

Project News

DARTMOUTH HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

Working with you, for you.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Progress Since Last Update:

Over the past month, works have focussed on finishing off the ground-floor blockwork so that the first-floor concrete slabs can be fitted, works will then move to the building of the first-floor. Progress is now looking really good, as displayed in the photo below:



Progress Since Last Update (cont):

The mains water connection has been carried out and the contractors have commenced the waste water connection works across the bus and Park & Ride car park. These works are due to complete by 17 November.

As well as the onsite works, we have been working closely with the users of the building and the Trust to start to finalise the internal layouts and finishes.

What is next?

Over the next month, we will fit the first-floor slabs, raise the scaffolding, and start to build the first-floor walls.

Excess earth will be removed from site in order to level the site and we will begin work on the drainage systems for the building and the additional 140 space car park.

The former cottage hospital site; have your say!

We are working with Dartmouth Town Council to explore whether the community can buy the former Dartmouth Hospital site, and whether its redevelopment could include uses specifically to benefit people in and around Dartmouth.

We recognise that the former hospital is dear to local people's hearts and occupies a prime waterfront site. It closed almost five years ago, after a full consultation, and we are now preparing to sell it. We need the funds from the sale by the end of March 2023, to pay our build costs for the new Health and Wellbeing Centre. As a public sector organisation, there are some rules around how we sell land or property, and we have to make sure we get a fair price for any sale. But that doesn't mean we have to sell to the highest bidder. Our preference is that local people benefit from any development. That's why we are supporting Dartmouth Town Council to explore whether a community bid for the site is possible.



It is a huge ask for the community to come together and create an economically viable bid for this site and timescales are tight. But the Town Council is exploring every funding avenue, in a bid to deliver facilities that local people want. There will need to be some commercial elements of any development to help pay for community facilities.

With the Town Council, we are asking local people to share their views in a survey being run by the independent health and social care champion, Healthwatch.

The survey is now live and runs until 08 December. People can access the survey online www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DartmouthHospital or by scanning the QR code below:

Printed copies of the survey are also being distributed to a range of local venues for collection and return via Freepost to Healthwatch, including:

- Post Offices in Townstal (BP garage) and Dittisham
- Blackawton Community Shop
- Stoke Fleming Village Hall
- Townstal Spar
- Dartmouth Town Council offices
- Dartmouth Medical Practice
- Dartmouth Clinic



Scan the QR code to complete the survey online.

After the closing date, Healthwatch will collate all responses into an independent report to share with the Council and the Trust in early 2022.

If a community bid proves not to be possible, the site will be advertised for sale on the open market in the second half of 2022. In that case, the Trust and Town Council would share their development brief with interested parties, but would not be able to influence any future development on the site.