



For Immediate Release

Press Release

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**VINCE CABLE JOINS LOCAL COMMUNITY TO HEAR ABOUT THE FUTURE OF
TEDDINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Vince Cable MP joined a packed hall of local people at the second public meeting, held on Thursday 2 February 2012 by The League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital and local General Practitioners, to hear about their progress on developing a Clinical Strategy and Business Plan for a proposed Social Enterprise Model for Teddington Memorial Hospital.

Teddington Baptist Church was the venue for the meeting, which followed on from the successful public meeting held on 10 November 2011, where the local community overwhelmingly placed their support behind the League and local General Practitioners to explore ways to safeguard the hospital for future generations.

The League and General Practitioners have become increasingly concerned about the future of Teddington Memorial Hospital, a valuable financial asset, which will be part of Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trusts application to become a Foundation Trust in 2014. The worry is not about immediate closure, but that the hospital will become embedded in its structure losing local control and management. The Foundation Trust would be very small in financial terms and if it does not retain its viability it would then be subject to a merger at some stage. Such a merger with another Trust would further remove Teddington Memorial Hospital from being Teddington's local community hospital with General Practitioners involvement and may be used inappropriately or even disposed of.

At the meeting, Dr Graham Lewis MBE, representing General Practitioners from Twickenham, Teddington and Hamptons commented that Teddington Memorial Hospital was, “A unique asset to local GP practices.” But he had concerns for its future and, as with other cottage hospitals in the area, which have closed, “Once it was gone, it was gone forever”.

Dr Lewis outlined the clinical strategy the League and General Practitioners have produced for the hospital if it became a Social Enterprise. The key to the strategy was ensuring patients were first and foremost; providing end-to-end managed care and safe and efficient services, which offered better value for money.

General Practitioner led care was another cornerstone of the strategy, providing local focus for urgent care between 8am – 12pm, 365 days a year at Teddington Memorial Hospital, bringing patients in who do not normally have treatment at the hospital. This will help reduce inappropriate attendance at local Accident and Emergency departments and provide faster access for urgent care locally. Dr Lewis also outlined ideas on how they would develop services and clinics at the hospital to meet the communities’ needs.

Zac Arif, Advisor to the League provided more details of the proposed Social Enterprise Model for Teddington Memorial Hospital. The Social Enterprise Model would be a not for profit organisation, which would exist to provide benefit to its patients and stakeholders. It would work in partnership with other agencies to provide locally managed services, benefiting the community. With support from The League of Friends and general practitioners it would help maintain local accountability and control of the hospital for the future.

The benefits of the Social Enterprise Model would be less bureaucracy, better value for money, allowing savings to be re-invested back into the hospital and of empowering staff further to develop services closer to home. Staff along with the community and local general practitioners, would be its key stakeholders and would have a “real voice” with involvement in the management of the hospital.

Chairman of Teddington Society, Baroness Jenny Hilton chaired the meeting and invited Dr Cable to give his views. Dr Cable said he had followed the work of the League and General Practitioners with interest and commended the

presentation of the Clinical Strategy and Social Enterprise Model. Dr Cable updated the meeting on the progress Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust were making with their application for Foundation Trust status.

Baroness Hilton invited questions from the public to the panel of speakers. A number of members of the community commended the progress the League and General Practitioners had made since the last meeting, with some commenting that the future of Teddington Memorial Hospital must be secured with the support of the community.

Pamela Bryant told the meeting that the League and General Practitioners had consulted the community on their views on the services needed at Teddington Memorial Hospital at drop in meetings held in January 2012. Despite obstacles, the League and General Practitioners have had to find the necessary information needed to proceed with the development of the Social Enterprise Model for the hospital and that they had the support from the community behind them.

Indeed, 12,000 people had shown their support for The League and General Practitioners' vision by signing the paper petition form and online petition www.friends-tmh.org.uk/petition.html .

Mrs Bryant in her closing remarks urged Dr Cable to go back to Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health, to inform him that the League and General Practitioners will continue to do all that is necessary to secure the future of Teddington Memorial Hospital so it can continue to be the 'first class' hospital that serves the local community.

-ENDS-

Notes

- Teddington Memorial Hospital was built in 1928 through the generosity and support of the local community. A Teddington resident gave a property to the community for the town's first hospital, which was sold and the money put towards the building fund. Since opening, the hospital has provided health services to the public of Teddington and those in the surrounding locations.
- It was saved from closure by a strong campaign led by the League of Friends and in 1994 was established as an NHS Trust and for the next six operated as a successful and thriving hospital providing hospital and community services, until change of ownership to Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust.

- The League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital was formed in 1954 as a joint league with two other hospitals. In 1981 it became a separate League of Friends and since then, has worked to improve facilities and equipment at the hospital. The League of Friends is a registered charity and registered charitable company.
- The main aims of The League of Friends is to assist in improving healthcare for public benefit through education and the provision of amenities, building and equipment which may be required for the treatment of patients and to support the charitable work of the hospital. The League of Friends raises funds for its charitable work and receives donations from the public. To date it has raised millions of pounds to improve facilities and services at the hospital.
- For more information on The League of Friends and its work at Teddington Memorial Hospital visit www.friends-tmh.org.uk or email info@friends-tmh.org.uk.