



The Emsworth Design Statement: what it means and how to use it.

Speaker: Ann Davies, co-ordinator EDS team
Followed by questions and discussion.

ERA AGM Monday 26 January
7.30 p.m., Emsworth Community Centre.

What you need to know about the Emsworth Design Statement

Why do I need to know about the EDS?

At some time soon or in the future you may want to comment on a planning application by your neighbour, in your street or somewhere else in Emsworth that you are concerned about. Alternatively, you may be thinking of altering your house, building on your land or you may be a developer planning a project in Emsworth. In all these situations, the EDS can be important to you.

How will the EDS help me?

The EDS and its Supplement contain the views of residents of Emsworth about how they would like to see Emsworth develop in the future. The EDS has been approved by Havant Borough Council and is a document which can be referred to as "material consideration" when planning applications are considered. Presenting plans that are in conformity with what is set out in the EDS are more likely to be approved than those which are not.

The Supplement, although not adopted by HBC, has gone through the same formal endorsement by the Emsworth community and as such has a valid role to play when views are being expressed on planning and related matters. Thus reference to these documents when supporting or opposing applications will add to the strength of your case.

Where can I see a copy?

A copy of the EDS and its supplement will be provided to residents who request them from David Jones, 23 Queen Street, Emsworth, Tel 01243 371499 or they can be downloaded from the ERA website. The EDS is also available in Emsworth library.

Step by step guide

The ERA will be developing a step-by-step guide for use by Emsworth organisations and residents and we will publicise this when we have completed it. However, if you need to use the document now, the key points to refer to are the Design Considerations printed red in the EDS. Design Points are also listed in red in the Supplement but remember they have not been officially adopted by HBC.

Chris Curry

An attempt to change minds about Oak Park Hospital



As readers of The EMS will know, the ERA has been trying every possible route to change the minds of NHS managers about the number of

beds to be provided in the new Oak Park Hospital. We have been to meetings with the Hampshire Primary Care Trust both directly with managers and through the Emsworth Hospital Steering Committee. We have also talked to the HPCT predecessor trusts and with HBC and HCC.

On Tuesday 25 November, Tony Lowes and I set out to make a delegation to the HCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). The committee has significant powers to pressurise the NHS authorities, including the power to refer NHS proposals back to the Secretary of State.

Our case was that when Emsworth Cottage Hospital was closed, we were told that it and Havant War Memorial Hospital would be replaced with "care in the community," and beds in Oak Park Hospital, which was expected to have about 120 at that time. This dropped by 2005 to 90 beds; 30 for GP/pre acute, 30 for post acute/rehabilitation and 30 for elderly mental health. This has now been whittled down to only 49 of which 24 are for elderly people's mental health needs and the rest for GP beds replacing those at the old hospitals. We have discovered that residents are being and will be shipped to Petersfield for rehabilitation.

Outdated and unvalidated figures

All these decisions are based on some figures which appear to exclude known facts and rely on unvalidated surveys carried out many years ago.

We spent our allotted 10 minutes getting all this across and I believe we surprised some of the committee that the Capacity Plan, on which all the decisions are based, rests on a 2004 study. This is a draft document which is incomplete and was never adopted by the then Boards of Portsmouth and SE Hants Health community. The HOSC already knew that the SE Plan additional 80,000 houses for South Hampshire were not part of NHS planning because the SE Plan has not yet been adopted. We also pointed out that despite the best efforts of the Steering Committee and NHS staff, we have not yet been able to independently verify the degree of satisfaction with care in the community.

Disappointing result

HOSC spent some time questioning the presentation by Hampshire PCT, which followed ours about their plans.

Some of their questions related to issues we had raised. However, they were silent on the request that they reconsider the number of beds at Oak Park Hospital to be closer to the 90 originally proposed to the Strategic Health Authority. This would entail building the units on the space already allowed for expansion but building them now instead of later. We suggested that Gordon Brown is keen to spend more money now and they should give him the chance.

In discussion with one of our County Councillors later, she had the impression that HOSC was relying on the extra space available on the site for future expansion. Our view is that if the opportunity is not taken now, no extra spaces will be provided for very many years.



Chris Curry

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Local Development Framework delayed

A large number of people in Emsworth and the rest of the Borough spent many hours in spring 2008 studying and commenting on the consultation documents for the Core Strategy and other sections of the Local Development Framework (LDF). These documents will define the planning rules for the future. Nine months later we were still waiting for a result so I contacted the HBC press office.

HBC communications consultant Emily Hall told me that government guidelines have now been revised and a new timetable taking these changes into account will be put before the council on 10 January 2009. She went on to say:

"The Government Office for the South East (GOSE) will be responsible for approving the Local Development Schedule

(LDF timetable) and we hope to be approaching the first stage of a wide ranging consultation on the new Core Strategy in about May next year. We were advised by GOSE to look again at the Core Strategy that was submitted earlier this year as the regulations relating to the production of various LDF documents had changed and this is why the previously published Core Strategy has not progressed any further."

So it looks like another couple of months will be spent pouring over documents and submitting comments. Emily Hall referred to last year's comments as "valuable feedback" but that does not necessarily mean we won't have to comment differently on the new version. I am hoping that some of the work we did in 2008 can be re-used.

Richard Jannaway

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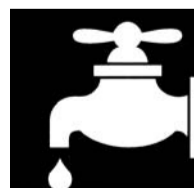
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