# Bootham Park Hospital SiteBriefing Notes following public engagement

## Background & Methodology

My Future York have been involved with Bootham Park Hospital site by working with City of York Council and One Public Estate to develop a relatively brief public engagement programme. Our work is generally longer-term and embraces the establishment of an open conversation by building a brief, exploring the challenges which it throws up, and then making change together to ensure public/private investment is matched by community-led change and animation.

With Bootham Park Hospital, given the time constraints imposed by the pause in the disposal process, we have focussed upon building a community vision for the possibilities of the site – incomplete and in some areas conflicting – but bringing a context which reflects both lingering anger over the loss of Bootham Park as a hospital and the plans to sell the site as well as the many positive ideas that have been shared as part of the process.

We ran a one-day event on site on 27th October in partnership with [Coaching York](http://coachingyork.co.uk/), and preceded this with networking and site visits with a number of groups and individuals who brought specific skills, understanding or agendas for change. We have also incorporated into our briefing notes below all input via post-its on [the consultation exhibitions](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/16897/bootham_park_exhibition) at York District Hospital, West Offices and the Citadel, plus those from other events such as the Save Bootham Park Hospital evening event and the Guildhall ward meeting. Furthermore, we have incorporated input given via the [online questionnaire and social media](https://www.york.gov.uk/boothampark).

We have used this information to identify the issues which were seen as important and to build links between them where this is helpful. This is not a vote – there is no attempt to count “for” and “against” comments in relation to any issues, but where there is strong feeling this is noted.

# Main issues

## York’s sense of ownership of the site and how this influences the brief

[Frustration and even some anger](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpownpublicownedmyfutureyork/) was expressed about the untimely closure of the hospital in 2015 and the site being perceived to be “given away”. These feelings fuel resentment about local control over the site now [needing to be “bought back”](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpownnosalemyfutureyork/) in order to influence its future. In contrast, there were a few comments on social media that were concerned about any further public money being spent on a site believed to be expensive site to maintain and that it should be sold in the public interest. In general, many people did not understand the process whereby ownership and benefit [had become national](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/44827817304/in/photolist-2bepAPM-2cuy9Cu-29GMvcE-2coXvRm-Qkyw2E-2ctpQmR-2ctpQkt-2ctpQjB-NH7Psg-ND8GqT-2biif5N-2cpnWYg-2cjVCqw-2bihhiN-2cphKMt-29CGcvS-2coazLB-2aYKLCp-2aTwV3X-2bberE1-NrH3E6-2aP6fiX-2c8nPt3-29rmJz1-2aMnx6z-29pDDEE-29pDDsA-2c6EcpN-2c6DUcS), not local. (It should be noted though that many people were [positive about being engaged](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpengagementmyfutureyork/) in the debate about the brief).

This shaped debate; there was a resistance to uses which are seen as not [being for the local population](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpownforyorkpeoplemyfutureyork/) – for example hotels or upmarket housing, and while [many people supported the proposals](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacesboothamschoolmyfutureyork/) from Bootham School to improve playing facilities (for their use during school hours and community use outside of these) there was also some [scepticism about Bootham School](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesnotboothamschoolmyfutureyork/) taking any form of “ownership” of the front open space.

## Importance of heritage – both tangible (buildings and setting) and intangible (historic use for mental health provision).

The [main building](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacesmainbuildingmyfutureyork/) is seen as a gem that needs to be kept intact, and its [setting and frontage](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacesarchitecturalsettinmyfutureyork/) are also seen as important and was a particular theme of the twitter discussions. Specific internal features were mentioned [such as the tiles](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpsignificancetilesmyfutureyork/), and there were contrasting views on whether this limited the use of the building or provided particularly appealing [features for specific uses](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/31691791668/in/photolist-29GMsw9-2bnmRGj-QhuHxb-2aMnwDc/).

