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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2020

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Context

This is the fourth year that I have had the privilege of addressing our AGM. It is right and proper that we, as your Executive Committee, take this opportunity to take stock of the activities of the Friends, during what can be best described as a difficult and demanding year, and to share with you our intentions for the year ahead, while giving you the opportunity to ask questions and to share your thoughts with us.

The Friends of The Yeatman Hospital has had a challenging but good year. The proof of that success is not just in the projects we have funded or sponsored, but also 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.

Your hospital, the Yeatman, continues to ride high on a deserved reputation for quality care. It has done so while contributing to the clinical management of the national health emergency of Covid-19, displaying progressive thinking in the improvement of individual patient care, both to in-patients and to those receiving care within our community. As you know, the Yeatman's influence reaches well beyond Hospital Lane, and the support of the Friends follows wherever the Yeatman leads; that trend will increase in line with our Objectives.

As with the rest of the world during the past ten months, we have refocused our attention to address the impact of Covid-19 on the staff and patients of the Yeatman and on our wider community. Sadly, many of our established fund-raising activities were cancelled, but thanks to the

generosity of the public we have raised funds to enable the Friends to continue its support of important projects.

Such financial support is underscored by our routine and strategic financial management. Fortunately, we have not experienced the financial challenges other charities have suffered. We maintain our routine support to the Yeatman and we have the funds to contribute to Capital Projects as we await their definition by Dorset Health Care Trust (DHCT).

We continue to adapt to the realities of the 2017 Dorset Clinical Review, ensuring the Yeatman thrives in the role of a community hospital with beds, and it remains central to the delivery of health care within the future North Dorset area hospital plan. We actively support the prospect of significant enhancements both in this role and the range of medical specialisations offered. The recent establishment of the Stroke and Neurological Rehabilitation Unit, which is a joint venture with Dorset County Hospital, initially on a six-month trial, is evidence of that intent.

While we continue to work closely with DHCT, we were disappointed by the withdrawal of a number of Outpatient Clinics funded by Yeovil District Hospital. We challenged the rationale for the Clinics' closures, and we are pleased to report that the Clinics are in the process of being reinstated. To ensure the Minor Injuries Unit is also reinstated, thereby avoiding a Covid-19 measure becoming the status quo, we remain totally focused on this issue and benefit from the full support of our local MP, Mr Chris Loder.

It is right and appropriate to say that the Staff, both clinical and administrative, are key to the Yeatman's success. Nonetheless, we must also acknowledge the community support for the Hospital, which drives that success. This is expressed in two ways: first, the pride and ownership that our Sherborne Community feels for the Hospital and, secondly, the focus on community service, thereby encouraging the Staff to perform at ever higher levels in the Covid-19 era.

This support has been tested to the limit, with the Friends community working on a range of valuable volunteer projects from providing PPE to the Yeatman, supporting local GP practices and the Dorset Council sponsored Hayes Care Home, and manufacturing face masks on a near industrial scale by a highly dedicated team of volunteer sewers – to whom we are indebted - for use by health workers, emergency services and the general public, with fabric costs paid from donations given to the Friends.

Achievements

Capital Projects

The main planning vehicle for evaluation of our Capital Projects is our quarterly Strategy Planning Committee meeting with executive members of DHCT.

This allows us to ensure our aspirations are affordable and deliverable in appropriate time frames. In conjunction with Matron, we continue to respond to the personal needs of patients, as well as contributing to hospital infrastructure and equipment projects.

Our Capital Planning remains on track. Over the next three financial years we could, if appropriate, support Capital Projects up to a total of £600,000.

Palliative Care

We have provided major funding during the past three years to extend the Yeatman's terminal care (end of life services) through the addition of a second family suite to complement the existing Jean King Suite. Both suites provide great comfort for the patient and their family. The Ada Kearvel suite funded by us was officially opened during this reporting year, and the Friends provided further funding to establish its garden as an additional project.

