

Okehampton Town Council
Full Council Meeting 25th November 2024
Meeting Report

Date:	8 th November 2024
Name:	Emma James

10. Meetings, Projects and Consultations

10.3 Okehampton Hospital – To consider correspondence received from Cllr Goffey and resolve to write a letter of support

Dear Clerk,

Please could you circulate this important letter to your Councillors as the future of Okehampton Hospital is vital in this very rural area.

Thank you,

Jan

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Dartmoor Health Initiative which is concerned with the current and future use of Okehampton Community Hospital.

In 2016/17 many local rural Councils were extremely supportive of Okehampton's fight to retain our Community Wards. Along with those valuable recuperation and palliative care beds, we had an Inpatient Mental Health unit and our Birthing Centre. Sadly, like most rural Community Hospitals we lost that battle but the concern over the future of our Hospital continues.

The North Dartmoor Health Initiative was informally set up In 2017 as a group of Councillors and residents decided to continue to monitor what was happening to our hospital to ensure it had a future. It is a major town asset that affects all the residents of all the communities around us. As the then Mayor and lead member of the group I have been attending Health and Wellbeing meetings, occasionally the Integrated Care Board meetings and quietly monitoring what is happening with The Hospital Building and it's NHS services.

As many of you and your residents know, the audiology, podiatry, pre and post-natal and physiotherapy clinics are still held regularly along with many other services. The list on the web site is sadly, not completely accurate, but about 42 clinics are available.

We had hoped a new Government would see Community Hospitals in rural areas be prioritized again to relieve the pressure on our main Hospitals in Exeter and Plymouth. In light of this, Wes Streeting MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has announced a public consultation regarding the NHS...which you may like to encourage people to complete. It is found on: <https://change.nhs.uk-GB/> Please do complete it and request our rural services are properly funded and maintained.

Another concern is the number of new houses being built in our towns, villages and Hamlets. The lack of infrastructure has been commented upon by very many people including the new residents. It highlights even more the struggle to find dentists, doctors and other Health Professional whose patients lists are ever growing. With the prospect of huge population

expansion, it is time to widen the scope of the NDHI. We think it is vital that we are seen to be a whole community concerned with our area Health provision and our community assets that support both NHS and our communities' health and wellbeing. Of course, we know that inadequate funding is the main reason as is finding staff in rural areas.

All Councils in our part of West Devon are facing ever more development (or CIL) moneys is on the table; please remember what 106 money can be used for and I quote from the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Section 106 (CIL) money can be used to fund capital projects that support the local community and infrastructure. Some examples of what S106 money can be spent on include:

- Community buildings (like health hubs)
- Recreation facilities (Exercise space for health-related clinics -COPD etc)
- Local community infrastructure -Medical Centre expansion or new building.
- Provision for children and young people (Clinical spaces?)
- Informal recreational open spaces (medically related exercises and community gardening)
- Natural and semi-natural open spaces (as above)
- Transport (Grants to Community Transport Groups for transporting patients to medical facilities.)

If some of this money can be ringfenced for health provision at Okehampton Hospital and the ICB (Integrated Care Board) know that all local councils will be lobbying for this, then provision of NHS dentists, mental health care etc. should be feasible as promised some time ago.

I shall be attending the next ICB meeting and my submission to them will be to remind them that this funding is available to local authorities, and they need to put in requests for local funding for local health initiatives to all local councils in the area they cover. Remembering that the western rural areas suffer from diminished services compared to the wealthier and more populous eastern area.

Finally, if you agree that this is an important issue, a letter of support (email) from your council, would be gratefully received. We need to ensure that the ICB, the NHS and the Department of Health and Social Care recognise the systemic underfunding of rural communities and the inequality of the service provision outside our major conurbations.

Thank you for your support in the past and hopefully, the present!

Regards
Jan Goffey
Cllr Jan Goffey OHPC
NDHI Okehampton

Christine Marsh – NDHI Okehampton
Richard Coleman – NDHI Okehampton
George Dexter – NDHI Winkleigh
Christian Martin – NDHI North Tawton

10.6 Pulse Smart Hub – To consider any updates including potential locations and response to questions submitted

Responses to questions submitted:

Q Is the system's revenue subsidised by data collection of users/those signed in to "free WIFI"

A No, Pulse is funded directly from the advertising we display. This enables us to provide all benefits free of charge, including the free public Wi-Fi. We do not have any usage quotas to hit.

