



Carillion doing well with hospitals project

Carillion Construction Ltd are in the latter stages of a project to redevelop the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth. The site of their work for clients Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust is in Cosham. It is in an elevated position to the North of Portsmouth, with views out across the Solent to the Isle of Wight in the northern suburbs of Portsmouth backing on to open land on the side of Portsdown Hill below Forts Widley, Purbrook, Southwick and Nelson built by Lord Palmerston.

Healthcare has been provided on this site for 100 years. It was the site of a military hospital which opened in 1908 before later transferring to the NHS. The Trust still has strong military links and hosts a Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit.

The Hospital Company is a consortium made up of the Carillion Group and the Royal Bank of Scotland who are the shareholders. Carillion is a leading provider of Private Finance Initiative projects and facilities management to the public sector. The Royal Bank of Scotland is a major funding provider in the UK PFI market.

The Hospital Company has experience of large hospital Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects. Their completed projects include The Great Western Hospital (Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust) and Darent Valley Hospital (Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust).

Established in 1993, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the largest Acute Hospitals in

the country. It provides a wide range of acute general and specialist services to more than half a million patients across Portsmouth and South East Hampshire. With an annual budget in excess of £300 million, the Trust employs 8000 staff and contributes significantly to the Hampshire economy. The Trust also hosts the largest Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit in the country.

The Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust is currently operating over three sites. These being the Queen Alexandra, the Royal Haslar and St Mary's in the centre of Portsmouth. With the need to upgrade the facilities and to expand capacity to meet rising demand, it made sense to redevelop the acute health facilities at the Queen Alexandra Hospital site.

The challenge is to deliver a modern environment where current clinical best practice is the starting point for continuous improvement and patients are cared for in clean, safe, high quality surroundings that make best use of resources.

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The main objective is to help patients recover faster, by providing all the necessary facilities and support for hospital staff and by making possible the highest levels of motivation and quality of care.

The facilities Carillion will deliver meet the immediate needs of the Portsmouth community, increasing patient access and reducing waiting times. At the same time, they must be flexible enough to support changing healthcare needs and the future strategy of the Trust.

The new hospital comprises two buildings linking with the existing hospital and the hospital has a helipad for the Emergency Services helicopter on the roof of the Pathology Building which was completed in phase one of the project

A very large amount of co-operation, communication and negotiation has occurred between hospital staff and Carillion to deal with the challenges of building a new hospital while clinical services continue to be provided in the existing buildings.

With the signing of an 'Early Works' agreement between Carillion and the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust on 12 January 2005 a formal Ground Breaking Ceremony was held at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham on the 15th January 2005

In February 2007 contractors working on Carillion's QA Project broke through the one million man-hour milestone worked on

site since works commenced in April 2005.

At the time Project Director Graham Aubrey commented, "We are delighted to have reached this milestone in the construction of Portsmouth's excellent new hospital facilities. The project is going extremely well and we are well on schedule - we successfully completed and handed over the Rehabilitation building last year, will complete and hand over Pathology this year and we have recently begun dry lining the interior and cladding the exterior of the main hospital building."

Originally a military hospital, Queen Alexandra Hospital was built in 1904-1908 to replace an earlier hospital, which stood in Lion Street in

Portsea. The original buildings were of red brick construction, and the site was in a largely rural area, linked to Portsmouth and the surrounding villages (now suburbs) by a tram service.

The demilitarisation of the hospital began in 1926 when it was handed to the Ministry of Pensions, to care for disabled ex-servicemen. The Second World War saw the first civilian patients admitted, and several temporary huts added to the site to increase capacity. As with many makeshift hospitals from the era, the huts stayed in place for several years after the war.

Following the creation of the National Health Service (NHS) in 1948, all but 100 of the 640 beds were transferred to the NHS in 1951, with the remainder reserved for ex-servicemen. A League of Friends was established one year later. Development of the hospital under the NHS was rapid, and a Cerebral Palsy Unit was built in 1955, comprising of two classrooms, a physiotherapy room, a speech and language therapy room, a staff room and a kitchen. The unit opened in 1956. This was followed in 1957 by an outpatients unit, and in 1958 by the hospital chapel.

