

UPDATE ON THE RED HOUSE

By John Harris, Newsletter Editor



The latest meeting of the Red House Forum (Ginger Group) convened by the Harpenden Society and County Councillor Teresa Heritage was held on Thursday 27 March. Encouraging progress continues to be made by the new owners of the site, Hertfordshire Community Trust (HCT) as follows:

- An outline Business Case for developing the site was approved by the HCT Board late last year and a budget established to take the project forward. (Details have been communicated via an earlier Newsletter)
- The Outline Business Case was recently reviewed by external experts, with experience in public and private sector capital projects, employed by the NHS known as the Gateway Review.
- Teresa Heritage, Chris Marsden (chairman of HCT) and John Harris, along with others, attended the Gateway Review to answer questions on the project.
- The Gateway Review recommendations have been received by HCT which are very helpful and generally supportive of the project.
- There are a number of aspects in the project to be addressed for which a project team is now being established by HCT with the necessary range of skills, including estates management. Mark Carman who has led the project so far has returned to HCT on a full time basis as part of this team.
- There are several key matters to be strengthened including a detailed "needs analysis" for the site and of course, obtaining

the Locality Clinical Commissioning Group support for the proposed services.

- It was emphasised during the meeting that 50,000 patients are registered with the 4 GP Practices in Harpenden and Redbourn compared to the population of Harpenden at 33,000. Accordingly, Harpenden services cover the town and the surrounding villages, a much wider area than often quoted.
- David Law, the chief executive of HCT, commented that any hurdles to progress with the project were manageable and that the development would represent a model for provision of services in other parts of Hertfordshire.
- Now that an experienced HCT project team is being established we have been asked to leave the next stages to the professionals, although the Ginger Group will continue to assist when invited.

MEMBERS OF THE RED HOUSE FORUM

Chris Marsden	Chairman - Harpenden Soc.
Eric Midwinter	Convener of the Health and Social Welfare Group
David Law	Chief Executive - HCT
Mark Carman	Project Manager—HCT
Dr Derek Bird	Chairman—Friends of Harpenden Memorial Hosp.
Marjorie Biggs	Secretary, Friends of Harpenden Memorial Hosp.
Sarah Brindley	Practice Manager - The Elms
Helen Clothier	St Albans & Harpenden Patient Goup
Rosemary Farmer	Mayor Harpenden Town
Patrick Fisher	Harpenden Mencap
John Harris	Davenport House PPG /L&D Hospital Governor
Teresa Heritage	Herts CC Councillor
Nicola Linacre	Harpenden Town Councillor
Bert Pawle	Harpenden Town Councillor
Dr David Hemsj,	GP - The Elms Surgery
Dr Andrew Chafer	GP - Davenport House
Patel Sita	NHS Herts Valley CCG
Paul Howes	SADC

This informal group convened by Councillor Teresa Heritage and the Harpenden Society Health and Social Welfare Group seeks to encourage the Hertfordshire Community Trust to develop the Red House and to provide community support as appropriate.