



# Felixstowe Community Hospital League of Friends

*Supporting Felixstowe Hospital and health services in caring  
for our community*

## Occasional Grant Update

Background:

The Felixstowe Hospital League of Friends is a locally based charity that seeks to support the Felixstowe Hospital and local health services.

We raise funds through local publicity and events, funding items that the NHS are not always able to easily provide themselves. Whilst this includes technical equipment, it also includes items that make any patient's stay better and improves the working environment for both patients and staff.

In November 2023 the Felixstowe Community Hospital League of Friends submitted an application for Occasional Grant Funding.

Whilst the charity had undertaken gardening work to improve the patient garden area, we were conscious that, during rest periods, staff have either the option to sit in the public garden or remain inside. We were aware that an area of garden had been 'gated' off to ensure patients are within a secure area and this had left a rectangular area outside that is private to the public. In discussion with the hospital Estates team we identified this as a great area to revamp and create a nice garden, rest area for the staff, which can be used on days when the weather allows.

We were thrilled when the council agreed to support us and provide a fund of £1,650. This would be added to by LoF funds and also some monies from the Ipswich hospital charity fund. Sadly, due to weather work is only now commencing, however there is a clear plan and the expectation that the garden area will be completed by the end of April 2024.

There is staggered programme of works as follows:

**Phase 1 – Ground works** – The LoF have already provided some paving slabs to make a small patio area and all other items are now scheduled to be delivered to site on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. To enhance the patio area wider, some membrane will be laid with blue slate on top to cover the wider rectangular area. All work is being undertaken by the Hospital Estates team contractors to ensure there is no 'liability' levied against the charity. Ground works should commence around the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Phase 2 – Seating** – As the area sits in full sun during the Summer months as pergola structure has been purchased from Notcutts to stand over the patio. A good quality seating set has also been procured from Notcutts and will be placed on the patio area. (To minimise the need for annual maintenance a good quality set has been sourced).

**Phase 3 – Planting** – The Estates team have sourced several plants that will be placed in the ground. There will also be some frost-free pots which will be planted up. We hope that we will also be able to provide some other forms of decoration (bird feeder/wind chime etc).

The total spend will come in at just under £2k and as mentioned should be completed by the end of April ready to serve staff through the Spring and Summer. Staff at the hospital are all looking forward to using the facility.



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We are currently making arrangements for the mayor and local councillors to attend site for a publicity photograph showing the commencement of works. Our intention will be to publicise this via our social media pages as well as through the Spotlight magazine. We will provide copies of any photos to the council for their own publicity.

Many thanks

**Jo Webster**

Secretary of League of Friends

