

Plans for new hospital reach new milestone

NORTH Bristol NHS Trust has chosen three companies to compete to fund, build and maintain its new acute state-of-the-art hospital at Southmead. Over the next 18 months we will choose our final partner.

The three companies that will enter the next phase of the bidding process are Carillion, Skanska and Catalyst. They were chosen from a shortlist of four.

"We were extremely pleased that all four bidders were highly credible. We had an extremely difficult choice, but, on the basis of our objective evaluation, we selected our three bidders," said Chief Executive, Sonia Mills.

North Bristol NHS Trust advertised for a partner to fund, build and maintain its new state-of-the-art acute hospital in the Official Journal of the European Union in May. It will work closely with the three chosen bidders from September. This process of working is called competitive dialogue.

"The Trust will work with the three bidders as they compile their own designs based on the Trust's detailed specifications. At Christmas we will evaluate and then choose two bidders to continue the process," said Director of Projects, David Powell.

Next summer the Trust will choose its preferred bidder and spend the next year finishing the design and finalising the deal.

North Bristol NHS Trust currently provides specialist care from two sites - Frenchay and Southmead. Concentrating hospital specialties in the new hospital will give patients the benefit of large, integrated clinical teams sharing expertise and knowledge.

Together with better facilities in the community and more local services, health provision will be remodelled for the better.

Three quarters of the beds in the new hospital will be in single rooms, giving patients privacy and dignity, staff better conditions in which to provide care, and helping to improve the control of infections.

Sonia Mills said, "This is a major step forward as we now start actively planning the final design of our new hospital. A great many of our staff have contributed their ideas and are enthusiastic about working in an environment that will finally match their world-class skills."

For further information contact the Press Office on 0117 918 6745.

To the Hospital

Your opportunity to visit Southmead Hospital to see what's going on.

Thursday 27th September from 3pm to 5pm the day for presentations, tea and coffee. Transport will be arranged so if you're interested give Tracy a ring on 9038721 (Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays). See you there.

Construction starts at the Greenway Centre

WORK has now started on the development of the Greenway Centre site. This follows the feasibility study carried out in 2004 which led to the development of a site master plan and subsequent grant of outline planning consent in 2006.

Southmead Development Trust is taking forward a two stage programme to modernise the old Greenway Boys School.

The major stage includes the development of a new cafe and kitchen; new changing accommodation; a brand new state of the art fitness suite with TV's, new community/function room; modernised reception area, additional storage areas, a new dedicated area into which the the WISH play scheme will relocate and the upgrading of the main entrance onto the site from Doncaster Road.

The second stage of the programme

will involve an upgrade of the main hall to include the installation of audio visual equipment in order to increase the range of services available.

The total cost of the scheme (around £1.8m) has been funded through a mix of different funding sources to include the Sports Lottery Fund, SRB6, Lifelong Learning Initiative (from the sale of Pen Park School) and the release of the capital funds that were made available to the Trust by the City Council through the sale of part of the old playing fields.

Construction work started at the beginning of May and is due to for completion in March 2008.

In this edition of the Mead you will find a questionnaire. This is your chance to tell us what you want to see at The Greenway Centre when its finished and how much you feel it should cost. Anyone who completes the questionnaire and provides their

contact details will be entered into a prize draw to be drawn at Christmas.

First prize is £200 worth of The Mall vouchers, with second and third prize of 6 months free leisure membership.

All completed questionnaires can be handed in at The Greenway Centre or at the SCART shop.

Construction has also started on a new health centre and pharmacy which is to be located on an area of the Greenway site often referred to as 'The Birches' (the building that suffered a fire in December 2004). The build is being funded by Hoffman & Partners G.P. Practice which will then relocate from its current base at Southmead Health Centre in July 2008. In addition to the main health centre the development will also include the upgrade to highways standard of the emergency access that runs from Greystoke Avenue onto the Greenway site.

Keep fit with the Mead

I think I've discovered the latest exercise craze. It involves walking, some mental exercise and lots of bending and stretching. What is it? Delivering 'The Mead'.

The walking speaks for itself and you have to keep your wits about you to make sure you don't miss any houses off the list.

By far the worst is searching for the

letterbox. It could be high or low or somewhere in the middle, is it to the left or right? Or not there at all? There are a lot of post boxes around now.

I didn't meet any ferocious dogs so I didn't have to do any running, luckily. The weather was kind to me too, so I can truthfully say I enjoyed my walk around the estate.

Gill Waines



Farewell to Rin



Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Committee members meet to say goodbye.

RIN RYAN (centre seated) has been a part of the team of volunteers who for the last five years has shared in representing the interests of our community. Her considered and fair minded

contribution to our deliberations will really be missed. We wish Rin and her family every happiness in their new lives.

K Horseman.

Rain or Shine

ASHTON Court faces possible liquidation after their festival was cancelled. Bristol City Council cancelled the Islamic Festival in Eastville Park. But rain or shine Southmead Festival made plans to go ahead and on the day only one or two spots of rain were felt!

Eager car booters arrived before 8 in the morning to set up stall on the hard standing. Soon the bouncy castle, rides, darts, burger van were in place. Children's activities were installed inside where there were delicious, refreshing fruit kebabs.

Displays from the Mead and other organisations also found a place inside, just in case of rain. Music from the brass band, our local radio station, Starlight Theatre Company and the Youth band entertained us throughout the day.

A depleted marching band, (owing to unseasonable flu) led the procession from Arnside. With fortune telling, raffles, gardening advice, a clown, the fire engine and police officers, fancy dress competition, a BMX cycle track and a football competition, there was something for everyone.

I think it could be even better next year - what would you like to see there? More car boot stalls? More information about things that are happening in Southmead? More entertainment? I know what I would like to see - more people coming out and enjoying belonging to Southmead and all that is good here!

- Rain or shine
- Wet or fine
- Southmead Festival goes on
- We do need you
- Young and old too
- Southmead Festival goes on
- So decide today
- What part you will play
- As Southmead Festival goes on

Planning begins well in advance. Ring Tracy for more information on how you can help and support this local event which celebrates community life here in Southmead.

Southmead Youth Centre Memorial Garden

WE are very proud to have won first place in the Community Garden Competition. We have had lots of positive comments from local people about how well the garden has developed.

As you are aware the garden is a remembrance garden for the young people in the area who have passed away, their families know that there is space in the garden to put small plaques or plants to commemorate their loved ones.

Billy Cockram maintains the garden with the support of young people from the Youth Centre.

Please Contact Billy 0117 3773605