

14. Hindon Surgery

'We have had lots of queries regarding the progress of the Hindon Surgery Build so thought it would be useful to put together this update that was shared with our patient participation group this week.

We have been working very hard with the BSW ICB to keep the project moving forwards but unsurprisingly things have been complicated by the very difficult financial environment. Whilst we remain optimistic, we are aware that there are now potential threats to the project.

This is a brief summary of where things currently stand:

- In 2019 funding for the new surgery was signed off by the then CCG (which has now become the ICB- Integrated Care Board). The cost of the project required a rent reimbursement of £85,000 /year from the NHS.
- Since then we have lived through a pandemic, a financial crisis and a huge increase in the cost of construction and borrowing which has affected building costs for the NHS as it has everyone else.
- We have seen the costs of our project increase by 60% and it now requires a rent reimbursement of £141,537 per year from the NHS. This money would need to cover the costs of a mortgage on the new build, or the cost of renting it from whoever takes ownership of the building itself.
- Since planning was granted (subject to a section 106 being issued) the ICB have had to review all of the requests for premises investment in BSW and re-assess/ prioritise these schemes
- We have met regularly over this time with the ICB to provide all the information requested including re-establishing the area of the building needed and trying to prove that we are 'value for money'.
- Throughout this process we have been reassured we have the full support of the ICB and that they understand the importance of this project. We have now reached a point where the ICB has agreed some funds towards the next step (to go out to tender) which is an encouraging step forwards, but it does not fully cover the costs and still requires further discussion.
- The ICB have stated that they remain very supportive in principle and that the scheme is high priority but, given the current financial position and the planning round which is still in progress, they are unable to currently identify the funds to support the increased rent at this stage, and that support cannot be confirmed until the planning round is complete and prioritisation confirmed. As things stand, we are not sure by when this process will be completed.
- Whilst we are grateful that the ICB express their ongoing support in principle, we do have concerns about the many challenges this project will face in attracting the necessary investment moving forwards.

Once the ICB has completed its process we will be in a much better position to re-assess exactly where the project is and will of course keep the community up to date with developments as we get them.

In the meantime, it is very important that we let you know that there is not an immediate threat to the provision of General Practice in Hindon and that we are committed to continuing to provide care from the current premises. We would like to thank our current landlord/landlady, DR and Mrs Jonas, for their understanding and flexibility which makes this possible.'