In 1960 the existing buildings were upgraded with a new boiler system. The League of Friends funded two new day rooms, which were added in 1962, when the main block was refurbished. A library was added in 1963.



Later in the 1960s, it was announced that the Queen Alexandra would become a district general hospital, complete with an Accident and Emergency department. This involved the construction of several new buildings, which began in 1968 with an eye department, a training school for nurses and two three-storey blocks for staff accommodation. A further two accommodation blocks, this time nine storeys high, were added later, being completed in 1976. Only two of the planned three new ward blocks were built.

Patients were transferred from the Royal Portsmouth Hospital in 1979, with the Queen Alexandra Hospital, including a new breast unit, being officially opened a year later by Princess Alexandra. Over the subsequent three years, the South Block was refurbished, culminating in the Trevor Howell Day Hospital opening in 1983. Five years later, a new diabetes unit opened, followed by a rehabilitation unit in 1991.

A further rebuilding of the hospital was announced in 1999, although contracts to redevelop the hospital were not signed until 2005, with an estimated completion date of 2009. Building work is underway on a new pathology laboratory, mortuary and entrance road, and some of the original buildings of the military hospital have been demolished to make way for the new main hospital buildings. The Trust also plans to build a new cancer laboratory on the site, when sufficient funds are raised.

Inside each floor is themed with maritime features such as “under the sea”, “on the seashore” etc. These floors are colour coded.

The Carillion Project team at the QA Hospital have been really working hard, not only on the project, but also recycling used prescription spectacles for donation to the Charity ‘Vision Aid Overseas’. Since the team arrived in Portsmouth they have collected, to date, 1,885 pairs of spectacles with the help of the Hampshire Constabulary and many local residents in the Greater Portsmouth area.

Vision Aid Overseas is the UK Charity that strives to live up to its strap line ‘Helping the world to see’ by sending teams of optometrists and dispensing opticians to 14 countries in the developing world each year. Vision Aid Overseas became a charity in 1985 and over the years has provided some 500,000 eye tests and has given

250,000 people the ability to see with a pair of spectacles.

Back in May, 2005, when the time came for Portsmouth Queen Alexandra Hospital to be part demolished and rebuilt, wildlife protection laws dictated that every effort should be made to locate any bat roosts existing in the old Victorian buildings. As bats are protected, any they found would have to be re-housed before the buildings came down.

Carillion brought in a specialist company to look

for signs of habitation. The first few layers of slates were removed to look for them in the eaves and morning and evening bat-watches were set up. Finally it was decided that no bats were living in the buildings to be demolished.

As part of the planning consent for the project, various trees needed to be felled. The Carillion team adopted a solution, which involved chipping the trees on site and donating the chippings to a local riding school for use on hacking trails through an area of woodlands. This provided an alternative use for the chippings rather than simply



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disposing of them at a landfill site.

Carillion is committed to building the new healthcare facilities at Queen Alexandra Hospital in an environmentally friendly way, acting on the principle that the more that is done today to make sure the development is sustainable, then the better things will be in the future.

To achieve this Carillion has taken advice from the environmentalist, Jonathon Porritt CBE, Chairman of ‘The Natural Step’, a national charity that works with a wide variety of companies, assisting them to develop and implement a Sustainable Development Action Plan.

In practical terms this means looking at such issues as pollution control, waste reduction, energy use, bio-diversity and a more effective use of transport. Carillion and its sub-contractors set targets in order to focus on issues such as how materials are used on the site, and making sure they are used efficiently, segregating waste that can be reused or recycled; this means less transport on and off site, and less waste for landfill as well as encouraging suppliers and manufacturers to minimise packaging and selecting ethically produced materials where ever possible.

Jonathon Porritt says, “ We believe advice of this kind can be really helpful to a company like Carillion. Of all the business and sustainability initiatives that have been introduced over the last few years, ours is the most scientifically rigorous, and potentially the most helpful to companies and organisations that are keen to more beyond the basics”.

BDP were the architects who produced the designs

for the new buildings which will enhance the hospitals ability to provide a service of the highest quality. Work at the site began in January 2006 and is expected to be complete in June next year. In total the project will cost in the the region of £236 million.

