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Diary of Events 2008

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St Richard's Hospital Decision

The PCT has decided that St Richard's is to become a Local General Hospital. This means patients will LOSE full emergency A & E, consultant-led maternity and in-patient paediatrics in Chichester. If you need emergency A & E, you will have to travel to Worthing or Portsmouth.

Is that it then? Well not quite, the Support St Richard's Campaign, and Chichester District Council are fighting the decision. There are several stages: firstly the decision has to be ratified by the West Sussex Overview and Scrutiny Committee (WSOSC), a body of County Councillors and other stakeholders who have the power to refer the decision to the Secretary of State for Health, resulting in its examination by an Independent Review Panel (IRP). The WSOSC meeting will take place on 25 June so by the time you read this, we will know their decision.

If the IRP fails to get the decision reversed, the next stage is an appeal to the High Court and Chichester District Council has voted for this action. The appeal would be on the grounds that the process of decision making was flawed. This involves the appointment of a large legal team who will build up a case and contest the process that the PCT has followed. This process is likely to take many months.

For further information, visit <http://www.supportstrichards.co.uk/> where you can follow the campaign and many of the documents relating to the decision are available.

Richard Jannaway

Oak Park Hospital: Carbon Footprint and Appearance

The Sustainability Appraisal for the Oak Park Hospital makes much of reducing the carbon footprint by 30% compared with a conventional gas heated building.

The government target for overall reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050 is 60% and many authorities consider that even this will not be enough. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) point out that over 50% of the CO2 released in the UK comes from the construction and use of the UK's built environment. Furthermore, the majority of an average individual's carbon emissions come from their use of shared infrastructure and services, such as schools, hospitals, roads and airports. From this, CABE concludes that the public sector should 'provide leadership and influence in sustainable building'.

The Oak Park Sustainability Appraisal contains proposals for heat recovery and other systems which are welcome, but they don't go far enough. A 30% reduction is simply not enough. The building needs to be designed to be zero carbon from the ground up and it is the PCT's responsibility to see that it is.



The site for the Oak Park Hospital
with the remains of the 1960's school in the distance

Designing for sustainability can also result in a more aesthetically pleasing building than the boring 1970's industrial blocks we are used to. To be really sustainable, bearing in mind the enormous amounts of CO2 released in building construction, the design life of a building should be nearer 100 years than the average modern 25 to 30 years. I was shocked to hear that the 1970s Havant Health Centre only has 10 years of design life remaining. Hopefully the illustrations in the consultation document merely indicate that the design still needs to be finalised and there is time to bring it up to date technically and aesthetically.

Richard Jannaway

A Thought for Food

A Thought for Food is a new style of food event which will be set in the stunning grounds of Stansted Park from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th September. A 'Food Village' will be created, with its own avenues of exhibitors representing the diversity and quality of producers that span the South Downs, as well as national award winning producers - quality is very much the key.

A Thought for Food will also have its own village square featuring a pub and teahouse as well as a Village School for educational issues and a theatre for demonstrations, tastings and presentations featuring well known food personalities, local chefs, winemakers and brewers. A village green with its own bandstand will host a wonderful programme of entertainment over the weekend and if its wine you are interested in, head for the Village Cellar with its top quality producers from around the world, tutored tastings will also be held in the Servant's Hall of Stansted House itself. The event, however, remains a family one at heart, particularly with the renowned Kitchen Academy encouraging children and adults of all ages to try their hand at cooking in a fun environment

Visitors can enjoy an exceptional experience of local and regional producers at A Thought for Food. Every food group is covered from Dorset blueberries to fresh fish and seafood caught locally in Chichester Harbour with local seafood company, The Crab Shack. Expect to find amazing cheeses from Wiltshire, the freshest of vegetables and fruit in Hampshire and West Sussex and chocolate to die for. There can be few more passionate producers than Emsworth local Tessa Smith and Sue Newson from The Chilli Jam Company whose African travelling experience has led to some of the most exciting savoury jams and chutneys in the country.

There will be a shuttle bus service from Emsworth Square run by Emsworth & District Buses throughout the weekend and if travelling by car, parking is free. Ticket information and a constantly updated programme of demonstrations, tastings, food celebrities and competitions is available on - <http://www.athoughtforfood.co.uk> For more information please call - 01243 431002

The event will open daily at 10am from Friday 5th September to Sunday 7th September 2008.

Alistair Gibson

Emsworth Ambulance Community Responders

Community Responders are trained by South Central Ambulance Service to respond to appropriate medical emergencies in their own communities before the arrival of an emergency response. There are local Community Responder schemes nationwide. In July 2006, the Emsworth scheme was initiated through the hard work of a small team of Emsworthians, with funds generously donated by local residents and organisations.

It is now almost two years since the Emsworth Ambulance Community Responders group was formed. In that time, the group has established a core of 14 trained responders, and purchased life-saving equipment. Responders attend a wide range of incidents. In the past few weeks, the calls attended by the Emsworth Responders have included severe allergic reaction, respiratory difficulties, severe chest pains, and accidents at home.

The main challenge of the Emsworth team is our quest for new volunteers to join our team of committed, active Responders, who can spare the time to go on duty regularly, to train and re-qualify if necessary, and who live within the Emsworth area. We would like to continue to expand our service to the community - to do this we need to recruit more volunteers to join our team.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Responder, please contact Mark Riddington on 01243 375903. We can offer NHS Responder training (a weekend course), a uniform, being a member of a close-knit, friendly team and the chance of gaining real satisfaction on doing a useful job. New responders work in pairs with an experienced hand, and are gradually introduced into the responding role.

As ever, we are deeply grateful for the financial support from the Emsworth community. We are also grateful to the Responders who give their time every week to support the well-being of our local community.

Mark Riddington

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