

Ledbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Notes of Meeting with Ledbury Health Partnership

12 October 2021

Persons completing form (with roles in organisation and contact details)	Andrew Lee - Taurus Healthcare, Jo Hall - Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Dr Lisa Carpenter - Ledbury Health Partnership (LHP), Catherine Simonini - Ledbury Health Partnership, Councillor Phillip Howells, Nicola Forde - Ledbury NDP WP.
Estimate of numbers represented by the Forum	13,500 patients 50 staff
Key items to comment on	Ledbury Health Partnership - future plans

Introduction

1. A meeting was held in November 2020 between representatives of Ledbury NDP Working Group and a consultant representing Ledbury Health Partnership. A follow up meeting was held on 12 October 2021 between representatives of Ledbury NDP Working Party, Ledbury Health Partnership, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and Taurus Healthcare to continue the discussion.
2. The purpose of the meetings was to review the notes of the November 2020 meeting to update and find out what the CCG's and LHP's future plans for Health provision in Ledbury are in order to inform a revision of the currently adopted Ledbury Neighbourhood Development Plan.
3. Ledbury Health Partnership (LHP) comprises the combination of the two former general practices serving the town and hinterland (St Katherine's and Ledbury Market Surgeries) and a number of related services that would assist in providing a more 'joined up' and holistic approach to health care services for the community. Currently LHP operates from three buildings in Market Street, leased from three separate landlords.
4. The catchment area for LHP comprises not only Ledbury town but a relatively substantial rural community extending northwards towards Bromyard, east towards Colwall and southwards towards Dymock and westwards towards Hereford.

Issues

5. Ledbury Town is experiencing significant housing growth over and above that proposed in Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy and there are additional pressures for further growth (Herefordshire Core Strategy is currently being revised which may impact on housing numbers). The Health Partnership needs to take into account the rise in housing numbers when looking for new premises.
6. The current LHP accommodation is inefficient, fragmented, and is reliant upon rented premises with varying lengths of lease. Although providing for present needs, it has reached or is close to reaching its capacity, would not be able to meet expected population growth, and is unable to accommodate the range of other NHS and related services expected for a modern health service practice. Currently also using part of Pugh's old building, to accommodate the expected population growth additional space on the site would be needed. This would need to be delivered on private land and would be costly; it's also not clear how much is available. It would also need to be rented.
7. A building on a greenfield site of around 1,650sqm had been proposed by a third party and this is considered indicative for a building that might accommodate the requirements for LHP into the

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foreseeable future. Any such proposal would need to go through an options appraisal process. Services can be delivered in buildings with more than one storey.

8. Accessibility is an important criterion to provide reasonably for those without their own vehicle, for people with disabilities, and to serve the rural area where access will mostly be by car. A town centre location or one close to the south/western end of Ledbury By-pass where housing growth appears to be concentrated, are considered suitable search areas. Other sites may be suitable and would be explored through an options appraisal. There is a question about whether highway planners would agree to a town centre location due to the associated high volume of traffic a joined up facility would generate. If this is the case, a location on the periphery of the town, but within walking distance of the town centre may be preferable.
9. Delivery of a new facility depends upon central funding channelled through Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. Accommodation for LHP has been identified as a high priority in Herefordshire and Worcestershire's estates strategy. Work is underway to prepare an options appraisal for stage 1 which is a strategic outline case and should this be successful a full business case will be required (stage 2).
10. There is an interest in the co-location of services (indication that Wye Valley Trust may be interested, Worcester Health Care less so; Ambulance and Fire may be interested) although this does present a challenge in terms of funding from multiple sources.
11. New premises are likely to be needed and developed within the plan period (before or up to 2031).
12. Other possible sites within Ledbury will be explored through the CCG and Ledbury Health Partnership will be looking for the support of One Herefordshire Estate Group in doing so.
13. The current consultation on issues and options for the revised Neighbourhood Development Plan indicates that there is public support for health facilities to remain within the town centre. However it is recognised that such a location would be subject to viability assessments.

Conclusions and recommendations

The NDP should emphasise that improved accommodation for LHP is a priority. Furthermore, future growth arising from outstanding commitments is dependent upon solving the current problems. This serves to heighten the need for a swift solution to be found.

Ensuring a solution can be delivered involves a number of stages and stage one has commenced with an options appraisal, but it is uncertain when a conclusion may be reached. This should not restrict the search for an appropriate site, but the opportunity to allocate this in the NDP will depend upon sufficient progress to have been made to present a deliverable proposal.

Do you agree to Ledbury Town Council publishing this report (the Inspector will need to see key evidence like this) .

Name: Andrew Lee and Dr Lisa Carpenter Date: 19/10/21 Signed: Confirmed by email (attached)

Confirmed by (on behalf of the NDP Working Party): Councillor Phillip Howells