The redevelopment presents a tremendous opportunity to deliver an excellent standard of healthcare more efficiently and to enhance provision for training and research. The Hospital Company, with a proven commitment to long-term quality and value in healthcare, can help realise these objectives through a partnership between it and the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

The challenge is to deliver a modern environment where current clinical best practice is the starting point for continuous improvement and patients are cared for in clean, safe, high quality surroundings that make best use of resources.

The facilities that Carillion will provide must meet the immediate needs of the Portsmouth community, increasing patient access and reducing waiting times. At the same time, they must be flexible enough to support changing healthcare needs and the future strategy of the Trust.

When the building work is finished QAH will provide facilities including over one thousand inpatient beds, nearly one hundred medical & surgical assessment beds, twenty main operating theatres and over two thousand car parking spaces will be available for patients, staff and visitors.

Architects BDP’s award-winning healthcare team has more than 300 people working under both PFI and framework agreements.

A link bridge connects the hospital with the new Pathology Block located 60m away. Following a structural assessment, the proposed bridge was split into two separate structures to avoid excessive loading on the existing building. Buro Happold’s bridges group developed a concept design, prepared detailed construction drawings and assisted the contractors throughout the fabrication and installation phases.

The project presented some challenging site constraints: for example, the intermediate support – which is subject to high impact loads – is located in close proximity to an underground duct which feeds numerous services vital to the hospital’s operation. Careful foundation design and co-operation with the contractors allowed pile installation to proceed without major problems.

David Bailey Furniture Systems

Specialist fitted furniture manufacturer and supplier, David Bailey Furniture Systems, is currently working with Carillion Plc on a major redevelopment project at Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth.

Carillion Building, the Design and Construct contractor for the scheme has ordered a wide selection of furniture from David Bailey Furniture Systems’ Healthline range, including floor-mounted and wall-hung units, cupboards, storage units, staff bases and all counter worktops that provide an easy-clean surface for hygienic purposes.

David Smythe, Carillion’s Equipment and Commissioning Manager for the Queen Alexandra Hospital contract, commented, “We know we can

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expect high quality products and a reliable service from David Bailey Furniture Systems and these factors are very important when choosing suppliers to work with. This project has been born out of our experience of working with them over the last 10 years.”

Previously, David Bailey Furniture Systems and Carillion Plc have successfully been brought together on a number of PFI hospital contracts, including installations at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, the Great Western Hospital in Swindon and the Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford.

David Bailey Furniture Systems has been manufacturing and supplying quality fitted and bespoke furniture for the healthcare and education sectors since 1982 and has built a solid and unrivalled reputation. Specifications extend from doctors' surgeries and health centres to large

hospital developments, prisons, schools and colleges.

Heritage Pools Ltd are pleased to be associated with the successful completion of the Hydrotherapy Pool installation at the Queen Alexandre Hospital.

They are sure the facility will be of great benefit to the local community.

Heritage Pools Ltd specialise in the design and construction of all types of quality swimming pools, all of their swimming pools feature a reinforced shotcrete pool shell, and the use of high quality finish materials such as ceramic, porcelain and glass mosaic tiles as well as natural stone products such as slate and limestone.

As well as the pool finishes the filtration and heating systems are designed to perform to

rigorous standards, and they offer a full design service for the Pool Hall Environmental Control systems.

There are exciting developments in the use of moving wall and floor systems that allow the facility to offer multi- functional areas.

Heritage Pools Ltd work throughout the UK and Ireland, with all works carried out by their own fully trained personnel.

Mailbox Mouldings International Ltd designed, manufactured and installed the HTM 71 Materials Management System at the Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth.

The HTM 71 high density storage systems, a modular system were specified to meet the dynamic needs of the new hospital, delivering savings in time, space and money.



Mailbox Mouldings will be at the The Association for Perioperative Practice 44th Annual Congress & Exhibition. 6th which is being held from 6th-9th October 2008 at the Harrogate International Centre. North Yorkshire.

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S&B have worked with Carillion in all its guises for many years. Working with CES and Carillion staff has enabled them to refine and supply their hoarding products to match Carillion's exacting requirements both now and in the future

