Speech to CCG on 24 September 2015

My name is Ian Reissmann, I am a Town Councillor in Henley and Chair of the Townlands Steering Group. I would like to thank you for asking me to speak here today and present the community's view.

The TSG and community fully support any attempt to improve Health Care delivered locally. We also support the principles underpinning Ambulatory Care models.

We are concerned that the proposals in front of you today are unnecessarily risky and incomplete. Our concerns are included in the dossier which accompanied our statement sent to you all yesterday. The TSG and community still believe that the best solution is to re-provide the beds in the hospital when it opens in Dec 2015. The TSG recently made a credible and realistic proposal to operate a joint RACU/Beds service in Townlands hospital. This allowed a more controlled approach to the introduction of the new model. This is in the dossier. The TSG proposal was not considered by the CCG.

Since the Board meeting of 30th July the TSG and CCG have met repeatedly to attempt to reach a mutually agreed position on the services on the Townlands site.

In the course of those meetings, the community and TSG have reluctantly, and with misgivings, agreed to work with the CCG to address community concerns on the CCG proposals. As a result there have been a number of clarifications and modifications to the CCG's plans over recent weeks. However, there remain a small number of key issues which have so far proved intractable. In particular the number of leased beds when the OSJ opens in June/July 2016. As you can see in the dossier, we do not believe that the data and modelling of need for beds is sufficiently robust. We are also concerned about the quality of care available in the beds leased from the Care Home compared to an NHS operated bedded facility as originally planned.

We believe these proposals threaten the safe delivery of health care.

We are concerned at the lack of a risk register, although we note the paper to the board does refer to its existence. We were unaware of this document. This has not been shared with us or (apparently) members of the governing body.

The TSG will need to go back to the community to discuss the next steps.

The TSG will continue to work with the CCG to resolve the remaining issues to make the best of the proposals despite our concerns. However we note the considerable flexibility shown by the community in working with the CCG on proposal which do not include any hospital beds. We ask the CCG to adopt a similarly flexible approach to reaching agreement.

Please be aware of the considerable flexibility shown by the community in working with the CCG on these proposals which do not include beds in the hospital. Will the CCG adopt a similarly flexible approach in response to the genuine concerns of community?

Cllr Ian Reissmann
Chair Townlands Steering Group