

MORETONHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, 6 OCTOBER 2026

Moretonhampstead Hospital Update

1. Introduction

This paper provides an update on the future of Moretonhampstead's Community Hospital, for the council's information.

2. Progress

As agreed at the parish council meeting on 7 July 2026, the parish council's representatives—Cllrs Fileman-Wright, Evans and Walden—have stepped down from the Hospital Working Group. Their final meeting was held on 3 September. The group now comprises Moretonhampstead Health Centre, NED Care, MDT and Global City Futures.

The working group is now focused on preparing a community bid with the aim of:

- Identifying the lead community organisation for the bid with 3 years of accounts (a requirement of NHS-PS)
- Preparing a business case
- Fundraising
- Negotiations with the NHS Property Services
- Setting up a Community Benefit Society¹, which would run the hospital from April 2027
- Putting in place the necessary arrangements to run the building as a community health hub from April 2027.

At time of writing, two community organisations are considering whether they could lead a community bid for the hospital. This is being discussed with their Boards.

Once a lead organisation has been agreed, the working group will provide the community with an update.

Cllr Fileman-Wright has written to NHS-PS and Rt Hon Sir Mel Stride MP to let them know progress.

3. Background Information

The petition to save the hospital continues to gather public support with 2,152 signatures (at time of writing), a small increase (27) since July.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-the-sale-of-moretonhampstead-hospital-return-it-to-the-people-of-moreton>

The website for the campaign to save the hospital is here:

<https://moretonhampstead-pc.gov.uk/news/information-shared-on-the-future-of-moretonhampstead-hospital/>

Paper by: Cllr Fileman-Wright

¹ A **Community Benefit Society** (often called a BenCom) is a special not-for-profit business run by local people to help their community rather than to make private money. Any profits must be re-used in the business, and BenComs are often used to protecting local assets.