



Minutes of Meeting held Monday 9th January 2017 Blossoms Pub Function Room, 2 Buxton Road, Stockport SK1 3UA

1. Welcome – Attending:

RT, TT, LH, DH, JW, DD, DO, MO, TG, RK, EP, BP, PW, RH, WD, AW (Chair). (16)

2. Apologies for Absence:

Jennifer Hardman, Ian Barker, Paul Leake.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

:Approved.

4. Matters Arising:

Freedom of Information request to Stepping Hill re. use of locums - nothing to report, check at next meeting. Question to SMBC re. the impact of pharmacy funding cuts - question to be submitted to one of the council meetings next week (see item 10) Cllr Dickie Davies.

5. Follow up with Stockport councillors re. cuts.

After extensive discussion it was agreed that our public criticism of NHS cuts and reduced funding and calls to put pressure on the Government should be directed at the Council in total and not just at the Labour Party (who have no overall control of the Council and have to work with the other parties).

SNHSW should try to get the 4 Stockport Labour Parties to pass motions asking the Council to publicise the REAL state of the NHS in Stockport and the reduction and deterioration of services that are happening. (BP/EP/RT)

Contact Andrew Gwynne for his input and support for what we are doing. (TT?)

6. CCG.

Nobody from SNHSW attended the 21 December 2016 meeting, it is believed that the final CCG plan for years 2017/18 and 2018/19 was due to be approved and sent to NHS England. Minutes of this meeting should be available for the next CCG meeting which is due on 25 January 2017. The agenda for this meeting has not been circulated yet, when it is we should decide whether to attend. (GT/RK?)

7. Collaboration with other Greater Manchester NHS campaigning groups.

TT will liaise with KNOP. Bolton appears to be the other Borough with an active campaigning group (does anyone have any contacts with them?).

8. National NHS Rally, Central London 4 March starting at 12 noon

SNHSW will be attending, details to be agreed at our February meeting. DH said that anyone planning to travel by train should consider booking early for lower cost fares.

9. Stepping Hill Campaign

We are having some success getting letters in the Stockport Express re. Stepping Hill and should continue the good work (ALL).

Weekly "picketing" at Stepping Hill gate has continued (DH's big input was acknowledged). It was agreed that we would organise a special event on Valentine's Day, Tuesday 14 February to publicise that we have had 6 months of action and that everyone should "Love the NHS".

ACTIONS

Invite the press (and other media?), Stockport Councillors and MPs, Andy Burnham.

Source banners, red balloons and other publicity material. (DH/JW?)

We should plan to present the 1000+ signature petition about Stepping Hill ward closure/bed reduction to Ann Barnes (DH)

Finalise details, including the best timing of the event to maximise support and publicity, at the February SNHSW meeting

10. Council Meetings

The following meetings are happening next week:

Tuesday 17 January, 6pm. Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 18 January, 6pm. Extraordinary meeting of the Executive.

Thursday 19 January, 6pm. Full Council Meeting.

Questions to be e-mailed to Andy Wedderburn ASAP (to include Social Care and Pharmacy provision) with details of who is going to ask and who the question will be directed to.

Note from RK - the Extraordinary Executive on the 18th is about the Council budget for 2017/18. A £5.5m shortfall is projected of which £1.3m can be mitigated by the Social care precept and £0.7m from re-phasing pension fund payments still leaving £3.5m short. It was mentioned that a review of Stockport Together in February may produce some savings!!!

11. New Leaflet

Required ASAP: RT to write back, LH to write front, JW to organise design and print.

12. Public Liability Insurance

TT still keen to explore SNHSW getting this.

13. AOB:

DH reported that a "Stockport Stand up to Racism Group" is being formed. She will supply details as they emerge.

Next Meeting: Monday 6th February, 7.30pm at The Blossoms



Minutes of Meeting held Monday 6th February 2017 Blossoms Pub Function Room, 2 Buxton Road, Stockport SK1 3UA

1. Welcome – members present:

RT, DH, JW, DO, BP, PW, TE, IB, GT, SJ, MS, RK, AW (Chair).
(16 in total)

2. Apologies for Absence:

Elaine Preece, Terry Tallis, Tom Gillespie, Liz Harlow, Mary Owen, Cllr. Dickie Davis.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

:Approved.

4. Matters Arising:

Freedom of Information request to Stepping Hill re. use of locums – nothing happening - drop.

