

**FRIENDS OF YEATMAN HOSPITAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Context

Your hospital, the Yeatman, is riding high on a deserved reputation of excellent clinical care, progressive thinking for the betterment of the individual patient's care, all supported by generous financial donations – large and small – and sound routine and strategic financial management. Furthermore, there is every likelihood that that situation will continue as the DCCG proposals indicate that the Yeatman will be retained as a bedded hospital within the future North Dorset area hospital plan.

We place the Staff of the Yeatman, both clinical and administrative, as the key component of that success. Nonetheless, we should also acknowledge the capacity for 'community' to drive that success which is manifest in two aspects – sense of pride and ownership that our community feels for the hospital, and secondly the sense of community service, which drives the Staff to perform at ever higher levels.

Both aspects of community serve the common whole, and in the drive for economies of scale and centralisation of services and resources, we need to continue to pursue that recognition – value over cost for a satisfied and well-served community – in the interests of both the Staff's delivery, and their patients' receipt of clinical best practice.

In Year Achievements

As described in last year's Chairman's Report the main planning vehicle for evaluation of our Capital Projects is our Strategy Planning Committee which meets quarterly with representation from the DHCT. By this means we ensure our aspirations are affordable and deliverable in appropriate time frames. This enables us, in conjunction with Matron, to respond to both the personal needs of the patients, as well as contributing to hospital infrastructure and equipment projects.

Furthermore, on the Friends' behalf we have provided substantive comment to Health Care Trusts regarding their proposals for the future of Health Care and Mental Health Care in Dorset. These major projects got underway in 2014, and resulted in Proposals emerging late last year; these then went to consultation, the results of which were made public in June. We understand that the Clinical Commissioning Groups hope to reach their conclusions before the end of 2017 so that specific plans & timetables can then be drawn up. Such an extended process is understandable – but such a lengthy timescale can also stimulate staff uncertainty and the continuation of uneconomic approaches to healthcare. Hence we commend the DCCG's

decision to move ahead as soon as practical.

Turning to our immediate interests, we have invested heavily in the hospital allocating some £80,000 to our principal projects:

- **The Don Mildenhall Room.** Previously known as the Willows Day Room this has received a major upgrade, and the room now stands out as a place for calm reflection away from the bustle of the wards; it is a substantive positive addition to the ambiance and character of the Willows.
- **A Digital Reminiscence System.** This is a major new innovation, its purpose being to help stimulate memory recall.
- **Terminal Care.** We are providing major funding to extend the Yeatman's resources relating to terminal care through the addition of a second suite – the Edith Kearvell Suite – to complement the existing Jean King Suite; the final costs of this major development (probably over £100,000) will fall into our 2017/18 financial year.

Future Deliverables

As an indication that we remain committed to a programme of continual improvement, the following projects are among the larger of those we have already agreed to support in the 2017/18 financial year:

- **Upgrading Clinic Rooms in Outpatients (OPD).** This is linked to the DCCG Proposals of moving 80% of outpatient clinics to Community Hospitals which implies for the Yeatman a modernisation of its four OPD rooms – over a 2 year project at a cost of £25k per room.
- **Upgrading Willows Side Rooms.** The plan is to phase the upgrade over several years, and in 2107/18 to tackle two of the rooms at approximately £25k per room. This would serve to enhance the Yeatman within the “new Dorset model” as a Hub with beds.

Although the DCCG Proposals have yet to be finalised and might still change, we have concluded that:

- The upgrading of the Clinic Rooms and the Willows should proceed irrespective of what the DCCG final plan may be, but that the projects should be regarded as being in support of the routine infrastructure maintenance for which the DHC Trust is responsible.

Our Enablers

Our Volunteers. I place these at the top of my list of those who make FOYH happen. The above achievements and future deliverables represent the higher strategic level work of your Committee. But I cannot stress my gratitude more highly for all those Friends and the friends of our Friends who have volunteered throughout the year, be it for individual fund raising events,

our Membership Collectors, or our Trolley Helpers who provide a sense of friendship and normality for the patients on the wards. Not least of course, my huge thanks go to my Committee for their energy, guidance and dedication to our cause.