Q Does the CCTV camera monitor/collect the images of pedestrians (Facial Recognition)

A The camera on the units only turns on when the emergency button is pressed. This is recorded for evidentiary purposes for the police. This information is stored on the hub itself and not cloud-based storage due to GDPR compliance. The footage is stored for 10 days before deletion. The hubs do have permanent CCTV.

Q Where does the data go, how is it used and is it covered by GDPR

A As above. Any camera footage taken when the emergency button is pressed is stored locally on each hub. This footage is deleted after 10 days and can be passed to the police if requested within this timeframe. The hubs and functionality is entirely GDPR compliant.

Q Locations – suggestions are adjacent to St James School and the roundabout on Crediton Road.

A Noted, we can take a look at these.

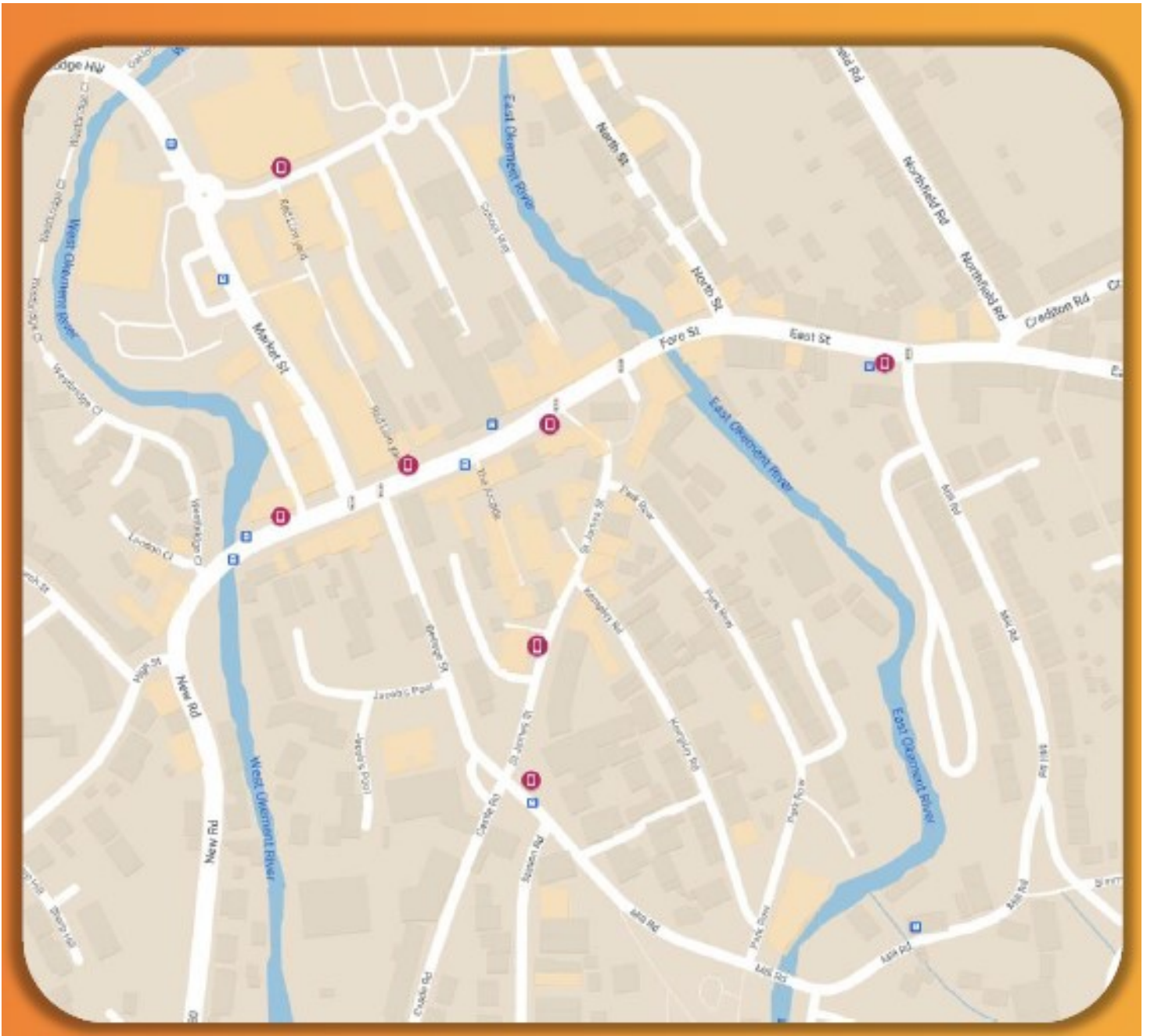
Sites Overview

This plan illustrates 9 broad locations for the hubs across the town:

1. 13 Fore Street
2. 15 East Street
3. Mill Road
4. Red Lion Yard
5. School Way
6. 12 St James Street
7. 2 West Street
8. Potential site relating to new interchange #1
9. Potential site relating to new interchange #2



Sites can be viewed on the interactive map [here](#)



13. Council Insurance – To consider the implications of the recent Building Reinstatement Cost Assessment and resolve to amend the insurance policy accordingly.

Following the recent reinstatement valuation inspection, the Council's insurer advises as follows. I have already requested that where structures are under insured this be adjusted accordingly.

The Council is requested to consider:

- a) Ratifying the Clerks decision to increase insurance valuations (in green)
- b) Reducing insured values in line with the valuation and Insurers comments (in blue)
- c) If to add items (in red)

I have reviewed the Report provided against the current sums insured in place on your behalf and would provide the following comparison/overview with regards each Building/Structure inspected:

The details are based on the assumption that the Town Council can recover VAT separately so **NOT** included.

1. Town Hall – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £3,566,868 – Valuation figure: £2,404,000 – **this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation**
2. Charter Hall – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £630,973 – Valuation figure: £1,239,000 – **this would indicate that the property is currently under-insured and our recommendation would be to increase the sum insured in line with the valuation provided.**
3. Lower Market Hall – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £672,101 – Valuation figure: £579,000 - **this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation....**
4. Market Hall – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £2,940,561 – Valuation figure: £2,218,000 - **this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation....**
