THE JOURNEY TO OUR NEW HOSPITAL

Newsletter

NHS Airedale NHS Foundation Trust

November 2025

Welcome to the Airedale New Hospital newsletter

We hope you find this update about the journey to our new hospital useful and informative. There's plenty more information at www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk on our dedicated new hospital pages or on our Securing the Future app, available on the App Store or Google Play.

In this edition

- This page: Major milestone as planning application submitted for new multi-storey car park
- Next page: Your views on the future hospital and its services.

New multi-storey car park plans important first step towards new hospital

This month marks a major milestone on our journey to a new hospital with a full planning application submitted for the new multi-storey car park and new access road into the hospital site.

The car park, in the southwest corner of the hospital grounds, will bring a host of benefits ahead of the new hospital being built. It will vastly increase the amount of accessible, family parking, motorcycle and electric charging spaces on the site.

The new access road from Skipton Road will help improve traffic flow around the site and will be used to keep construction traffic separate while building work takes place. There will also be clear routes for pedestrians and cyclists, and improved access to the hospital.

The multi-storey car park will improve car parking capacity throughout the new hospital build, and for the future. Key features include:

- 1,280 wider car parking spaces, 91 accessible parking spaces and 46 family spaces
- 31 motorcycle spaces and cycle parking provision at ground floor level
- Digital signs showing available space and automatic number plate recognition
- Easy access to and from the hospital and an accessible toilet on the ground floor level
- Clear routes marked for pedestrians will be provided from the lifts
- Electric vehicle charging points for both staff and visitors.

The planning application will soon be open to public comment on the Bradford Council planning portal for the normal 21-day statutory consultee period. The Council Planning Committee will then consider it with a decision expected to be made in February.

The planning application also includes groundworks for a possible substation, in case it needs to be built there as an alternative location to earlier plans. The groundworks would have to be done at the same time as the car park works, but any final plans for the substation would be part of a separate planning application. Plans to relocate the Trust's nursery, which was also part of the pre-planning consultation with local people held last year, will be submitted in a later planning application.

The feedback received from patients, local people and staff has been vital to shaping the car park plans. Where planning and technical regulations allowed, the car park design incorporates suggestions gathered from people last year including larger bays, more accessible parking spaces and electric charging spaces. It will also have a laser cut visual design that reflects the surrounding nature of the hospital and support sustainability with solar panels on the roof.

Artist's impression - how the car park could look

Thanks to everyone who has been getting involved

Shaping the design of our new hospital - your views

We've been asking for your views on the design of our new hospital through workshops and an online survey. Firstly a really big thank you to everyone who got involved. below is a summary of what we heard. When asked about the new hospital, we were told:

- You are open to digital solutions but want these tools to complement, not replace, face-to-face assistance and personal care.
- It's important that it's easy to find your way around the new hospital with nice clear signs from the moment you arrive at the hospital site.
- You were open to using technology for lots of different things, including apps to find your way around, but told us that there need to be other tools for people who cannot access or use technology.
- You were very keen to make sure there were communal areas to combat loneliness, especially with a move to single patient rooms.
- A positive environment for staff was important to you as you said staff are what make the hospital welcoming - not just the building.
- You want a bright clean and spacious environment with lots of natural light and seating.
- You also suggested any available retail space could be used by local charities and businesses.

We also asked you about providing hospital services in the community and close to people's homes. You told us:

- You wanted more outpatient and diagnostic and testing services in the community. Ideas included blood tests and physiotherapy.
- Other ideas included working with local councils on transport, and working closely with existing local health centres.

All your thoughts and feedback will be shared with the teams designing the new hospital.

Remember, you can now find us on Facebook too. Just click on the icon.

Looking at services for the future

We've had some really useful discussions with patients and the public about how our hospital services might look in the future.

Sessions in Skipton and Keighley gave us the chance to listen to people's views and ideas, and learn from their experiences.

As we look ahead to our new hospital, it is a perfect opportunity to turn a spotlight on how we deliver care for the people of Airedale, both on the main site and out in the community.

The NHS nationally has been told to provide more services in community settings.

We already provide some outpatient and diagnostic services in this way – for example at Settle Health Centre and Skipton Hospital - but we need to do more. We are working with health and care partners in Bradford District and Craven to develop a neighbourhood health service, which will support this approach. Our aim is to deliver as much care in community settings as possible by 2040, with people only needing to go to hospital for the most serious or complex treatment.

Our discussions with attendees about services which could be provided in the community, and ideas about where they could be, were positively received.

Everything we heard is feeding into our future plans, helping us to shape services to meet the needs of all our communities.

Important first step in approvals process

There are three main stages of approval for the funding for our new hospital by the national New Hospital Programme. Later this year we will be submitting the first stage, known as the Strategic Outline Case (SOC). Each stage represents significant detailed work, carried out both in the Trust and with our key partners in the system.

The SOC makes the case for why we need a new hospital and considers how to make best use of the whole site through a masterplan approach.

Future stages in this process are submission of the Outline Business Case and then the Full Business Case.

We would like to thank all our partners for their support in helping us towards this first major milestone in the national approval process.