

WILL THERE BE A NEW HOSPITAL IN THE FOREST OF DEAN?

Yes. Following a consultation, the Boards of Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning and Care Services (GCC and GCS) decided to replace the existing Lydney and Dilke units with a single modern facility and satellite Health Hubs.

WHERE WILL IT BE?

The Boards accepted the verdict of the Citizens' Jury that the new hospital should be north Cinderford.

WHEN WILL IT OPEN?

There are a lot of things to do - decide what will be in the hospital - design the unit - obtain planning permission – build it and fit it out. The Trust is aiming to open it in 2022.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LYDNEY AND DILKE?

We have obtained assurances that they will remain open until the new hospital is operational - we assume they then will be sold.

Under the Localism Act both hospitals have been listed by their Town Councils as Assets of Community Value.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE FUNDS HELD BY THE FRIENDS OF LYDNEY HOSPITAL?

We believe that monies collected over the years from local people for supporting Lydney Hospital should be used to benefit Health Care services in Lydney and the South of the Forest.

WHAT NEW HEALTH PROVISIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTH OF THE FOREST?

A good question and one of our major concerns. We are campaigning to ensure that there is a comprehensive Health Hub in Lydney to cover the South of the Forest. It should include an urgent care centre, diagnostics, outpatient's appointment, X Ray facilities, the services from local GPs and other related bodies, together with social care and mental health facilities – in other words a complete **Health and Wellbeing centre**.

HOW ARE THE FRIENDS INFLUENCING THESE DECISIONS?

We are having ongoing discussions with the various health authorities including local doctors. The town council are very supportive, but we have not yet obtained the positive engagement of our MP for replacement 'Urgent Care' facilities in the South of the Forest.

We are adamant that no services should be withdrawn from Lydney Hospital until new local services are put in place.

ARE THE FRIENDS STILL SUPPORTING LYDNEY HOSPITAL?

Yes, we continue to support patients and staff with some extras and also items of equipment.

HOW THE FRIENDS ARE SUPPORTING THE HOSPITAL WITH EQUIPMENT?

Minor Illness and Injury Department requested a new 'Slit Lamp Imaging equipment'. This cost over £20,000 and is used to improve the treatment of the ever-increasing number of eye injuries. It will photograph the eye and save patients having to go to Gloucester Hospital for follow up appointments. Lydney will have the best in Gloucestershire. Also, on going equipment for the inpatient ward and physio department.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS EQUIPMENT IF THE HOSPITAL CLOSES?

We have now come to an Agreement with the Health Authorities that any large piece of equipment requested by the Hospital will remain the property of the 'Friends' and be loaned to Lydney Hospital but can be transferred to any new local facilities when the hospital closes.

WHAT ABOUT CAR PARKING?

This is a problem and GCS have agreed it needs to be improved for both patients and staff and we are working with them to provide an extension.

ARE YOU STILL FUNDRAISING?

Future fundraising is likely to be for health facilities in the Community. We are still grateful for any donations.

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