr Hanna noted the difficulties in fulfilling the role on the task and finish group and also acting as the local member, supporting the best interests of the local residents, in light of the news delivered at the HOSC meeting. The group agreed to explore the idea of altering the role of the local member on the group, acknowledging the difficulties that the situation presented, but also taking account of the incredibly valuable contribution Jane has made to the group to date.

Action: Martin to revise wording for the membership of the local member and agree with Jane initially, then to be agreed by the rest of the group.

Action: Martin to update T&F Group terms of reference, reflecting the change in role, acknowledging the change in membership, and also altering the groups remit, as agreed during the February 2020 HOSC meeting.

An updated terms of reference to be included as part of the Chairman's report at the November HOSC meeting. Going forward reporting on the work of the group will also take place via the Chairman's report at HOSC.