Perhaps even more than the specific buildings, though, the [role of the site in developing mental health care](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpsignificanceheritagementalhealthmyfutureyork/) over many years is felt to be important. Many people are [current or former professionals in mental health](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/30590903757/in/photolist-2cpqdya-ND8Fgt-NBdo2v-NBdnV8-NBdo1i-NBdnTV-2aTwUj2-2b6WktG-29rmULJ-2aMnF86-2aMnExD-ND8GgV-2cpqe4i-2cpqe3r-2cpqdFV-2cpqdux-ND8FpK-2cpnXbF-2cpnX1a-2cpnWSe-2bihhMU-2cphKQK-29CGcn5-2bicXGC-2cphKb8-2ciHnp9-2aZpguZ-2coaz4K-2aYKLD6-2aYKLCz-2bgofUA-29vHpBq-2aTwUQT-2aTwUG6-29vHoQW-29vHoH1-2b6WkZ1-NrH2Ng-2b6Wi9S-29rmVjN-2b6Wfeo-2aP6gic-2aP6en8-2c8nRFj-2aMnFfF-2aMnF1x-2aMnEpc-2aMnDPz-2cb9tjT-2aMnx4a), or [former users](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/31726489568/in/photolist-Qkyy1Q) of the services it provided, but beyond that there was widespread acknowledgement of the importance of mental health care and hence of the role of Bootham Park Hospital in the city.

Many people commented on the [benefits of a city-centre location](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmoveconnectedmyfutureyork/) for some aspects of mental health care – the value for someone recovering of being able to rejoin outside life by simply walking into the nearby city centre, whilst having the peace of the site to return to.

In terms of the intangible heritage of the site – innovation in mental wellbeing – there was interest in a broad and wide reading of what that might mean today, to include therapeutic benefits of green space, sport, culture and the arts.

‘*green area open to public, pedestrian and cycle access routes, community space, mental health drop-in safe haven, emergency accommodation for mental health patients, community garden to aid mental health recovery, accommodation for hospital/mental health unit staff, existing car park’* (online survey)

## The links between the site and the District Hospital

The site offers opportunities for the hospital to develop provision which improves its own function; a frequent comment was that [“transitional” facilities](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusestransitionalcaremyfutureyork/) – for patients moving from in-patient care to a return home – would reduce “[bed-blocking](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45598815301/in/photolist-2cDASVC-2cxHSTW-29GMvKy-QkyxJY-QkyxLS-Qkyw67-QkyvT3-2ctpR9H-2ctpPAH-2ctpNq6-2cn2eyf-2cn2eu7-NXRG62-2cDATfL-QujYvL-2b8vdge-2coXva1-Qkyxjj-QkywhQ-QkyvGw-NH7Puk-NE2tei-QhrQX7-29DGqM5-29DGpMu-2ckRuH9-ND8Gq2-ND8Fsv-NBdo1i-Q76SSQ-2b6WkZ1-2b2wvBF-ND8Gtt-2cpnXdp-2b1zgAV-2aZpgKZ-NBdo4K-2aTwUvK-2b6WnVq-2aP6ePv)” and hence make better use of the hospital’s acute facilities. There was also much discussion of [provision of drop-in facilities](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesdropinmyfutureyork/) or short-term accommodation for specific conditions, [for example dementia](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesdementiamyfutureyork/), or for treatment and support [for the elderly](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesolderpeoplemyfutureyork/).

*‘I feel it should retain a health focus. More beds for rehab are needed to stop bed blocking before social service help can be set up to free up acute beds, Whitecross overstretched’.* (online survey)

The hospital is seen as being constrained, and people commented that the site offers [space for it to expand into](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesextendhospitalmyfutureyork/); the northern part of the site already contains a number of buildings and there appeared little concern about retaining this part of the site unchanged. There were also comments that the existing [buildings might be suitable for re-use](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45548411062/in/photolist-2bkkjVz-29GMusU-2coXvJ7-2c6DU8J-2coXvfS-2coazdT-NpWTMF-2aMnp1X-2c6DU9q) for other healthcare purposes.

