

Project News

DARTMOUTH HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

Working with you, for you.

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Progress Since Last Update:

Since the last newsletter, our contractors have been busy working on the superstructure (structural frame / walls / roof) to the first floor to enable the installation of the roof beams during February. This will then allow the building to be made watertight so that we can start forming the internal rooms and carrying out first fix electrics and plumbing.

We are working closely with the Trust, GPs and other users of the building to finalise how the building will operate on a day-to-day basis, so that all the final details are agreed long before we need them.

We are pleased to be advised by our contractors, Classic Builders, that we remain on programme (despite COVID-19 still causing some issues), although they have had to reprogramme certain works in order to keep on track.

Significant News:

We had been waiting for confirmation from South Hams District Council that they were happy with the way we planned to manage drainage issues in the car park. They have now confirmed they are happy and we can get on with building the car park.



What is next?

Over the next month we should see the completion of the main roof structure with coverings to follow, ongoing works to the car park base and potentially some works may be noticeable on the Townstall Road boundary hedge where the electricity sub station base is being sited.

Results of engagement on the future of the former hospital site

The results of our recent survey show an 85% approval rating for a community bid to acquire the site of the former cottage hospital in Dartmouth. The survey, which was carried out by independent health and social care champion, Healthwatch on behalf of the council and the NHS, was live from 08 November to 10 December. During that time, 642 people responded either online or by filling out a paper copy of the survey, which was available at local venues in and around Dartmouth.



85% of respondents were keen to see a community bid for the site, to deliver social benefit as well as economic value for the community. The remaining 15% expressed some concerns about whether the council had the required funding or expertise to deliver such a significant development project.

People were asked to say what facilities they would like to see on the site and the most popular response was for affordable housing for key workers and local people. Other responses included facilities for community and social groups, health or care services, using the site for commercial purposes or selling it, harbour offices, police services and parking. The full results of the survey are available on the [Healthwatch Devon](#) and [Healthwatch Torbay](#) websites.

Dartmouth Town Councillor, Ged Yardy, commented:

"We have several development companies who are keen to work with us and we will do everything in our power to deliver facilities that local people want for our town. The next step is to share the results of this survey with potential developers and receive their feedback on what they think we can achieve together. Of course, any future development will need to include some commercial elements to help pay for community facilities. At this stage, we are very hopeful. We are grateful to the support from our NHS partners in collaborating on a development brief that we believe would deliver both economic and social benefits for this community."

The former hospital site is no longer needed for healthcare and will be sold to help fund the new, £4.8m Health and Wellbeing Centre. Income generated from any sale is needed by the end of March 2023, to help pay the NHS share of build costs for the new Health and Wellbeing Centre. 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.