Action to get a H&SC motion to the Labour Group on the council from all four Stockport Constituency Labour Parties was progressing, Cheadle have submitted a motion to Alex Ganotis and Brian Preece confirmed that work was in progress to get the same from the other 3 Stockport Labour Parties.

A new leaflet has been printed and is available for use in campaigning.

No contact with Andrew Gwynne, it is believed that he is heavily committed running the Labour campaign for the Copland by-election.

5. Reports.

GMKONP update 02/02/2017

NHS campaigning is happening in Bolton but is mainly one person's activity. We should invite this person to our next meeting to share ideas and co-ordinate action. (AW?)

Stockport Council Meeting 19/01/2017

Members attended and asked questions but there were no satisfactory answers.

CCG Meeting 25/01/2017

GT, DH, JW, RK attended and reports were circulated by GT and RK. The main topics discussed were letters/articles about the NHS in the Stockport Express, the performance of Stepping Hill Hospital (particularly A&E) and the progress of Stockport Together. Key points and actions were:

In response to an article in the Stockport Express in which Tom McGee made a negative comment about SNHSW, RT will circulate a draft response. It was agreed that we should not attack the Stockport Labour Councillors but ask them to be more open about the impact of the Government cuts and their effect on the delivery of H&SC for the people of Stockport.

The CCG report on Stepping Hill was bad, particularly with respect to A&E which now seems by running at under 70% being dealt with in less than 4 hrs. The A&E problem has been serious for some years and in spite of numerous special initiatives is not getting better and is receiving attention from GMH&SC Partnership and NHS England. After discussion it was decided this is not an issue for us to campaign about but we should monitor developments.

CCG finances should be OK for the year that ends in March 2017 but the impression is that the risks for 2017/18 are increasing as Stockport Together is

behind schedule and they are becoming more dependent on the CIP (Cost Improve Programme). It is difficult to get details of the CIP (when does a cost improvement become a cost/service cut?) and there are cost/service issues which are now be managed on a Great Manchester basis (such as the Ambulance service and the re-organisation of services across the GM hospitals).

The next 9 months will be critical for Stockport Together as Business Cases are presented and put out for public consultation. We should keep track of this and seek to understand and be involved in the consultation process. (RK will try to find out the role that HealthWatch is playing). The crunch is estimated to come in September when recommendation on the scale and scope future services at Stepping Hill will be decided.

DH asked a question on the recent Torbay experience of a new service model. The CCG was not aware of this but claim to have learnt from the experience (positive and negative) of other NHS Trusts. We should continue to monitor the experience of other Trusts introducing new service models.

Next CCG scheduled for Wednesday 22 February (GT,DH,JW to attend?, RK is going to be away).

6. National NHS Rally, Central London 4 March starting at 12 noon

Five (?) SNHSW members are planning to be there, they are travelling independently and will use mobile phone contact to agree who is taking banners, placards, "vultures" etc. and where to meet.

7. Questions For Future Council/CCG meetings

AW to convene a meeting with core members to discuss and agree this.

8. Stepping Hill Campaign -Valentine's Day, Tuesday 14 February

Keep it simple - very critical of the cuts but supportive of NHS staff who are having to cope in a very difficult situation. Start time agreed at 11am which should enable us to get better publicity and coverage.

We will be using new leaflets and banners, DH will have chocolates to hand out to NHS staff.

We will try to get our petition presented to Ann Barnes and, if she will not accept it, we will publicise this.

Phil Welldrake has a contact at Pure Radio who will give us some coverage, DH/JW will liaise and prepare material. We will have a press release and photographs to go to the Stockport Express.

9. Website, Facebook and Publicity Material

JW has updated the front page of our website and publicised the Valentine's Day event at Stepping Hill. The revised start time, 11am on Tuesday 14th February should be highlighted. Liz Harlow should ensure that these updated details are on our FaceBook page.

It was agreed that production of a large new banner should go ahead - Peter to action.

10. AOB:

A junior doctor at Stepping Hill is trying to get information about the number of cancelled operations.

A "Health Campaigns Together, North West" meeting is being planned for 1 April, DH will try to find out more about it. Hugh Caffrey appears to be a key organiser. We should try to find contacts in other GM boroughs. Tony Ettenfield from 38 degrees asked if they could help? Discuss at our next meeting.

Next Meetings Monday 6th March and Monday 3rd April, 7-30pm at The Blossoms.



