Get your free copy
Waltham Forest NEWS
18
Your council keeping residents informed
www.walthamforest.gov.uk @wfcouncil
Spring 2021, issue 237

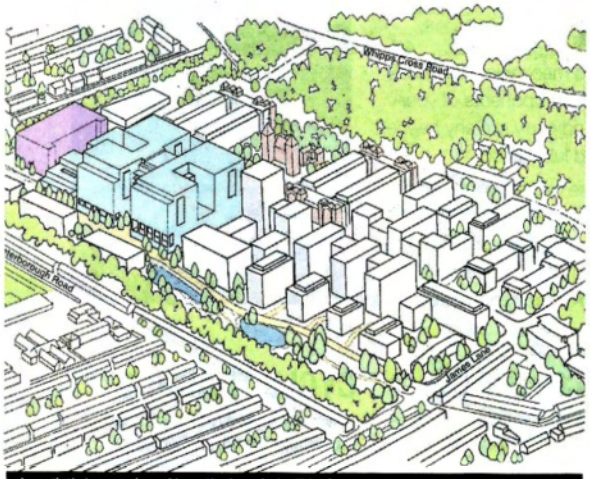
Plans for new hospital at Whipps Cross continue to progress

Project will create 'a hospital in a garden and a garden in a hospital'

Demolition of the former nurses accommodation has begun and Barts Health NHS Trust has submitted planning applications for the hospital and the wider site.

The overarching vision is to create 'a hospital in a garden and a garden in a hospital', creating stronger connections to the local areas and the neighbouring Epping Forest.

The proposed new hospital at Whipps Cross will provide the same core services as today, including A&E, maternity, palliative care, and opthalmology in an improved environment with top-class modern healthcare facilities.



An artist's impression of how the hospital will look

The new hospital will have:

- Improved core NHS services brought closer together for better patient care
- All new clinical departments including intensive care, emergency and maternity
- Increased clinical space for patients
- Easier access and navigation for patients, staff and visitors
- More clinics and same day patient care
- Better access to diagnostics
- Coordinated transport links and improved parking
- A sustainable design

The current hospital can remain fully operational throughout the construction of the new hospital.

The proposals will transform the wider Whipps Cross site with improved transport and access links with new walking and cycling routes. The plans include new green and public spaces and new homes and community facilities. Key elements of the 'heritage' buildings will be retained, including the chapel and the 'bookend pavilions' to the original ward blocks.

Over the last few months, the Trust has been discussing its plans for the hospital with the public, patients and staff in a series of public meetings and an online survey with more than 1,150 responses. The Trust has now submitted planning applications and Waltham Forest Council, as the local planning authority, will now start a statutory consultation on the proposals.

Preparing the ground for a new hospital

The contractor Squibb Group Limited is carrying out a phased demolition of the buildings, to safely remove the old, disused buildings on the site of the former nurses' accommodation.

Safely removing one building at a time will minimise disruption on the site and will allow all current hospital services to continue unaffected. As each old building is removed, new temporary car parking will take its place in order to maintain current parking provision.

Demolition vehicles are entering and leaving via James Lane, through the entrance next to the energy centre, keeping demolition traffic away from the main hospital entrances and exits.

Subject to approvals, the new hospital will be built on this demolition site which will mean the current hospital can remain fully operational throughout the construction of the new hospital.

The proposals will transform the wider Whipps Cross site with improved transport and access links with new walking and cycling routes.

Alastair Finney, Redevelopment Director, Whipps Cross Hospital, said: "We've recently reached two major milestones, submitting our outline planning application and the start of the demolition.

These both represent exciting steps in the plans to bring a new state-of-the-art hospital to Waltham Forest by 2026, followed by a new neighbourhood with new homes, green spaces and local facilities."

More info

For further information about the wider redevelopment plans, visit **bartshealth.nhs.uk/future-whipps**

What are your memories of Whipps Cross?

Matron and staff nurses with lay staff in courtyard of the hospital c.1949. Courtesy of Barts Health NHS Trust Archives

Did you – or anyone you know – live in the nurses' accommodation?

We want to start collecting your memories, and consider ways in which we can celebrate the history of Whipps Cross.

Please share your memories of Whipps Cross Hospital with us by emailing **futurewhipps.bartshealth@nhs.net** and if possible include photos too.