

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, 9th June, 2010

Present: Cllr D A S Davis (Chairman), Cllr Ms S V Spence (Vice-Chairman), Cllr C Brown, Cllr Mrs C A F Grant, Cllr A G Sayer, Cllr Mrs E A Simpson and Cllr Mrs C J Woodger.

Councillors Mrs Anderson, Baldock, Bolt, Heslop, Moloney, Rhodes and Worrall were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Balcombe and Lancaster.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

CD10/011 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Worrall declared a personal interest in the Pembury Hospital Development Update item as he was a non executive member of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

CD10/012 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Community Development Advisory Board held on 3 March 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CD10/013 FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES (FSB) - ISSUES UPDATE

Mr Roger House, FSB Regional Chairman for Kent and Medway, outlined current issues of concern and explained how supporting small businesses would help to lead the route to economic recovery. The Federation recognised that small businesses were the heart of the local community with policies that reflected an ongoing commitment to promoting their vital role in job creation, innovation and in strengthening the country for an economic upturn. The importance of sustaining and supporting rural economies, especially in securing efficient internet access, was highlighted.

Particular reference was made to the difficulties faced by smaller firms and ranged from the higher demand on cash flow, tight income margins, increasing costs for fuel and waste disposal, significant regulatory burdens, National Insurance contributions and a complicated tax system and the threat of tax rises. The value of apprenticeships in securing employment was also noted, with many small businesses passionate about supporting young people. The creation of the

Apprenticeship Company had helped to simplify the process for employers.

Members were advised that business support funding was expected to be significantly reduced by the Coalition Government. The Federation was looking at new ways of working and engaging with businesses. It was hoped that several companies could share their experiences and look at providing solutions for micro business. Different methods of technology that could prove beneficial to rural economies were also being explored. Mr House was confident that partnership working across all sectors was the way forward.

The Advisory Board raised concerns about the problems faced by British pubs and welcomed the Federation's urging for the Competition Commission to address this issue. Mr House accepted that this was a major area of concern and explained that the Federation was keen to keep businesses local. He advised that this was very much an active campaign and further work was ongoing.

Members recognised and appreciated the valuable and significant contribution of the FSB in supporting local businesses and fully supported 'keeping it local'.

The Chairman thanked Mr House for his informative contribution to the meeting.

Copies of the Kent Voice of Business newsletter were available on request.

CD10/014 PEMBURY HOSPITAL - DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Members received a presentation from Mr Ashley Scarff, the Head of Business and Corporate Planning at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, which updated progress of the redevelopment of the Pembury Hospital site.

Members were reminded that this was a £226m development scheme with a total of 512 beds, which were all single rooms with en-suite facilities and was the first UK Acute NHS hospital to be configured in this way. Some areas of the hospital were scheduled to open in January 2011 with the rest later that year. There had been significant patient and public involvement in the concept and innovative design, with the National Patient Safety Agency being involved. It was noted that there would be a separation of visitor and patient flows, splitting emergency from elective, patients from visitors, dressed from undressed and facilities management from patients.

The strategic context was outlined which consolidated Kent, Sussex and Pembury Services; centralised some Trust Services; provided modern estate and equipment by replacing old building stock; improved infection control and maximised therapeutic views from bed.

Reference was made to the sustainable transport and travel plan for

the development which included planning obligations for bus services, particularly four improved routes from Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Crowborough and Maidstone Hospital. The Trust had also appointed a Travel Plan Co-ordinator to incentivise change and influence staff to consider alternative means of transport.

Members were impressed with the innovative design and expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust for the hard work and commitment in getting this state of the art facility built, especially during the challenging economic climate.

A variety of issues were raised and discussed, particularly concerns on inadequate car parking provision, traffic parking management, reliability and frequency of bus services and routes into Pembury, the lack of a dedicated bus service to link local villages to the site and the hospital's isolated position making visitors and staff more reliant on their own transport.

Particular reference was made to the A21 road upgrade and the Borough Council's continued support for this scheme. The Cabinet Member for Community Development welcomed the support of the NHS Trust and hoped this would continue. Mr Scarff assured Members that the Trust would continue to support the A21 upgrade scheme as this was a major access route to the hospital and provided an essential transport link.