Stockport NHS Watch Meeting Monday 20th March 2017 7.30pm

Present: AW, DH, JW, RT, SJ, GT, DD, PW, MO, DO, WD, BP, EP

Apologies for absence: TT, RK, IB, PL, TE, CH, LB.

1 There is a Health Campaigns Together conference next Saturday, 25/3/17 run by GMKONP at Unite's Salford office. This will run from 12-3pm. SNHSW have been asked to attend and have a stall

Location:-Unite's office is next to Merchants Quay Metrolink just off Trafford Rd.

Address:- Merchants Quay, Salford Quays, M50 3SG.

ACTION:-

Brian Preece and Dickie Davies will run this for us. Brian will deliver a presentation to a workshop about our activities and the materials we have created

Deborah Hind to let them know any further details.

Please would Tom send out an email to encourage others to go?

2 Stepping Hill Trust meeting 23/1/17. Andy Wedderburn attended. An Electronic Patient Records system is to be set up at hospital run by Intersystems and Channel 3000 staff to be trained to use this by 23/6/17.

ACTION:- Brian to check these companies out and report back to group.

3 As the MCP and public consultation on this appears to have stalled, questions will be asked at next council meeting on 30/3/17. Questions submitted 48 hrs prior to meeting.

ACTION:- Andy to ask:- What is happening to the MCP and the public consultation on this? It was supposed to happen around now.

Ray:- Could we have an update on bed cuts? (Tom McGee assurance that there would be no further ones).

4 Paul Welldrake asked how the model of care will work

ACTION:- Ray to send out a video on how STPs function.

5 Deborah Hind thinks that we should investigate Viaduct Health (consortium of about 44 GP practices in Stockport). This is one of the five tranches of Stockport Together

ACTION:- Andy/ Debbie? to ask about them at CCG meeting on 29/3/17.

Questions to be submitted 24hrs before meeting.

6 Andy in contact with Christine and Tony from Bolton. Apparently they are not allowed to ask oral questions in council meetings.

ACTION:- Brian/Dickie to make contact with one or both of these people.

Debbie to send them the contact details.

7 Future strategy.

ACTION:- Before the next Watch meeting could we all contact Andy with ideas on our future strategy. Viaduct Health a key area, as is Pennine. They are getting our money and we need to know what they are doing with it. Also, consider what other action we could take at our Tuesday morning demos.

8 Sharing of Health Records with drug companies etc.

ACTION:- Liz, would you mind looking into this please?

9 Royal Commission on Health. Ray met with Dr David Owen and he shared his concerns about this

ACTION:- Ray to meet with Kailash Chand on 10/4/17. (Andy Burnham's health advisor) to try to get AB to do something on this.

Next Meeting Monday 3/4/17 Blossoms 7:30 p.m.

(No one collected donations, so a need collect more at next meeting.)

Minutes of Meeting held at The Blossoms, Stockport 3 April 2017, 7.30pm

Attending:

Andy Wedderburn (Acting Chair); Ray Tallis; Jack Wrigley; Debbie Hind; Ashley Walker; Dave Owen; Marj Owen; Rod Kilgour; Susie Jacobs; Graham Trickey; Liz Harlow; Elaine Preece.

Apologies: Terry Tallis. Ian Barker

1&2 Welcome & Previous Minutes

LH - brief summary of the position re NHS sharing data with commercial companies (eg: data given to Google to develop an application which can recognise kidney injury.)

Looks like care.data is being revived under a different name:

the National Data Services Development Programme

“will deliver a new technical solution for the transmission and distribution of de-identified patient-level commissioning data sets” (NHS website) via the Data Services Platform.

Action: - keep an eye on this, eg: GP questionnaires requesting personal information.

Action: RT - meeting with Burnham’s health adviser,

Kailash Chand, on 10 April re the push for

a Royal Commission on funding to try and get a clear idea of Burnham’s possible mayoral influence.

3. Reports:

a) CCG

DH: Stepping Hill: A&E use - up; non-elective admissions - down; GP referrals - down; planned electives – up. S. Hill in bottom five, nationally, for overstays.

A doctor on the CCG was concerned about seven day working - reporting a lack of clarity; staff feeling under pressure; people discharged too soon and concern about changes at the hospital. (The Chair had left and the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer were soon to change - will they be pro Stockport Together?)

RK - had seen notification about weekend GP appointments, but these were not necessarily at a local surgery. How are records to be accessed if patients are directed to different surgeries?

Action - RK to check out if this is Stockport-wide.

