



News release

Thursday 1 November 2018

Preferred location for new, combined hospital and GP surgery in Edenbridge

Residents in Edenbridge are one step closer to getting their new, combined hospital and GP surgery after the NHS agreed on its preferred location.

After a thorough assessment process, land next to the Eden Centre on Four Elms Road has been agreed by the three partners involved – NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) Trust and Edenbridge Medical Practice – as the best site for the new centre.

This comes after the Programme Board, which is overseeing the development, reviewed potential sites outlined in the draft Sevenoaks Local Plan, taking into account things such as their size, availability, access to public transport, proximity to town centre, environmental impact, and how well they would fit with local council plans.

All the sites considered were on green belt land and the Programme Board also considered whether any of the sites were more likely to be supported by Sevenoaks District Council. A plot next to the Eden Centre, which is owned by Kent County Council (KCC), was identified as the one which best met these criteria.

Now the NHS wants to seek local people's views, and share some early ideas about what the new centre might look like, ahead of seeking planning permission, and seeking to purchase the land.

You are invited to attend a meeting that will be chaired by Tom Tugendhat MP on Friday 30 November 2018, from 6.30-8.30pm, at Edenbridge WI Hall, Station Road, Edenbridge, TN8 5LX.

To book a place, please: email nelcsu.engagement@nhs.net or call 03000 424 348.

Ian Ayres, Managing Director of the four clinical commissioning groups in Medway, north and west Kent, said: "Today's announcement is an important step forward in securing a new combined hospital and GP surgery for Edenbridge, which people overwhelmingly supported in our public consultation last year.

"We've made really good progress so far, now we need to make sure that we develop a facility that enables health and care staff in Edenbridge to deliver the best possible care for local people's needs. With this in mind, we have appointed a design team and are inviting residents of Edenbridge to

come and see what this new 'health and well-being centre' could potentially look like, and let us know their views."

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's Chief Executive, Paul Bentley said: "This is exciting news and means we are getting closer to having a purpose-built health and wellbeing centre for people in Edenbridge. Selecting the right site for the combined hospital and GP practice is really important to make sure it meets everyone's needs, including NHS staff who work hard to provide excellent services for the people of Edenbridge.

Dr Simon Morrison, from Edenbridge Medical Practice, said: "There is clear evidence that having a new combined hospital and GP surgery will enable us to recruit the best GPs, nurses and other staff, and to work with the hospital teams and others, to deliver improved, holistic healthcare for the people of Edenbridge and the surrounding villages. We are excited that this project has taken a real step forward, and look forward to hearing what people have to say about the early designs."

Ends

Notes to editors:

1. The Edenbridge Site Recommendation and Progress Update were published for the CCG's Governing Body meeting in October. Details can be found [here](#)
2. The work has been led and overseen by **Edenbridge Programme Board**: It consists of NHS West Kent CCG, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT). The Board is made up of directors and clinicians from Edenbridge Medical Practice and KCHFT and is chaired by the CCG Deputy Managing Director and the KCHFT Director.
3. On 25 July 2018, NHS West Kent CCG, backed by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's Board (KCHFT), which provides almost all services at the hospital and in people's homes in Edenbridge, and by the GP partners at Edenbridge Medical Practice agreed to progress option 1a, for there to be a combined surgery, in a new building, on a new site with no inpatient beds. Further information can be found [here](#).
4. The '[NHS Public consultation on Health Services in Edenbridge – What do you think?](#)' Reveals how 94 per cent of people who responded to the survey carried out as part of a three-month public consultation backed a combined hospital/ surgery. Seventy-nine per cent supported the preferred option for services to be provided in a new building, on a new site, with additional day services (such as intravenous drips) and no inpatient beds.