

Feedback to Shropshire Community NHS Trust on Bishop's castle Community Hospital

EDGTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS

Submitted by Ms Janet Cobb

Parish Clerk

Edgton village

We are a small village of 45 households and have not been included in the Murray Consultancy Ltd survey work but here are some responses from our small village.

1. There is plenty of evidence to support the importance of maintaining Community Hospital beds should the Community NHS Trust want to find it and the community is aware of the need to discharge 'medically fit' patients for rehabilitation so as to free up acute hospital beds.

We also learn that two modular units are to be set up at SaTH staffed by the Community Trust, if the community Trust can staff two modular wards, then why can they not staff the beds at Bishop's Castle Community Hospital?

As one tiny village in a rural community we want to stress the importance of having community based hospital beds in our locality.

Community Hospitals Association

<http://www.communityhospitals.org.uk/quality-improvement/research-recent.html>

Analysis of the profile, characteristics, patient experience and community value of community hospitals: a multimethod study

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/HSMC/publications/2019/community-hospitals.pdf>

2. I think it is of paramount importance to have bed facilities at Bishops Castle Community Hospital. The younger, older and more vulnerable members of the local community are in particular need of local support from family, friends and neighbours in times of need.
The nearest hospital with a bed facility is Shrewsbury 27 miles away (AA route planner) if a bed is available, or 36 miles to Telford if not.
I doubt the beds would remain empty, and for a vulnerable patient to have his or her local GP to hand at the surgery could give immeasurable support.

(I know for a fact, both Dr's Penney and Howell were often in BCCH visiting their patients)
3. The ICB needs to consider the protected characteristics of people with disabilities, including learning disabilities, in the obligatory equality and health inequalities impact assessment of the proposal to close local community hospital beds and the potentially catastrophic impact on disabled people being admitted to facilities away from their usual care providers or families.
4. Yes, it's important to have hospital beds at our local community hospital.
Having hospital beds at the community hospital is important to our rural community, taking away services like this would be detrimental to all of us. We need more services not less!
5. A small local hospital is of immense value in rural communities where it can be very difficult for friends and relatives to visit patients, particularly if they don't drive. My mother broke her hip last year and was transferred to her local hospital as part of her recuperation and was given the right support to help her recovery because the staff had fewer patients and were able to tailor her care more easily.

6. I think it is important to keep Bishops Castle hospital open because it is a vital asset to the local community. People recover better/ quicker when they are closer to home. It is much easier to visit a relative when you don't have to travel so far/find public transport to do so.
Also, if it were to have a minor injuries dept, it could save on waiting times at A&E in Shrewsbury reducing their workload.
Possibly less load on ambulance services also.
People may feel more reassured knowing there is somewhere local they can use at a time when confidence in the NHS is low.
We are in a time where rural communities feel abandoned by the state/ local government it makes a huge difference to these people when they can rely upon their known friendly community hospital to look after them, this is priceless.
This should be about people not finances.
It provides jobs and benefits the local community.
7. I think that having hospital beds at the community hospital is absolutely vital. I found out just how important that is when my Mum was so very ill. When she was discharged from Hereford hospital, in spite of not being well enough to leave, there was nowhere for her to convalesce. Ludlow had no beds free and she was forced to return home and rely on family to help out until carers could be found. That was also a nightmare. The whole system is completely broken!
8. I think it's a terrible shame, my job in the community is home from hospital short term re-enablement before going onto full time care or self-care, the bigger hospital haven't got time or resources to give the patients that personal touch and empathy that smaller cottage hospital have, keeping people in their own community so as family can visit more easily , with easy access to physio and other resources. Also easing the bed blocking in our larger hospitals by being able to send patients for respite or having a short stay with lesser problems that could be treated at stone house hospital instead of using a bed for more complex problems
So yes, I think that stone house hospital should be kept open
9. Yes, I believe it is important to have hospital beds at Bishops castle community Hospital as it relieves pressure from both the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals, allows patients to recover nearer to friends and family requiring less travelling but more regular visits, and staff are often local and familiar. Especially important for the elderly patients.

Only one comment received supporting care without hospital beds based on staffing levels.

10. I just don't think I can see how to agree with the stretch to have beds here when there aren't enough for M/h and normal care elsewhere ... I might have it wrong but I think cottage hospitals are great for non-overnight care

Political views – what has changed?

As recently as 2007 our local MPs were singing the praises of local community hospitals with significant sums of capital spend, i.e PUBLIC MONEY, some of it donated by the local population, being invested on upgrades.

See HANSARD

<https://www.philipdunne.com/news/new-lease-life-stone-house-hospital-bishops-castle>

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2009-07_14/debates/09071447000001/HealthCare\(Shropshire\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2009-07_14/debates/09071447000001/HealthCare(Shropshire))

“On the same day in January 2006, some 2,000 people marched through the streets of Bishops Castle to demand that Stone House community hospital should be saved. This was a much tougher fight for lots of reasons, not least because of divisions within the community that we resolved in part through the establishment of the Bishops Castle Stone House forum, which I was pleased to chair and through which

Shropshire County primary care trust and all interested groups in the community could work together to support refurbishment of the hospital, which I am pleased to say is under way.

Shropshire County PCT, led by its responsive chief executive Jo Chambers, **is investing some £1.2 million in that major refurbishment**, the first phase of which took place in 2008-09, with an upgrade to the roof and new windows. In the completed project there will be a new main entrance and much-improved reception area, 16 in-patient beds, of which four will be en suite single rooms, and a significantly expanded out-patient and ambulatory care zone, which together will enable an extended range of GP, nurse and therapy-led clinics to be delivered locally.

The redevelopment will occur in two phases. The first phase, which commenced last month and will end in October, will mainly refurbish the in-patient areas and the second phase—from November, concluding in March 2010—will focus on out-patients and the ambulatory physiotherapy areas. During the refurbishment, existing services continue to be provided locally, which is critical given the physical isolation of this very rural population, which is served by the community hospital.

There will be 10 in-patient beds remaining available throughout the build period and out-patient clinics will be moved temporarily to the Bishops Castle GP practice, although physiotherapy will remain on the site. One of the 16 in-patient beds will be a bespoke palliative care patient room with an adjoining relatives' room and shared access to a walled garden outside. **This will become increasingly important as the ageing demographic of the area places greater demands on end-of-life care. I will return to that in a moment.**

This has been a real community effort, with significant input to the design of the facilities by local GPs and hospital staff, and fundraising for equipment organised by the hospital's league of friends and staff, who, with the PCT, have secured Department of Health-King's Fund funding through the Enhancing the Healing Environment programme, which the Minister will be familiar with.

I shall single out a local GP, Dr. Adrian Penney, who raised some £10,000 for this palliative care scheme by participating in the five peaks challenge last year. Those people are all to be congratulated, and those are the two main success stories in my part of Shropshire in recent years.