Dear Resident

RE: Information regarding redevelopment of Norwich Community Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, NR2 3TU

This letter is to advise you of the commencement of essential pre-development demolition work in relation to planning permission application 18/00372/O and to update you on the planning process for the proposed redevelopment of the Norwich Community Hospital site.

The Bowthorpe Road site has been a valued part of our community since it became Norwich Community Hospital in 2005. We know that together with our local residents, we want the site to be used to its fullest potential and to help us deliver the best care to our patients that we can. We also understand that as one of our neighbours, you will have questions and concerns and need to be kept updated with our plans. We welcome your comments as part of the ongoing development of our plans and we are committed to keeping you informed throughout the process.

We are very conscious of the concerns of residents on aspects of the planned development and we are sharing information at all stages of the project.

Demolition works

Demolition of the disused ward blocks at the rear of Norwich Community Hospital has begun. Although the demolition works form an essential precursor to the proposed hospital redevelopment, these works are also necessary to any future use of the Trust’s land, and have no bearing on the outcome of the planning application.

This work is being conducted during daytime hours (from 8am-5pm) including this weekend (1.30pm – 5pm Saturday, 8am-3pm Sunday). This will be the last planned works to take place during a weekend.

Further demolition works are scheduled until October of this year, when the programme is due to finish. We will keep residents informed of the programme at key points of development.
The demolition contractors and the Trust are committed to working in accord with residential, patient and environmental considerations:

- In sympathy with residents’ and patients’ needs, the contractors are using dust suppression and noise-minimising machinery.
- The contractors are exporting soil, etc, to crush off-site.
- Prior to the works, the Trust engaged with an ecologist to ascertain any likelihood of bats on site, and are now in the process of providing a new bat loft to meet the licensing agreement.

We thank you for your patience and cooperation during these essential demolition works. If you have any questions or comments about the demolition project, please feel free to contact us at: Estatesandfacilitieshelpdesk@nchc.nhs.uk

**Future plans and further consultation**

We would also like to update you with the progress of the redevelopment plans, and keep you informed of opportunities to have your say. The Trust will be going through several stages in deciding whether and how to develop the NCH site.

- The first was in developing a strategic case. Draft proposals for the redevelopment of the site were consulted on during 2017, including on-site exhibitions and community meetings, and the strategic case has been approved by the Trust Board.
- A planning application has now been submitted to Norwich City Council and it is anticipated that a decision will be taken by them in the coming months. The project is currently at submission for approval stage and the outline application approval submission documents are available for you to view and for comment at: https://tinyurl.com/NCHredevelopmentapp
- The Outline Business Case (OBC) stage, which is being prepared for October 2018, will involve further survey work, to inform the design process. This will establish any potential site infrastructure issues and associated potential ground risks, including assessment of the risk of any potential subsidence of the surrounding area during future works, and planned mitigation should any such risk be found. Preparation of the OBC will also include further engagement with residents. We will be in touch with you again shortly to let you know the schedule and location for further engagement events, in line with the planning process.
- If the Outline Business Case is approved by the Board, a final business case will then be developed for decision in 2019.

We look forward to working with you on shaping and securing a strong future for your regional community hospital, and will keep in close contact with you over the coming months. You can also keep up to date with progress of the development plans here: http://www.norfolkcommunityhealthandcare.nhs.uk

Yours faithfully

Paul Cracknell
Director of Strategy and Transformation, NCHC NHS Trust