Finance. As you will hear from our Treasurer Gordon McAndrew, we are in good order both in year and for the future, being able to meet our objects while operating true to our Reserves Policy. Our funds have come from a range of sources: individual donations, large events and smaller family initiatives, great back garden events even, and of course through legacies. But we do not take any of that for granted and it is to our core income from Membership that we recognise, as highlighted in last year's report, we need to invest in new support systems and resources.

Membership. For some years we have operated our Membership scheme based on an out-dated database and a heavy reliance on our loyal Collectors. That is in the process of change:

- **Context.** Under the professional guidance of Gillian Gunner our Website Developer in consultation with our Membership and Publicity Secretaries, two pieces of work are in process:

- **New FOYH website www.friendsoftheyeatman.org.uk** – Launched on Wed 15 Feb – it is lighter on the eye, easier to navigate and importantly easier to use for new Members to join; much credit to Rosie Tomlinson for leading this project, which remains in progress.

- **Membership Data Base** - Work has been undertaken to establish a workable solution to our Membership Database, in order to achieve an efficient system that will maintain our current Membership Role. This work is ongoing, mainly through the work of Linsley Withers our newly appointed Administrative Secretary who now has the responsibility of the routine management of the Data Base with an enhanced IT system. I have judged these to be essential investments in order to retain contact with our most valuable resource - our current Members - and to attract new Membership.

Fundraising. I am conscious we do not have a dedicated Fundraiser and would welcome a volunteer, nonetheless, we are relatively successful having studied the art of selecting what we know works, without being an over burden to our organisers or dull to our potential supporters. Importantly I believe we keep it 'local', we do not invest in any electronic web campaigns which could lead to harassment of prospective donors.

Donors and Sponsorship. Leaving the already mentioned private donors, to one side, we have been hugely impressed and grateful for the support we have received from local institutions, The International School, the Masonic Lodge the Rotary and Lions Clubs and indeed local businesses, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, Waitrose the Coop and Tamburino. Our huge gratitude goes out to them all.

Consultation – Community Hub

We were very pleased to have been invited to be part of the working group developing the Sherborne Community Hub Feasibility Strategic Outline Case. Peter Neal represented us on that group. During its deliberations various ideas were put forward relating to making the Hub a positive way forward with benefits for all in the community including patients and the clinical practitioners. Until the detail has been worked up by the executive staff it is too early to indicate anything further, other than Peter indicates if the proposal are accepted there are really exciting prospects for the Hospital ahead. We will have to wait and see.

Governance

Committee Structures/Reorganisation. We have taken steps to ensure our Committee remains approachable, effective and efficient, by appointing a paid part-time Administrative Secretary to ensure our Friends and Committee Members are efficiently served while providing administrative consistency.

Committee turnover is a positive aspect of the Friends bringing new ideas and approaches; this year we are seeking volunteers to be our Vice-Chairman, our Legal Adviser, a Fundraiser and our new Treasurer, and Members are strongly encouraged to offer nominations.

Charity Commission Codes of Practice. In order to remain legally compliant we are ensuring we abide by the appropriate Codes of Practice.

Conclusion

The Friends of Yeatman Hospital has had a good year, not least through the plans put in place by my predecessor and now our President, Mike Hatch. But the proof of that success is not just in the projects we have funded or sponsored, but more importantly in the apparent contentment of the hospital's patients, and the whole effort of the professional staff, our volunteers and the local community, who all contribute to make it so.

We shall continue on the Friends' behalf to represent the Yeatman's interest within the DCCG Review and in our contributions to the future construct of our local GP services.

To all of those involved in the Friends of Yeatman Hospital enterprise, thank you for ideas, your support, and of course your generous financial contributions. Please let them continue to enable us to report another successful year when we meet again at next year's AGM.

DGH

Chairman

19 July 2017