There is no longer a Health Scrutiny Committee – it is now Health and Adult Social Care.

Will CCGs’ commissioning be superseded by the Greater Manchester Multi-speciality Community Provider (MCP) model?

Business cases should be published by the end of April. One will be delayed until the summer

DH asked about consultation, CCG said nothing planned at present, but if there are major changes they will consult the public. How? Via the website and probably the same style of meetings used for Healthier Together.

(Current information available at:

<http://www.stockport-together.co.uk/provider>

includes an appraisal document:

http://www.stockport-together.co.uk/application/files/4214/7974/6953/MCP_Form_Options_Appraisal.pdf

and a presentation:

<http://www.stockport-together.co.uk/application/files/3714/7974/6978/>

[MCP_Options_Appraisal_Presentation.pdf](http://www.stockport-together.co.uk/application/files/3714/7974/6978/MCP_Options_Appraisal_Presentation.pdf)

RK reminded the meeting that the CCG is obliged to consult.

DH also asked about accountability. Ranjit Gill said that he didn’t know much about Viaduct Health. GT noted that they had a desk in Regent House.

Action – RT, DH, JW & AW to attend Care Closer to Home presentation on 4 April

b) Council meeting:

Bed closures - Cllr Tom McGee stated that Simon Stevens had said 2-3,000 beds needed to close nationally and 30-40 would be Stockport’s “share”.

Action - RT to write to Cllr McGee and explain that Stevens had said beds needed to be repurposed - from elective to acute - not closed.

DH - email to Alex Ganotis re how is democracy served if questions are not answered, or answered inadequately? Members of the public should be able to ask supplementary

questions.

Action - SNHSW to frame questions that require quantifiable answers, to minimise opportunities for vague responses Eg, completion date for new model of care
A similar approach would be adopted re questions to the CCG - next meeting 26 April and Stepping Hill Trust - next meeting 27 April. AW will remind members nearer the dates.

c) Leeds demo

DH & JW had attended - very good turnout. Highly visible presence by Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (under threat of closure). Event well-covered by local BBC & ITV news.

Action - DH to maintain link with Huddersfield activists.

d) GMKONP workshop - Very successful. Thanks to Brian and Dickie for being there and displaying our wares.

A list has been circulated of possible ideas for future activity which we will discuss.

4. Public Demonstrations

Some members had raised concerns about SNHSW banners being used to demonstrate outside council meetings.

Some members thought that such demos were not clear enough in their intent. Others felt that it was near impossible to explain the complexity of some issues in banner form. They also felt that even if their personal political allegiance was with the major party in the council - they had no problem with demonstrating outside council meetings. They saw demos at the council and outside the hospital as exercises in raising awareness about the crisis in the NHS.

A vote was taken on whether to continue to use the SNHSW "brand" in demos outside council meetings: For 10; against 1; abstentions 2.

5. Use of email

Some complaints about email traffic and reach.

Action - look into methods of targeting emails more effectively.

6. Future strategies

SJ - to make contact with unions at S. Hill

Matter to be discussed further at next meeting

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Next Meeting to be held on Monday 8 May at 7.30pm



Stockport NHS Watch Meeting 22nd May 2017 The Blossoms 7:30pm

Present: Andy Wedderburn (Chair) Debbie Hind, Marj Owen Jack Wrigley, Peter Philips, Phil Welldrake, Dickie Davis, Chris Moore, Terry Tallis, Ray Tallis.

Apologies: Rod Kilgour, Liz Harlow, Dave Owen

Review of Election Campaign

a) Campaigning Sites: Where and When

A.W pointed out that active campaigners were a small group, particularly as some SNHSW members were having to devote their efforts to campaigning in other (marginal) seats in Greater Manchester. The schedule of events was reviewed in the light of experience and AW undertook to issue a revised timetable. He was also in contact with the Marple Matters group whom we had met serendipitously outside of William Wragg's office. Their 'Where's Willy?' cardboard cut-out was particularly appreciated.

b) Materials

It was agreed to continue to use our current leaflet and Jack undertook to order a further print run of 5,000.

PP showed variations of the new placard and two variants were chosen. The group wanted their warm thanks to both Peter and Liz for their fantastic work to be recorded in the minutes.

c) Hustings

There would be a SNSW presence at hustings. The first hustings would be at St. Mary's Church Cheadle, beginning at 7 p.m. SNHSW would be outside the venue from 5:30 p.m. We would raise the following issues with candidates:

RT - closure of hospital beds in Stockport

TT - Robinson's voting record on support for people with disability

DH - Robinson's voting record on opposing support for child benefit for third child even when the child has been conceived through rape

AW - the increasing burden on charities doing contracted out work to make up shortfall in government funding resulting in some cases (e.g. Lifeline) in collapse of the charity.