[Parking for hospital staff](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovestaffparkingmyfutureyork/) was also raised as an issue within overall – very mixed – [discussion of parking issues](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmoveparkingmyfutureyork/).

## The value of the site for pedestrian and cycle routes, both now and in future

Many people said how important [walking](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovewalkmyfutureyork/) and [cycling](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovecyclemyfutureyork/) routes are which run north-south avoiding Gillygate and these have clearly been used by many people for a long time. An immediate point made was to ‘unlock the gates’ and to ease cycle flow and avoid cyclists having to pass through the pedestrian gate (online survey).

*‘It's currently not open every day of the week, the pathways aren't continuous, the bit where there is a gate and bit for bicycles to pass through is a bit awkward with people often competing for space to get through’* (online survey)

With the gradual improvement of cycling facilities in the city has come a more strategic understanding and an awareness that [routes need to link up](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45548410752/in/photolist-2cDAT6N-2cDAT1h-2cDASNU-2cxHSXd-2cxHSRm-2bw9iud-2bqcZkA-2bqcZi1-29GMvGs-2coXvCL-QkyxCW-Qkyx9E); the upcoming [improvements to Scarborough Bridge](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovescarboroughbridgemyfutureyork/) are seen as important. If they are to be seen as part of a cycle route west of the city centre, then links [between the bridge and the site](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovecrossingboothammyfutureyork/) become important, along with [links from the site to the north](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacesbridgelanemyfutureyork/) into other protected routes. There was an awareness of the issues around the original hospital wall but a wish to balance the preservation of history with [provision of safe movement](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45647599412/in/photolist-2cxHSY5-2bw9iKo-QhuHnw-2coazrZ-2coazmP-2cxHSUs-2coazi2).

*‘The path from Bootham to the front of the John Carr building is easy and welcoming. The part through towards the District Hospital is miserable and uninviting’* (online survey)

This theme also cropped up in consideration of [use of routes at night](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmoveatnightmyfutureyork/); there were [concerns over safety](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovesafetymyfutureyork/) but largely seen as a temporary issue brought about by lack of activity. Increased site use and [improved lighting](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovelightingmyfutureyork/) would transform this. Also, [the bridge across the Scarborough railway line](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacesbridgelanemyfutureyork/) was seen by some as a barrier for cyclists, and improvements to this were requested.

In addition to through-routes, the site was identified by a number of people as forming a useful [southern access route to the hospital](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/44717174925/in/photolist-2cDAT1h-2cxHT19-2cxHSY5-2cxHSXd-2cxHSW1-2cxHSWm-2cxHSRm-2bw9iKo-2bw9iud-2cuyLKj-2b8vdiD-2b8vdbz-29GMvKy-29GMvGs-Qkyw9o-2ctpR78-2ctpR1r-2bnmRF7-2bnmRDU-QhuHrj-QhuHq7-QhuHoo-QhuHnw-29DKcf9-2cqn2ZK-2cqn2WZ-2cqj8JX-2cqj7zT-ND8Gq2-ND8Gjk-2cpqe12-ND8Fsv-2biif7m-2biif2G-2bicYmd-2cphKnF-ND1aP6-2cjRaWC-ND1aG2-2coazmP-2coazjV-2ccY4GR-29pDZV9-2aMnEUF-NpWFz4-NpWFwP-2aMnEcD-29pDDw3-29pDDmJ-2c6DUqh). While a few people noted this as a possible vehicle bypass for Bootham and Gillygate (online survey), a much more common thought was to see this as enabling walking and cycling but also potential provision of a [“hospibus” service](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45766827291/in/photolist-2cJfXga-2cDAT8S-2cDAT3G-2cDAT1h-2cxHT19-2cxHSY5-2cxHSXd-2cxHSW1-2cxHSWm-2cxHSRm-2bw9iKo-2bw9iud-2cuyLKj-2b8vdiD-2b8vdbz-29GMvKy-29GMvGs-Qkyw9o-2ctpR78-2ctpR1r-2bnmRF7-2bnmRDU-QhuHrj-QhuHq7-QhuHoo-QhuHnw-29DKcf9-2cqn2ZK-2cqn2WZ-2cqj8JX-2cqj7zT-ND8Gq2-ND8Gjk-2cpqe12-ND8Fsv-2biif7m-2biif2G-2bicYmd-2cphKnF-ND1aP6-2cjRaWC-ND1aG2-2coazmP-2coazjV-2ccY4GR-29pDZV9-2aMnEUF-NpWFz4-NpWFwP-2aMnEcD), for emergency vehicles to enable avoiding Gillygate, and of course for the [air ambulance](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesairambulancemyfutureyork/) which lands on the front lawn.

