

*Q1. Why are you rebuilding the hospice?*

Our existing hospice facility was expected to last for 25 year and that was 30 years ago. Palliative Care has changed and developed over the years and in order to provide the best possible facilities to support the high standard of care provided by our specialist multi-disciplinary team, we need to rebuild the hospice.

*Q.2 Why not move to a new site?*

Our location here is ideal and was chosen because of its access to sea views and garden areas. Now, 30 years on, we have well established links in the area; both professionally and with local supporters.

*Q3. How does the proposal improve facilities?*

The proposed design increases the amount of space available for patients. This gives us the opportunity to offer more flexible care, increasing the services we provide and helping more people

*Q4. What facilities will be available in the new Hospice development?*

St. Columba's plans to build a new 30 bed in-patient unit, day hospice, education wing and base for the community palliative care nurses who work in the community, supporting people in their own homes. The Hospice will also be providing facilities for support departments from catering and laundry, to accounts and fundraising.

*Q5. Why are you still only having 30 in-patient beds?*

We are advised by the Health Board that there will be a need for 30 beds going forward. We receive approximately 50 % of our funding from the Health Board. However, we will be changing the configuration of the rooms so that we have a far greater number of single rooms and will move to 3 bedded instead of 4 bedded rooms. This will increase our occupancy rates and, therefore, more people will be able to access the specialist help and support provided at St. Columba's.

*Q4. How will having more single rooms and smaller room sizes make this possible?*

It is quite simple really. At the moment we may be unable to admit a male patient as we only have beds available in a female ward, and vice versa. If we have more single rooms and move to 3 bedded, from 4 bedded wards we will have much more flexibility in who we can admit at any given time.

*Q5. Will any other services be extended or developed?*

Our out-patient service will be extended which will enable us to help more people in need of our services. We will also be redeveloping our education wing as sharing our specialist skills and knowledge is an important part of the ethos of St. Columba's Hospice. Although the in-patient unit will still have 30 beds we are redesigning the space to have a far greater number of single rooms and fewer beds in shared rooms.

*Q6. What will the impact be on parking in the surrounding streets?*

Overall the proposal increases the amount of parking available. Off street parking at 17 Boswall Road and there will be an increase in the amount of accessible parking on the Challenger site.

*Q7. Is the new hospice going to be environmentally sustainable?*

Where practical, sustainable features such as rainwater recycling and solar panels, will be incorporated into the design. However our priority is providing the highest standard of care to our patients and their families. Also, Challenger Lodge and 17 Boswall Road are both listed buildings and we are therefore required to restore and reinstate the buildings to their original state.

*Q8. How long will the construction last?*

We are planning for the development to be done in three phases, allowing us to have beds available to our patients throughout. Each phase is anticipated to last for several months and progress will be closely monitored.