The issue surrounding the reconfiguration of maternity services was discussed in depth. It was guaranteed that if Maidstone Hospital retained its current maternity services, following the intervention of the Secretary of State, there would be no downgrading of the services offered to women and children at Pembury. Mr Scarff conceded that the number of services provided might be reduced but was confident that the quality would not be affected. It was possible that the new unit at Pembury would be successful in attracting patients who wanted to use those maternity services rather than those at Maidstone Hospital. He clarified that the reconfiguration of maternity services was not anticipated until July 2011 by which time the birthing centre at Maidstone would be available. This was intended as an extension of patient choice and not a substitute for the high risk unit. Ante-natal care would continue to be provided at Maidstone.

The challenges presented by single room nursing were considered. The Trust was confident that this could be done successfully but recognised the large learning curve necessary, given that this was a completely new and innovative style of nursing. A change in staff culture and working practices would be essential to meet this challenge.

At the Members' request Mr Scarff agreed to make arrangements for a visit to the site to enable the facilities to be viewed by Members of the Community Development Advisory Board, the Parish Partnership Panel and Tonbridge Forum.

The Chairman thanked Mr Scarff for his valuable contribution to the meeting.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

CD10/015 MALLING HOLMESDALE FEDERATION TRUST PROPOSAL

Decision Notice D100069MEM

The joint report of the Cabinet Member for Community Development and the Chief Executive considered whether the Borough Council should become a Trust partner in light of the progress made by the Trust since its formal establishment in late 2008.

Members noted that the key role of a partner was to help the Trust and the individual schools further improve educational standards through the development of vocational courses, promoting links between the school and the local community including local businesses and enhancing the ability of schools to develop students with the necessary work-ready skills and attributes. This role was an advisory one bringing expertise and knowledge to the Trust from the respective organisations to achieve better educational outcomes for the students. It was noted that Trust partners were not required to make any financial contribution to the Trust and had no legal or financial obligations by virtue of their membership, although membership would strengthen partnership working in Snodland and the wider Malling area and underpin the Borough Council's on-going active roles in both the Snodland and East Malling Community Partnerships.

Members recognised the significant contribution of the Trust and the benefits to both the School and the Borough Council in becoming a partner.

RECOMMENDED: That the Borough Council agree to be a formal partner in the Malling Holmesdale Federation Trust.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CD10/016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

The report of the Chief Executive provided an update on the formation of a borough wide Community Development Partnership. Funding for the Partnership had now been agreed by all the key partners and service level agreements drawn up with the Beat Project, the local charity which employed the front-line community workers.

Members welcomed the report and commended the Corporate Services Manager for his hard work and commitment to the project.

CD10/017 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT

Members received an update on the work of the Community Safety Unit, including progress on Charlton Athletic football coaching sessions and Vehicle for Change. The establishment of a Community Safety Unit between the Borough Council and Kent Police based at the Kings Hill site had been slower than anticipated due to IT issues. However, these issues were now resolved and it was anticipated that Kent Police would move into the Kings Hill premises in the near future.

CD10/018 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership held on 14 April 2010 were presented and noted by Members.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

CD10/019 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No items were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2155 hours

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION

**Decision Taken By: CABINET MEMBER FOR
Community Development**

Decision No: D100069MEM

Date: 9th June 2010

Decision(s) and Reason(s)

Malling Holmesdale Federation Trust Proposal

**(Joint Report of Cabinet Member for Community Development and
Chief Executive)
(Annex)**

**Consideration was given to whether the Borough Council should
become a Trust partner in the light of progress made by the Trust
since its formal establishment in late 2008.**

Following consideration by the Community Development Advisory Board, the Cabinet Member for Community Development resolved that the Borough Council agree to be a formal partner in the Malling Holmesdale Federation Trust.

Reasons: As set out in the report submitted to the Community Development Property Advisory Board of 9 June 2010.

Signed Cabinet Member for N Heslop
Community Development:

Signed Leader: M Worrall

Signed Chief Executive: D Hughes

Date of publication: 11 June 2010

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.