



Magazine Article for August 2015

In July, the Committee met Andy Evans (CEO of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for Waveney and Yarmouth) who summarised proposals for Out of Hospital Teams (OHT), including one for Southwold and Reydon based at Sole Bay Health Centre. As these teams are established, current community hospitals will close, including Southwold. Where patients cannot be looked after at home by the OHT, they will be given NHS funded 'beds with care' in local care homes, with medical support from the OHT. Those needing more specialised treatment but not acute hospital treatment will be given beds in new intermediate provision at Beccles.

The consultation ends 2nd September followed by a report by a consultant from UEA due 24th September. There will then be an immediate response from HealthEast, with final decisions taken by 5th November. The plan, if agreed, is due for implementation from April 2016.

Southwold and Reydon Society Response to Health Consultation, July 2015:

Evidence from trials of the proposed system shows that care of patients can be improved, referrals to acute hospitals can be reduced, and the overall cost can be cut. At a time when our CCG, HealthEast, is obliged to make 'savings' of several million pounds a year, the proposals are a practical way forward. The Society's position is one of cautious support for the strategy, but we would wish to have clarification and assurances on several points regarding its execution locally:

- The size and staffing of the "Out of Hospital" (OHT) team to cope not only with present needs but fluctuations in demands.
- Definite plans for the "Beds with Care" e.g. at Oaklands, prior to the care home being built, with an irrevocable start date for the Care Home at the Sole Bay Health Centre before the closure of Southwold Hospital.
- That Southwold Hospital should be offered first to our community before being placed for sale on the open market and that the existing staff at Southwold Hospital, who are valued by our community, are offered re-deployment into the OHT.
- While we applaud the integrated approach with the voluntary sector, we would not like to see any of these charity services replace or subsidise the plan.

Lastly, post the plan being put into operation, we would like to see some sort of monitoring system installed to measure the outcomes.

Apology!

In May, we congratulated Reydon Parish Council for work to secure the extended playing fields and new pavilion off Wangford Road. We now know that the work to achieve this was led by Graham Langley and the Reydon Playing Fields Association. So, Graham and colleagues, please accept apologies and belated congratulations.

Former Garage Site in Station Road

We have learned that this long vacant site has been sold to a local development company who hope to submit new plans for it shortly. Following contact from our Chairman, John Perkins, the developers have agreed to meet the society to discuss their proposals which we believe are for housing. We will encourage a development in line with the aim of creating an attractive "Southwold Gateway".

Philip O'Hear