5. Millenium Bridge – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £72,972 – Valuation figure: £43,000 - **this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation....**
6. Park Keepers Office – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £65,676 – Valuation figure: £79,000 - **this would indicate that the property is currently under-insured and our recommendation would be to increase the sum insured in line with the valuation provided.**
7. Fairplace WC – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £102,160 – Valuation figure: £110,000 - **this would indicate that the property is currently under-insured and our recommendation would be to increase the sum insured in line with the valuation provided.**
8. Market Street WC – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £178,374 – Valuation figure: £130,000 - **this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation....**

9. Workshop/Shed – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £51,079 – Valuation figure: £57,000 - this would indicate that the property is currently under-insured and our recommendation would be to increase the sum insured in line with the valuation provided.
10. Bandstand frame & base – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £25,000 – Valuation figure: £44,000 - this would indicate that the property is currently under-insured and our recommendation would be to increase the sum insured in line with the valuation provided.
11. Bandstand – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £187,668 – Valuation figure: £41,000 - this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation....
12. Timber Shelter - current Declared Day One Sum Insured: ??? to be added at a sum insured of £22,000 ??? please confirm.
13. Mayors Shelter – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £36,486 – Valuation figure: £29,000 - this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation....
14. Granite Shelter – current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £43,783 – Valuation figure: £38,000 - this would indicate that the current sum insured is too high and should be reduced in line with the valuation....
15. 3 x Naturalistic Bridges *** - current Declared Day One Sum Insured: £137,211 – Valuation figure: £140,000 - this would indicate that the property is currently under-insured and our recommendation would be to increase the sum insured in line with the valuation provided.

*** we currently have shown as 2 Naturalistic Bridges – should this be increased ? please confirm

We appreciate there is quite a lot to consider here – both increases and reductions – and look forward to your formal instruction as to how you would like us to proceed as soon as you can esp. where the valuations indicate that the properties are under-insured.