

# Minutes of the Romsey Forum      21 November 2024

Present: F Akerman, L Angier, N Beasley, V Brice, J Brambley, M Cooper, C D Hall, D Hall, S Haw, L Holloway, S Lees, V Messenger, J Russell, D Robinson, M & R Robinson, A Shaw, C Simpson, S Taylor, I Wroe

Speakers: Neil Gwynne, Elizabeth Kerwood and colleagues.

Chair John Critchley, notes Sandra Smith.

*As Cllr Gwynne had another meeting item 3 was taken first.*

## 1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies: J Burnage, G Darby, Cllr N Daas, J Jones, C Nixon, E & R Pratt, I Tripp.

## 2 Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October meeting

There were corrections in the item on the Causeway. The name of the company is the Romsey Riverwalk Restoration Community Interest Company, and the grant applied for is a Community Asset Fund grant.

With these corrections the minutes were accepted.

## 3 Wilder Romsey. Cllr Neil Gwynne

Cllr Gwynne described the origins of the Wilder Romsey group and its activities e.g. meadow and habitat creation, bat surveys, butterfly counts, wildlife talks and the local groups it encourages. Nationally wildlife trusts want to encourage the greening of urban areas and NG commented that it might be better titled Greener Romsey.

More information can be found on <https://www.romseytc.org.uk/wilder-romsey.html>

Questions and comments included :

The planting in the Abbey North Garth. This was a TVBC initiative.

Have areas been identified for planting more trees? Not at present.

Are most sites on TVBC land? This is complicated. Work is easier if it is TVBC land however HCC are happy to have parcels of County land maintained.

Footpaths have become overgrown. There is a balance between keeping ground wildlife friendly and keeping paths clear for pedestrians.

## 4. The NHS in Hampshire and the IOW.

Elizabeth Kerwood, Associate Director of Community Involvement

EK had slides which showed provision in Hants & IOW, giving numbers for GP Practices, primary care networks etc. It is a complicated system still showing the impact of COVID, e.g. in the backlog of waiting lists. EK described significant challenges, growing demands and a need for change. There is a desire to move to a more pro-active and preventative system, community centred, improving outcomes and experience with integrated neighbourhood teams moving from

Analogue to digital

Hospital to community

Sickness to prevention.

Planning has begun. There will be a 10-year plan in Spring 2025.

A second speaker described current services at Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals and proposals for a new model of acute care, with one a planned surgery

centre and another with a focus on emergency and specialist care, with day-to-day services at both.

Plans for a new hospital were described.

Public consultation on 3 options had taken place between December 2023 and March 2024. Lots of different ways of consulting were described. 98,000 people engaged in various ways, 3685 questionnaires were returned and over 6,000 responses were analysed. A development group is writing up a decision maker business case.

One interesting item of feedback was that public transport is poor, and improvement is needed whichever site is chosen.

The third speaker described how the consultation was designed, the supporting principles and key elements, and described different ways of working with communities.

There were a great many questions. Some were interested in the focus on the general population looking after themselves better and in how primary care can help people not to develop the need for acute care. The analogue to digital shift could be difficult for an elderly population. Communication between hospitals with different specializations could be difficult where patients have multiple conditions treated on different sites.

Problems with information sharing was not just about sites and there was a need for improvement.

The Chair thanked the speakers and commented "It's a complicated discussion"  
*If you search online : NHS Change, you can share your views*

## 5 Appointment of Officers

JC suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair could share chairing meetings and he and Colin Burgess were willing to stand on this basis. The organising Secretary (Carolyn) was willing to continue but the note taking secretary (Sandra) would like to stand down after the March meeting so a volunteer will be needed.

## 6. Any Other Business

Question: What do we know about the planned bus Hubs? TVBC are waiting for a final decision on the Community Hall before these can be planned.

Next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Future meetings June 19<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>.