Meeting with Partners to Stockport Together Business Case

SNHSW has been invited to participate in public consultation on the Stockport Together Business Case. A 90-minute meeting had been scheduled for 23d June. The participants were: CCG; Council; and Pennine Care.

All were agreed that it was important that SNHSW should not be used merely to place a tick in the box and that a) we, not they, should set the agenda; and b) we should not be 'filibustered out' by e.g. A Certain Councillor. We should seek short, even yes/no, answers and the meeting should be recorded. AW undertook to email Louise Hayes (the link person for the consultation) regarding the format of the meeting.

It was agreed that AW, DH, GT and RT should represent SNHSW. There might be a slot for a 5th person and AW would check this with Louise Hayes. The SNHSW representatives would have a pre-meeting after the election to confirm the format, the topics covered, and allocate topics to individuals.

SNHSW members were invited to communicate with AW regarding topics they would like to be considered.

Any Other Business

DH and RT had written separately to Stockport Express about Wragg's and Robinson's callous voting record in House of Commons.

DH reminded everyone about the Handlebar Open Air Midsummer Night's Dream in Bramhall Park on 30th June which had been chosen for SNHSW's annual social event.

It was unanimously agreed that we should minute our thanks to DH and JW for their incredibly hard work in the campaign. It was also unanimously agreed that we should also minute our thanks to AW for his excellent leadership and organisation of the campaign.

Date of Next Meeting 5th June 7:30 Blossoms Pub



Stockport NHS Watch Meeting 5th June 2017 Blossoms Inn 7.30pm

Present: Andy Wedderburn (Chair) Debbie Hind, Jack Wrigley, Graham Trickey, Phil Welldrake, Chris Moore, Terry Tallis, Ray Tallis.

Apologies: Susie Jacobs, Liz Harlow, Marj Owen, Peter Philips

Review of Election Campaign

There had been an intense campaign over the last two weeks and very large numbers of leaflets had been distributed. The public had been encouragingly receptive to our message about the threat presented by the Tories to the NHS. Unfortunately, opportunities to hold Mary Robinson and William Wragg directly to account had been limited as they had kept a very low profile. Hustings had been either cancelled (because of the Manchester atrocity) or had not been advertised. After our serendipitous encounter with the Marple Matters group outside William Wragg's office, we had had some difficulty maintaining joint action but this was due entirely to logistical problems. AW would keep them posted of our remaining activities.

Two days of campaigning remained. On Tuesday 6th there would be the usual presence outside Stepping Hill. On 7th June, based on advice, we decided the focus would be on Heald Green, with events a.m. and p.m. AW would email details. 3,000 leaflets remained to be distributed. Dave Owen would consult Marj Owen as to how to cover the key areas in Heald Green.

Meeting with Partners to Stockport Together Business Case

There would be a pre-meeting with Louise Hayes on 15th June 9:30-11.00. Phil Welldrake was joining AW, DH, GT and RT. The 5 would meet on 14th June at 10:30, 5 Valley Road, Bramhall, SK7 2NH for a pre-pre-meeting.

DH would meanwhile contact Clare McCrystal re mental health issues.

Keep Our NHS Public

TT had been invited to stand for re-election for the Executive Committee for Keep Our NHS Public. As required, she sought the support of SNHSW for her candidacy. She was proposed by Dave Owen and seconded by Phil Welldrake and there was unanimous agreement that she should be the SNHSW candidate.

Naylor Report

AW voiced concerns about Sir Robert Naylor's review of NHS properties and estates, which were echoed by others. Naylor raised the spectre of the self-off of large parts of the NHS land and buildings if Theresa May was re-elected. It would offer a dishonest way of 'honouring' the claim to be investing £10 billion in NHS infrastructure. More worryingly, it would mean that temporary closures of wards and other facilities may not be reversible. It was agreed that this would be raised at the meeting with CCG et al.

