

## **FIRRHILL PARTNERSHIP CENTRE**

### **DESIGN WORKSHOP HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST IN OXGANGS NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

The project architects presented three design options showing alternative ways in which the building of 2200 sq m could be configured on the site. Option C which proposed the retention of Firrhill Medical Centre as a freestanding building was favoured by the majority of those present.

The community response included the following comments

- The additional services were necessary to meet public demand and the project should be supported.
- The proposal to reconsider the inclusion of Physiotherapy in the Centre would be welcomed by the community
- The proposed day unit within the Older Persons Mental Health accommodation would benefit from the creation of a garden area which was possible if option C was chosen.
- The idea to concentrate surgeries in one location did mean that some patients would have to travel further to visit a GP but this was counterbalanced by the introduction of new community health services into the area.

## **FAQS**

### **Is there a firm commitment from NHSL that the services outlined in the presentation will actually locate to Firrhill.**

At the present time the services outlined in the proposal are those that ECHP expects to provide in the Firrhill Centre but if there is any change in the scope or service composition of the project during the planning stage, the community will be informed.

### **How with the project sponsors engage with the wider community?**

Future meetings will be required to inform the public of the progress of the project. In addition display boards could be located in community buildings such as the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre. Other suggestions for public information were to utilise relevant webpages, facebook and twitter accounts. Information for the public should include the project timescale and proposed plans.

The project sponsors would aim to link up with existing local groups and networks. It was noted that the Health Action Team will meet up next year and this group also feeds into the Local Neighbourhood Partnership. It is important to give people sufficient notice if any consultation events are planned.

The main focus for this activity will be during the design phase when community involvement will be vital if the project is to submit a successful planning application.

### **Would the Centre cast a shadow over the adjacent housing?**

This would be assessed by the design team before the application was submitted but the initial view was that there would be no significant impact on sun light.

**Will the Centre use the land to the northern side of the school access road?**

No this area is not required for the development of the Centre which means that the access road will now not need to be relocated.

**Will the number of on site car parking spaces be sufficient for the number of staff and patients attending the Centre.**

NHSL actively promoted green travel to work schemes and in any case it is unlikely that Planning would wish to agree to a larger number of on site spaces. The Council parking guidelines may stipulate a higher maximum figure but in reality a car park of this size would not be likely to obtain planning consent.

**Would the Centre result in traffic congestion on Colinton Mains Rd being significantly increased?**

The Planning Department would look at this matter very carefully and will require a Green Travel Plan and as well as a traffic impact analysis before agreeing to the proposal.

**Would disabled car parking spaces be provided?**

Yes – this was mandatory but as yet no exact number had been stipulated.

**How Green will the Centre be?**

NHSL has to ensure that the building is energy efficient and fully meets current regulations on the reduction of carbon emissions. The BREEAM tool is used to measure this. The standard set for NHS buildings is BREEAM excellent which sets a challenging target to achieve. It was confirmed that the Architects, NHSL and users all have a part to play in creating an energy efficient building.

**Will the development timescales be affected by other developments such as the Blackburn Partnership Centre?**

Because of the need to obtain value for money from the capital investment, NHSL had been advised that three projects would be included as one project bundle consisting of the Firrhill Partnership Centre, North West Edinburgh Partnership Centre and the Blackburn Partnership Centre. All three require to be approved by the Scottish Government before this project can begin. It is hoped that the Blackburn Partnership Centre IA will be approved in October 2012 which will allow hubCo to be formally appointed and the bundle to progress.

**Will the Police service be included in the building?**

There are no plans for this at the present time.

**Would the Firrhill Practice and Craiglockhart Practice be combined?**

No –there would be two separate receptions.

**What other sites had been explored for this project?**

Craiglockhart Practice began looking at sites over 10 years ago. There is a dearth of suitable sites in the area, and this one is ideal because it is equidistant between the Criaglockhart and Oxfangs surgeries.

**How many staff will there be in the building? (Question added from Oxfangs Parent Council Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012)**

This will be clarified once services to be located in the building have been confirmed.

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