Continual Enhancement

The NHS is responsible for the Yeatman's infrastructure, but to ensure our patients receive care in good time and within decent surroundings, we remain committed to funding a programme of continual improvement. Earlier this year, however, we initiated a strategic pause, while DHCT Capital Project Plans are more clearly defined

Readjust Mental Health Clinic and Office Space

This is a new project. It is proposed that the Older Persons' Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) will move their clinics from Stewart Lodge into the Outpatient Department and their office space will move to the top corridor. The Adult CMHT would move out of Ashley Elm into the space created in Stewart Lodge. The priority is to make a significant positive difference to the working environment for this patient group. We anticipate allocating £10,000 to this project. Matron's suite will move to Ashley Elm, making her working environment more accessible to the Willows; this has been a long-term aspiration. This project is currently being managed by Senior Managers within the CMHT and Head of Capital with DHCT.

Upgrade Clinic Rooms in the Outpatient Department (OPD) and Waiting Area

This is linked to the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (DCCG) proposals to move 80% of outpatient clinics to Community Hospitals, which implies for the Yeatman a modernisation of its OPD – a two-year project at a cost of £25,000 per room; the first stage was completed in July. The Committee is considering committing funds to upgrade a further two OPD rooms for 2020/21 and to upgrade the old waiting area of the OPD, which is now in stark negative contrast to the X-ray corridor. Matron is currently reviewing the requirement with Staff within the OPD and with the DHCT Capital Team.

Community Projects – Yeatman Outreach

Mental Health

In the past we have received legacy funds which were subject to specific covenants (restricted funds). Some of these require the funds to be used to improve Mental Health. In response to these bequests, we are supporting the Rendezvous Emotionally Connected Sherborne Project, which is focused on supporting young people within our community who have Mental Health issues. Our contribution is £10,000 over 12 months, and this balances with our plans to support Matron's reorganisation of the Yeatman's mental health clinics.

Minor Projects

The following projects were completed during the past year:

Bladder Scanner

Purchased for £4,500 and is now in operation.

HoverJack Bed

This is a motorised inflatable bed. A patient falling out of bed is high risk and requires sensitive treatment and procedures. Purchased for £9,500.

X-Ray Department

We funded a high-tech state of the art couch, improving the comfort of the patient under examination and enabling the Radiography Staff to produce improved clinically effective X-Rays.

Staff Rest Area

We are supporting the Hospital Staff by funding a discreet rest area.

The Years Ahead: 2020/21 and 2021/22

We shall continue to provide our programme of patient services, benefits and all facets of our routine support to the Yeatman, while at the same time ensuring we complete our obligations to our agreed Capital Projects as they progress through financial year 2020/21.

We shall continue to review options for our support to future Capital Projects, in tandem with the DHCT Plans, to ensure that our contributions remain within our Objects and are enduring.

Our Enablers

Our Volunteers

I place these at the top of my list of those who make the Friends happen. The above achievements and proposed future commitments represent their response to the higher strategic level work of your Committee.

I cannot stress my gratitude enough in this extreme year of Covid-19 challenges, especially to all those Friends and the friends of our Friends who have volunteered throughout the year, be it for individual fund raising events, our Friendship Collectors, or our Trolley Ladies, Gardeners and Flower Arrangers who provide a sense of friendship and normality for the patients on the wards. Not least, of course, my huge thanks go to my Executive Committee for their energy, guidance and dedication to our cause.

Finance

As you will hear from our Treasurer, we are in good order 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, including important community initiatives, local companies, individual donations and family initiatives, and of course through legacies. But we do not take any of that for granted and we recognise our core income comes from the Friends, and in recognition of that fact over the last two years we have invested in new support systems in order to improve our interaction with the Friends.