Date and Time of Next Meeting July 24th 7:30 Blossoms



Stockport NHS Watch Meeting Monday 24th July 2017 7:30 p.m. Stockport Cricket Club

Present: Andy Wedderburn (Chair) Debbie Hind, Jack Wrigley, Susie Jacobs, Graham Trickey, Phil Welldrake, Dave Owen, Marj Owen, Terry Tallis, Ray Tallis, Chris Moore, Sandy Broadhurst, Elaine Preece, Dickie Davis

Apologies: Jennifer Hardiman, Tony Etheridge, Ronan, Diane

Matters Arising: Meeting with STBC Leaders 23rd June

a)

We had still not received an invitation for a follow up meeting which would also provide an opportunity to meet the Stepping Hill doctors who had not been able to attend the previous meeting. Andy would write to Louise Haynes seeking dates.

b)

Terry had asked Louise H. about the tape of the meeting. She promised to send it. Andy would remind her of this in his letter (see above). On receipt, it would be posted on SNHSW website.

c)

We need to test the impression we had got from the meeting that beds would not be closed until there had been a demonstrable reduction in demand. It was agreed to send a letter to Stockport Express reporting the reassurance we had received. It would then be up to ST to respond. Ray agreed to draft a letter for prior circulation to SNHSW before submission to Express.

Challenge to proposed Stepping Hill Bed closure: Fake News

a)

The shocking and biologically implausible claim that 10 days in hospital would age an 80 year old by 10 years - made prominently on material widely distributed by ST to the public in support of their Business Case - had been challenged and Louise Haynes undertook to send academic papers to support it. She sent three references that did not support the claim as they were not relevant to it. Ray would email her asking for clarification.

b)

Graham reminded those present of the proposed scale of hospital closure, which would provide most of the savings envisaged in the STBC: 27% fall in acute beds and an overall reduction of nearly 50% in bed capacity. This made it even more important that SNHSW should be present at Stepping Hill FT Board meetings. The next meeting was Thursday 27th July at 1:15 p.m. Several present agreed to attend and Graham's Briefing Note for the 'Listening Events' (see below) would be distributed.

Feedback on Consultation Meetings with Stockport Together

Members of SNHSW had been assiduous (if unwelcome) attendees at the listening events. The overall impression had been that the meetings were designed to tick the 'public consultation' box not to inform the public. The format usually consisted of a presentation by ST team, followed by exercises in which the audience had to provide written answers to questions that were either a) trivial b) or confusing or c) complex or d) all three. There was little opportunity to discuss the big issues and the 'c' word - cuts - was avoided, as the STBC was presented in an entirely positive light with no suggestion that the primary driver of change was the need to save over £100 million. Though billed as a 'listening' exercise the opportunities for audience to speak were severely restricted and straight questions did not receive clear answers.

The distribution of Graham's excellent briefing paper - providing the public with the necessary facts - was not welcome.

Ranjit Gill had rung Andy while on holiday in France to complain about SNHSW behaviour though the latter had been abused for introducing 'politics' into the occasion. It was agreed that the decision to make changes that threatened the health and well-being of Stockport citizens on the basis of cuts in funding was inescapably political. Andy agreed to write to Dr. Gill. It was agreed that members of SNHSW would attend the final listening exercise - Thursday 27th July Centrepoint Bramhall Methodist Church Bramhall Lane South 7-9 p.m - and ensure their concerns were heard. It was also agreed that Debbie would write to Stockport Express about the hollowness of the listening exercise.

Feedback on Meetings

Council Cabinet

was attended by Jack and Graham. It was poorly attended and appeared to be a rubber stamping exercise. The STBC was approved. There was a clear impression that not all present had a full grasp of the nature of what they were assenting to and there were notable absentees. The leader Alex Ganotis made no mention of cuts in his presentation.

CCG

Graham had attended a public meeting and had reported the alarming fact that the 'spinal pathway' for patients with back pain would be put out to competitive tender. We needed to watch this development.

Labour Party Momentum Meeting

Graham had been invited to give a presentation and had focused on the issue of bed cuts. It was agreed that, though SNHSW was not a party political organization, members who were members of the Labour party should raise the threats to local health care through their constituency meetings.

Feedback on NHS 69th Birthday 5th July

There was a Special Edition of the Stepping Hill demonstration timed to coincide with the NHS birthday. There had been a greater than usual attendance and cakes and balloons (thank you Debbie and Jack) had been provided. There was encouraging coverage in Stockport Express.

Greater Manchester Collaborations

It was agreed that we should discuss more strategic collaboration with other GM groups, especially KONP. It was agreed that Andy should invite Hugh Caffrey (Chair GM KONP) to our next meeting and make discussion with him a major agenda item.

