

## Renhold Village: Update from Borough Councillors Moon and Corp - September 2017

### Healthcare Review

A report has been released summarising the work to date of the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Sustainability and Transformation Plan (BLMK STP), which is reviewing the future of health and social care services in the area.

STP processes are being undertaken at the behest of NHS England in 44 areas across the country with a view towards improving service quality and reducing costs. The BLMK STP has been looking, therefore, at reconfiguring services in accordance with 5 priorities, as per the below table taken from [www.blmkstp.co.uk](http://www.blmkstp.co.uk):

- **Priority 1: Illness prevention and health promotion:** Preventing ill health and promoting good health by giving people the knowledge and ability, individually and through local communities, to manage their own health effectively
- **Priority 2: Primary, community and social care:** Delivering high quality and resilient primary, community and social care services across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes
- **Priority 3: Secondary care:** Delivering high quality and sustainable secondary (hospital) care services across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes
- **Priority 4: Digital programme:** Working together to design and deliver a digital programme, maximising the use of information technology to support the delivery of care and services in the community and in primary and secondary care
- **Priority 5: Demand management and commissioning:** Working together to make sure the right services are available in the right place, at the right time for everyone using health and social care in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes

The BLMK STP's latest report, 'What We've Heard So Far', was published on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and summarises feedback received following engagement with the public as well as NHS staff and clinicians.

There has been particular concern from Bedford Borough residents around Priority 3 which is assessing the possibility of reconfiguring services between the 3 hospital sites in Bedford, Luton & Dunstable and Milton Keynes. This apprehension follows the verdict of the former Bedfordshire & Milton Keynes Healthcare Review, which ended last year and was not taken forward, that maternity services should be transferred from Bedford Hospital to Milton Keynes Hospital.

The June report states that there is support for the general principle of more services being specialised on certain sites and care provided closer to home (by GP services in particular). It also acknowledges, however, concerns around transport issues for patients should particular services be centralised, particularly with regard to maternity, A & E and paediatrics. The report can be read in full at <http://www.blmkstp.co.uk/what-weve-heard-so-far/>

The findings from the engagement process will now be taken forward by the BLMK STP in drafting a 'Case for Change' which will provide further details of proposed service amendments. It was also announced in June by NHS England that the BLMK STP is 1 of 8 areas across the country which will become an Accountable Care System; the exact details of this arrangement are as yet unclear, but it will likely involve healthcare commissioners and providers working collaboratively to a greater extent, particularly in managing services and budgets.

Borough councillors from all parties agree with the general aim of the STP to integrate services as a means of securing service improvements, but we are united also in our view that the key services of maternity, paediatrics and A & E must remain at Bedford Hospital.

### Riverside North

Many of the businesses at the Riverside North development in Bedford, including the cinema and restaurants, have now opened and the site will be opened formally in September.

### Ward Fund

We have now received notification of our Council Ward Funds for 2017/18 which allows us to make a financial contribution to local schemes benefitting the community. If you feel you have a scheme you feel could benefit, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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