

MARCH 2005



DESIGN PROGRESS

First draft copies of the complete stage 1 medical plans for the new hospital were reviewed by the Trust and Health Estates on 18th and 23rd February and comments were fed back to the design team so that adjustments could be made. Completion of stage 1 is now to be by the end of March.

On 4th March the hospital design was reviewed by two independent architects. They met with Trust staff, Health Estates and the design team to scrutinise the detailed plans and offer constructive feedback on the process thus far.

SITE HOARDING

A second copy of the sign board has been erected at the eastern end of the hoarding on the Ardglass Road. In addition, a standard 'V-shaped' sign board describing the new service model will be installed so as to be visible from the Ardglass Road.

SITE CLEARANCE & DEMOLITION

At a tender evaluation meeting held on 16th February the lowest priced eligible contractor was identified and invited to interview on 21st February. Subsequent to this interview John McQuillan Contracts Ltd were appointed and took possession of the site on 9th March. Completion of the contract will be 16 weeks from this date. In keeping with the Trust's desire for sustainability as much as possible of the debris from demolition will be recycled.

AMBULANCE STATION

Agreement has been reached with the ambulance service re the Mountview site and they are happy with the proposed accommodation.

PLANNING

The Trust, Health Estates and the design team are working towards finalising the application for full planning permission with a view to submitting it during the week commencing 11th April.

ARTS CO-ORDINATOR

There was significant interest in the commission for the post of Arts Co-ordinator for the new hospital project with 62 expressions of interest from artists all over Ireland. 13 applications were received by the closing date of 7th March from which a short list will be made for interview in the near future.

COMMUNICATIONS

The project team have been taking forward the proposal to place notice boards in GP's surgeries, libraries and Council premises. A sample board has been prepared and the team will be seeking the opinions of several GP's over the coming month to confirm their agreement

DATE OF NEXT UPDATE

The next New Downe Hospital Project Update will be issued following the Trust Board meeting on 20th April 2005.

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