Sandy reported that representatives from the Socialist Party had asked to attend our meeting. It was agreed that they would be welcome.

Any Other Business

Leaflets/Placards

We have sufficient leaflets at present. However, both they and the placards are getting of date, given that they refer to the election. It was agreed that new material would be prepared in time for the Tory Party Conference in Manchester in October. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

End-of-Summer Do

Debbie and Terry agreed to come up with ideas for an event to mark the end of Summer, as we had not had our usual canal trip this year.

Privatisation

Elaine reminded those present why SNHSW had been established: to oppose privatisation that had been facilitated by the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. Selling off the NHS to private predators was an even greater threat

than cuts. It was agreed that we should not take our eye off this ball and should challenge any plans to put services out to tender. It was noted that private contractors were better at winning contracts (with deceptive promises) than delivering on them.

Andy agreed to circulate a terrifying article from the New Statesman about the perils of tendering and would also send it to members of CCG.

Location of Future Meetings

It was agreed that Stockport Cricket Club was excellent. The £12 hire charge was reasonable. Since The Blossoms was booked for the foreseeable future on a Monday for another group, it was agreed to stay with the Cricket Club for the present.

Next Meeting 4th September 7:30 p.m. Stockport Cricket Club, 75, Beech Road, SK3 8HD



Minutes of Meeting held Monday 4th September 2017 Stockport Cricket Club, 75 Beech Road, Stockport SK3 8HD

Attending:

Andy Wedderburn (Chair) Debbie Hind, Jack Wrigley, Susie Jacobs, Graham Trickey, Phil Welldrake, Terry Tallis, Ray Tallis, Chris Moore, Dickie Davis, Liz Harlow
Apologies: Elaine Preece, Sandy Broadhurst

Matters Arising:

AW had written to Louise Hayes (Stockport CCG Head of Communications) Letter to Stockport Express - had been published and elicited a response from Ranjit Gill.

Letter to councillors re. bed closures - RT & GT. Decided it should go to local press as well as all councillors. DD advised that email was the most efficient method. AW thought a hard copy was harder to ignore. TT suggested sending both formats. AW, RT & TT would address and send the letters. It would also be put on the website and Face Book page. Decided that the response from various groups would be publicised.

Action:

GT would contact Alex Scapens at Stockport Express
Questions for next council meeting (14th Sept):
GT advised framing questions about facts as these required a direct answer, eg: what is the process for approval of bed cuts?
PW suggested asking how Stockport Together would guarantee that beds would not be cut before community provision was in place.
AW noted that the "Step Down Ward" (the community ward) at Stepping Hill had already closed.

Action:

RT and GT would work on formulating a question. Stockport Together meetings
CM asked if the meeting thought that the participants were seeking genuine improvements or fulfilling a political agenda.
DH thought that some were genuine, others were just doing a job and others were focused on their careers. CM commented that SNHSW was regarded as "the enemy" at ST meetings and we should try to adopt a more conciliatory approach. DH thought this was covered at the end of the proposed letter.
DH also asked if SNHSW was going to protest prior to the council meeting.
DD pointed out that councillors don't see the action, but it does raise public awareness.

It was decided to meet for a protest at 5.30pm on the day, Thursday 14th September, outside the Town Hall as usual.

Links with Unison:

SJ had been trying, over several months, to make contact with Unison and had finally got through on 1 September and is awaiting a response from Stepping Hill rep David McAllister.

Actions:

DD would enquire if the Unison Town Hall branch would be interested in a meeting. DH & TT would seek an informal chat with Clare McCrystal - Unison rep working in MH. (Stockport Together was seeking to “re-designate” the jobs of MH workers.)

KONP events

There is a Health Campaigns Together Conference in London - 4 November.

DH & JW would attend the Manchester KONP meeting on 7 September - discussion about the Labour Manifesto and NHS issues.

TT would attend the meeting of the steering group of the national committee on 9 September.

KONP & the People’s Assembly would be organising protests at the Tory Party Conference (Manchester Central 1-4 October.)

The People’s Assembly is holding a pre-conference meeting at the Quaker Meeting House (Stockport) on 19 September at 7pm and would like RT to speak.

2 October - protest against Push Doctor outside their office on the junction of John Dalton St and Deansgate.

AW thanked DH for keeping SNHSW up to date on KONP matters.

HealthWatch Stockport

AGM being held at the Masonic Hall, 20 September, 5.15pm.

