Multi-storey car park briefing (April 2014)

Work is due to begin on a new multi-storey car park at Stoke Mandeville Hospital shortly for completion by the New Year. The car park will provide 410 new spaces, easing pressure on staff and public parking considerably. It will replace the existing staff car park opposite the Claydon Wing and bring the total number of spaces at the site up to 1,259.

The new development will follow recently completed parking schemes for patients, including accessible spaces around the site. As with many other hospitals across the country space on site for parking is limited but we are creating these spaces in response to comments and issues raised by the public and staff. The new car park has been agreed as part of our work to upgrade our facilities to improve the experience for all who travel in and around our site

Why has work on the multi-storey car park taken longer than originally indicated?

Unfortunately, the original timescales have slipped due to the tender and procurement process taking longer than we originally planned. However, we are working hard to ensure this project is completed in the shortest time scale possible.

What is the new timescale for completion?

We have agreed with our chosen contractor that the timescale to construct the car park will be approximately 31 weeks. Work is due to start in the summer and overall completion will be delivered by the New Year.

Patient parking at Stoke Mandeville Hospital can be challenging at peak visiting times, are there any plans in the interim to increase parking capacity?

We have been working hard to resolve this issue over a period of time and have already taken steps to increase the availability of patient parking spaces. Over the last 15 months, we have already added 70 patient parking spaces, including some additional accessible parking bays for patients opposite the ASDA site and at the side of the Mandeville Wing. Although the construction of the multi-storey will not directly create more patient car parking spaces, it will relieve pressure on parking across the site, as well as in the local area.

How do you intend to reduce the impact on parking spaces during the construction of the multi-storey?

We have been looking at ways to reduce the impact on current staff parking provision during the construction of the multi-storey. We can confirm that it will be built in two phases, allowing 110 of the current 210 spaces to be retained at all times during the works. We have also agreed additional spaces at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium and at the local Sports & Social Club. These spaces will be in place before building work starts.
However, during the construction stage of the multi-storey and afterwards, we would encourage patients and staff to consider other travel options apart from the car to help alleviate congestion on the site.

Is the Trust looking at other options to reduce parking impact at Stoke Mandeville Hospital?

As part of the Trust’s green transport plan, we have undertaken long-term environmentally friendly transport options for staff and the public. These measures include the free Arriva bus service to our two main hospital sites for staff and patients. We also asked the public to consider the use of public transport, car sharing, cycling and walking. We are already working closely with Arriva buses, our partners at Community Impact Bucks and Buckinghamshire County Council to develop a broad range of travel options.

How many new spaces will be created with the new multi-storey car park?

The multi-storey car park will replace the existing staff car park opposite the Claydon Wing, providing 620 car parking spaces. This is an increase of 410 on what we currently have in that area.

Across the whole site what will be the parking allocation on completion of the multi-storey?

There are currently 210 spaces in the Claydon Wing car park, while there are 849 car parking spaces across the whole Stoke Mandeville Hospital site - 404 public spaces, 40 disabled access and 405 staff spaces.

The multi-storey car park will give the Trust the opportunity to reconfigure parking spaces such that different user groups can have access to more parking. The multi-storey car park will become the main staff car park. It will also enable to Trust to release a small existing staff car park of 70 spaces at the rear of the PFI for additional patient parking. Therefore, once the multi-storey is built we will have 474 public, 45 disabled access and 740 staff spaces, giving a total of 1,259 spaces.

Previously the option of constructing a temporary car park in an adjacent farmer’s field during the construction phase of work was raised?

Following further investigation it was concluded that this option was too expensive and therefore we have opted for the ‘two phase’ approach on NHS land.

Will there be much disruption on site during construction?

During the construction phase of the multi-storey car park there will be disruption on the Stoke Mandeville Hospital site, including the flow of traffic across the site, noise, dust/mud etc. However, we have developed robust plans, with our contractor, to alleviate disruption to a minimum, including a detailed logistics plan.
Why was the land that was sold to ASDA not used for parking, as has been suggested?

As part of a housing scheme agreement from a number of years ago, this land was earmarked for development as social housing or retail premises. The hospital was unable to retain the land in the long-term, and the sale of the land enabled us to put the money back into the hospital for the benefit of our patients, staff and local people.