

Press Release STRICT EMBARGO until December 25 2019

RESULT! Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital is set to become the town surgery

At last the news is out! After lengthy and difficult negotiations between the local surgery, the NHS and other organisations, local people can celebrate that work should start soon to revitalise the old cottage hospital building and convert it into a modern, large surgery to serve the town. Planning permission for the revitalisation was granted in September 2019 but negotiations continued to ensure that the key players were able to move ahead with this challenging relocation.

Just 16 months ago the NHS put the old hospital site up for sale on the open market and generated a local revolution with Emsworth United calling a public meeting to make clear their objections to this action. The Cottage Hospital building belonged to Emsworth people originally and since the late 1890s had served the local population on health matters. The NHS took over the ownership of the hospital in 1948 but latterly ran it down then closed it in 2012.

Chair of the Emsworth Residents Association, Dr Theo Schofield OBE said: 'This has been a long struggle for all those involved in the talks. But I know that the people of Emsworth will be delighted to see the hospital building brought back into use. We hope that work on the building will start next month.'

Emsworth Community Land Trust (ECLT) was formed at the time of the Emsworth United 'revolution' about the hospital being up for sale. Since that time in August 2018 our membership has grown to 380 and the committee in charge of ECLT has focused on activities to help Emsworth remain a popular shopping centre and is also exploring the provision of youth facilities. Despite the numbers of new expensive homes being built around the town the ECLT also aims to continue to focus on opportunities for providing affordable homes for those with Emsworth links. The results of the survey conducted by ECLT on the views of local people on housing, health facilities and town centre issues will be out soon.



Ends.....

Website: www.emsworthclt.org.uk

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