Stepping Hill Trust

New chair appointed, should SNHSW seek a meeting?

Waiting to hear from Louise Hayes on this.

Tuesday mornings - TT & DH in favour of continuing.

AW thought there had to be a regular core of six people. GT thought the protest needed a relaunch with a clear statement of purpose.

TT suggested after response on bed closures.

Placards:

JW put forward two new drafts. The meeting particularly liked the one quoting Prof Hawking. JW would finalise.

Any Other Business

DH would follow up on the situation regarding an SNHSW member.

Emails - it was decided that the distribution would be left as is.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 23rd October 7.30pm at Stockport Cricket Club.



Minutes of Meeting held Monday 23rd October 2017, 7.30pm Stockport Cricket Club

Present:

Andy Wedderburn (Chair), Chris Moore, Ray Tallis, Terry Tallis, Sandy Broadhurst, Debbie Hind, Jack Wrigley, Dave Owen, Tom Gillespie, Liz Harlow, Graham Trickey, Susie Jacobs, Dickie Davis, Elaine Preece

Apologies: Marj Owen, Phil Welldrake

Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

Louise Hayes (SCCG Head of Communications) - probably left. AW not contacted by replacement.

Action

AW will try to find out who has taken over & email them.

Behaviour towards TT & MO at Labour Party meeting

TT had received a reply from Cllr Elise Wilson (Labour Whip) - had agreed to meet. Cllr Wilson said she was not sure what TT and MO wanted. TT & MO want a written apology.

Vanguard Area

AW had asked his GP about this - surgery didn't know about the consultation.

Prospective Patrons for KONP

TT - support agreed by Baroness Meacher (Molly Meacher - ex Camden MH Trust)

TT would still welcome suggestions of people to approach who resonate with young people.

Tory Conference Protest

30,000 turnout - some coverage.

Unison

SJ had successfully established contact with the union.

Pete Gillard

(KONP organiser in Shrewsbury area) happy to visit SNHSW.

Action - invite to next meeting, 20 November.

Alex Ganotis Letter

AW - does the letter require a response? RT - yes, important correctives needed, as outlined by GT.

AW - AG implies there have been plenty of opportunities for discussion with SNHSW, but this is not the case. We would like a meeting to discuss specific

issues.

TT reminded the meeting that there had been a meeting with Cllr McGee, several years ago - but it transpired that the Health Scrutiny Committee had no specific statutory responsibilities, other than unannounced inspections of council-run care homes.

Last year TT and DH had had a meeting with Cllr Ganotis.

AW - the context had changed since those meetings - so we should seek another meeting with Ganotis and McGee.

SB - reminded the meeting that the Labour Conference had backed Composite 8 - "to repeal and reverse" the 2012 Health & Social Care Act. Stockport Together would not be in line with Labour policy.

Action - write to AG to request a meeting and ask for an independent chair.

Stockport Together - Consultation

DH - distributed paper on this. SNHSW could create its own consultation, via website, to encourage people to look at the implications buried in the business plans and present findings.

RT had received an invitation from Tim Ryley, would reply and suggest dates before consultation closes on 30 November.

Labour Conference - Composite 8

Important that councillors are made aware of this. There would be a meeting in Stockport for information and to discuss how to move Composite 8 on.

KONP Conference in London

4 November - Health Campaigns Together. John Ashworth MP, Shadow Health Secretary, may attend.

Action: SJ to contact Ronan to ask if he would attend conference as SNHSW representative. Expenses to be paid.

KONP - Manchester

DH - report from member of ambulance service (Stoke) where there were safeguarding issues on every shift, such as vulnerable people being returned home without adequate care packages being in place.

Next GM KONP meeting - Thursday 9 November.

Medact

Very concerned about people having to prove eligibility for treatment in NHS.

Push Doctor

Offices in Manchester vacated.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Stockport Council - Thursday 26 October

Stepping Hill Trust - Friday 27 October

SCCG - Wednesday 29 November

CQC report on Stepping Hill Hospital

Trust recruiting from India and has to provide an action plan to address failings raised in report.

Stockport Together not mentioned in response.

Future Campaigning

New leaflet required to reflect new developments

Tuesday mornings to continue

Some SNHSW members might want to attend: NHS protest march - Barnsley - Saturday 28 October and Motorcade to Matlock - Saturday 18 November.

Christmas Event

Kind offer to host by SNHSW member - Friday 15 December.

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm.

Next Meeting Monday 20 November, Stockport Cricket Club