

Report on the Meeting held regarding the Independent Hospital Wednesday 7th February 2007

Present:

Cygnets Health Care Darren Lewis (Director of Development) Alison Ireland (Regional Director) Waystone Helen McLoughlin (Development Director) Steve Watling (Site Manager) David Reece (Planning Assistant) Mark Fitzsimons (Building Manager) Councillor Teresa Ryan, Councillor Marion Glazier, Clerk Roz Bullimore

Background - Waystone requested a meeting to discuss the proposed planning application to build an Independent Hospital in Barlborough. The Parish Council agreed to a meeting and Councillors Glazier Councillor Ryan and the Clerk were nominated to attend the meeting and report back to the Council.

After introductions David Reece gave a brief report on the background of the Cygnets Health Care. The company was first established in 1988 and they currently run 16 units covering the length and breadth of the country.

Alison Ireland explained that Cygnets originally opened units to care for the elderly but due to bed closures in the National Health Service they have diversified and now operate a wider range of services including :-

1. Medium secure unit (male and female)
2. Low secure unit (male and female)
3. Psychiatric intensive care/PICU (male and female)
4. High observation service (male and female)
5. Acute Psychiatric care (male and female)
6. Community Intensive Rehab. (male and female)
7. Eating Disorder Service (male and female)
8. Addictions inc Drug and Alcohol (male and female)
9. Young persons unit (male and female)
10. Secure Adolescent Unit
11. Borderline Personality Disorders (Female)

To comply with government policy all the rooms are single with ensuite. Government policy is treat patients as near to home as possible. The facilities are funded by the PCT. The most recent unit opened in Stevenage in 2005 this is a low to medium secure unit (fifty percent of each) four wards with fifteen beds in each ward.

Most patients admitted to this proposed hospital will be transferred from NHS psychiatric units where a) there is no suitable bed b) the unit cannot appropriately manage / treat their psychiatric illness because the patient is a danger to themselves / danger to others or c) from prison / court services. The proposed plan is for a 60 bedded adult unit, males / females the proportion of which will depend on need. The inference drawn from the conversation was that there will be a greater proportion of males although Theresa thought there was a greater need for female beds. There may be a core group of patients who will be hospitalized long term.

Cygnets offer the appropriate level of security for short and long term if the PTC do not think the unit has the correct security or necessary qualified staff for a patient they will not be asked to take on the patient and visa a versa if the unit's consultant does not think they have the correct security, room or

qualified staff they will not accept the patient.. There is rigid admission criteria for who and when patients can be accepted. Currently their plan is to house low risk / medium risk patients. The proportion of low to high risk patients may vary depending on PCT need and or Cygnet's capacity to cope. At any point in the future Cygnet has the option to change the hospital charter.

Alison Ireland -There are no out patients department planned for the unit in Barlborough. The cost of patients using the unit is very expensive and patients will only stay as long as is deemed necessary. Each case is managed and controlled with a view taken that the least expensive service is used. With this in mind Consultants are in control of discharges and decide when the patients are ready to be transferred back home or back to the NHS at the right time. There is no short term crisis management available as this is not good for the staff or the patient, usually it is an intensive treatment service that last for 2 to 3 months...

- All patients are risk assessed for leave:-
- First stage the patient is escorted in secure courts
- Second stage the patient is allowed to patrol the secure courts unescorted.
- Third stage the patient is escorted in secure grounds.
- Fourth stage the patient is allowed to patrol the secure grounds unescorted.
- Fifth stage the patient is escorted in and around the village.
- Last stage the patient is allowed in and around the village unescorted.

If the patient steps out of line and does not abide by the rules then the patient's privilege is refused and the assessment is taken back a stage or starts again from the beginning.

David Reece- Explained that Cygnet is a private commercial organisation with a good reputation they have no outside interests or any pressure to fill beds. Their staff turnover figure is currently 3% which they feel is an exceptionally low figure for this industry. The proposed unit would create 200 jobs. A proportion of the jobs would be filled with redeployed staff from existing facilities and some jobs would be suitable for local people.

Helen mentioned local employment – apparently this hospital will provide more employment than any other similar sized unit on the Link and less traffic congestion because of shift work

Types of jobs available:-

1. House keeping
2. Administration
3. Grounds maintenance staff
4. Catering
5. Consultants
6. Nurses
7. Occupation therapists
8. Psychiatrists
9. Junior Doctors
10. Social workers

Alison Ireland – For patient's safety there would be a high staff to patient ratio. Secure patients need to be protected from themselves not necessarily from others. There is central booking service and each patient would be offered a place as near to their home as possible.

At this stage the plans were laid on the table for viewing.

Traffic approaching the unit would use Midland Way.

- A three metre high bank is to be built to screen the building from the residents on Chesterfield Road. This bank would then be planted with trees and shrubs.
- It is two storey building, the building will be made of brick up to first floor and the top half will be cladded it will look like the other offices on the Links estate.
- There is to be a 5.2 metre fence around the building and a CCTV system.
- There will be 4 wards and each ward will be a separate facility in their own right. There will be an upper and a lower room per floor. 1 care room will be provided for each floor for safety and refuge.
- The wards will be self contained inward looking units (the public will never see the patient and patient will not be able to see a member of the public)
- There will be two court yards in the centre of building.
- A gymnasium.
- A hard surface play area.
- Car park.

All the doors will be 54mm deep and have triple magnetic locks. The doors separating the secure areas will be 2 controlled doors where 1 door can not open until the other door is closed.

There are policies which the company has to follow regarding the security of the building and on how it is managed the building and its patients. If these are not met then a licence will not be issued.

Cygnet likes to build neighbourhood links with the community and local groups. They have an independent review panel where members from the public are invited to join. Cygnet has an annual in bloom competition it is in their and the patient's interest that the building and grounds is manicured.

Cygnet intends to submit plans for this unit to the District planning department in 2 to 3 weeks. They anticipate that the planning process will take 16 to 20 weeks and if they are granted approval they would expect the unit to be open in autumn 2008.

The Clerk asked if they had any plans rejected in the past. David Reece said they had only had one planning application refused. The bottom line was there was a need for a unit like this in this area and they were aiming to meet all the necessary criteria's that were needed to reach the planning requirements. The NHS is totally inadequate to meet the mental health requirements in this area the more mixed sites there are available the better in the long term it will be to be a sustainable company. Cygnet asked the Councillors opinion if they believed there would be any opposition – both Councillors said they believed there would be oppositions a few times during the meeting. The Cygnet group expressed a wish to meet with any group / have a public meeting to inform / allay concerns or fears about the proposed hospital. .

If anyone would like to have a site visit contact the Clerk and she will arrange with Waystone for them to meet on site with a set of plans.

If the Council thinks a public meeting should be arranged they are willing to be available.