Friends

We have successfully enhanced our capability to manage Friends administrative services and interaction, through two elements:

New Friends Website

This has proved very popular and is being copied by our sister organizations within Dorset. It is lighter on the eye, easier to navigate and, importantly, easier to use for new Friends to join.

Friends Database

We have established a new database and we now know who our Friends are and accurately how many there are. In the longer term this database will enable us to interact more directly with the Friends and to manage our funds more efficiently.

I consider these to be essential ongoing investments in order to retain contact with our most valuable resource - our current Friends - and to attract new ones, while enhancing the overall efficiency of the Charity.

Communications and Marketing

We have established a highly productive Communications and Marketing Group. While maintaining our local informal means of fundraising, we are exploring the local corporate and business sectors to sponsor the Friends in order to generate new avenues of income, and the indications have been very positive.

Importantly, we do not invest in any electronic web campaigns or monthly donation mailings, which could lead to harassment of prospective donors. That said, there is a tremendous energy and imagination amongst many of our supporters, which we must be more able to advertise and encourage.

During the year we reached out to the Friends community and successfully established awareness of, and an extremely positive support for, Chris Loder MP's PPE sewing initiative; the Sherborne Viral Kindness – Community Kitchen project which provides free meals for the elderly and vulnerable; and continued our commitment to Emotionally Connected Sherborne.

Looking ahead, while we shall continue to face the challenges of Covid-19, we are planning for happier times. In 2021 the Friends of The Yeatman Hospital will celebrate its 70th birthday. To mark this notable anniversary, we are planning a series of events for Hospital staff, patients and Friends and hopefully, with the support of Sherborne and Dorset Councils, we

shall arrange an event for all to attend and participate in. We will reveal more about that in the New Year.

Local Donors and Sponsorship

We have been hugely impressed by and grateful for the support we have received from local institutions: Cheap Street Church, Communi-fit, Sherborne Golf Club, Bradfords, Battens Solicitors, Slipped Stitch Yarn Shop Day, Greenslade Taylor Hunt Festive Shopping Day and the Mayor's Quiz Night, to name just a few. Huge gratitude goes to them all.

Community Liaison

An aspect of our Community Liaison which is proving very positive is the development of our relationship with our local schools. This started with visits by students with an inclination to the Health Care Profession from the International School, and has since included the Gryphon and Sherborne Girls' School and in the autumn Sherborne Boys' and Leweston Schools, targeting Lower Sixth forms. We are considering sponsorship of a form of medical training linked back to employment within the Yeatman.

Governance

Committee Structures and Reorganisation

We have taken steps to ensure our Committee remains approachable, effective and efficient. I have commissioned a review by our Vice-Chair of our Governance Procedures to ensure we remain compliant with the Charity Commission's Codes of Conduct and our Constitution so that:

- they are applied to the Charity's development, particularly within the IT area,
- they remain consistent with our Objects and the roles of our Committee's officers,
- sub-committees are properly constituted with bespoke terms of reference,
- safeguarding procedures are in place and operated upon.

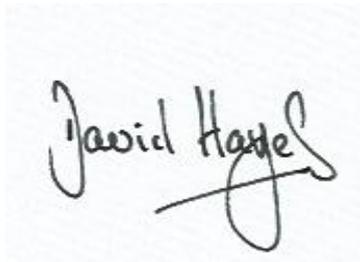
Conclusion

As I said at the beginning of my report, the Friends of The Yeatman Hospital has had a challenging but good year. The proof of that success is not just in the projects we have funded or sponsored, but also 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 dealings with the Dorset Health Care Trust.

To all of those involved in the Friends of The Yeatman Hospital, thank you for your ideas, your support, and of course your generous financial contributions. Please continue to provide your invaluable and vital support if you are able to do so, thereby enabling us to report another successful year when we meet again at next year's AGM.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "David Hayes" in a cursive style, with a large, stylized flourish at the end of the word "Hayes".

David G Hayes CBE
Chairman
The Friends of Yeatman Hospital

16 October 2020