Wishes were also expressed – especially by local traders – to [build links between local commerce (in Gillygate and on Bootham) and the green space of the site](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpmovegillygatemyfutureyork/), by linking into the pedestrian and cycle routes through it.

## The quiet, peaceful nature of the site and how this is maintained

The site is seen as [a “green lung”](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpsignificancegreenspacemyfutureyork/) and a [place of peace](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpsignificancepeacefulmyfutureyork/) in a part of the city which is dominated by traffic. The main factors are the [scale of the site and open space](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/31726483878/in/photolist-2cDASVC-2bw9iud-2cuyLLw-2b8vd9R-29GMvzU-QkywS7-QkywtG-QkywjJ-Qkyw9o-Qkyw67-QkyvWj-2ctpRaV-29GMsrQ-29GMskh-2ctpQe6-2ctpQa8-NH7PvH-NH7PnB-NH7Pgp-QkyrCj-2ctpNTa-ND8Fgt-2coazHF-2coazpe-2coayVZ-2bgofWQ-2bgofXw) along with [the mature trees](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacestreesmyfutureyork/).

The [front lawn](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacesfrontgreenmyfutureyork/) attracted much comment; the constraints on use which the drainage arrangements provide were generally seen as positive ([preventing building development](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/30463400047/in/photolist-29DKc8A-2cqn2R8-29DKc23-2cqn2LP-29DGqYs-2ckRuCQ-2bja7bb-29CLrUJ-2cjVCv1-2cjVCoC-29CGdh1-2bicYsL-29CGcQj-29CGcBy-29CGcry-2cphKEV-2cphKAX-29CGc3C-2coazQ4-2aYKLB2-Q76SWN-Q76SSQ-NrH7B4-NrH6BD-2ccY5SB-NrH5ED-2ccY5oF-2ccY4mF-2b6Wn7G-2b6WjGm-2b6WjpC-29rmVjN-2aP6fQZ-2c8nS8w-2b6WaQJ-2b6WakA-2c8nPt3-2c8nPjL-2c8nP9f-2c8nNfS-29rmJz1-29rmHuq-2ccXR4V-NpWTvi-2aMnFdB-2aMnw7a-29pDDzE-2c6DUqh-2c6DUnS-2c6DU8J)) and allowed creative possibilities such as adapting current arrangements to give more subtle [storage of stormwater](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45552164871/in/photolist-2bnmShY-2ctpN6Z-29DKc8A-2cqn2R8-2cqn2LP-29DKc23-29DGqYs-2ckRuCQ-2cjVCv1-2cjVCoC-29CGdh1-2aYKLB2-Q76SWN-Q76SSQ-NrH7B4-NrH6BD-2ccY4mF-2b6Wn7G-2b6WjGm-2b6WjpC-29rmVjN-2aP6fQZ-2b6WaQJ-2b6WakA-2c8nPt3-2c8nPjL-2c8nP9f-29rmJz1-29rmHuq-2ccXR4V-29pDDzE-2c6DUqh-2c6DUnS-2c6DU8J-2bicYsL-29CGcQj-29CGcBy-29CGcry-2cphKEV-2cphKAX-29CGc3C-2coazQ4-2ccY5SB-NrH5ED-2ccY5oF-2c8nS8w-2c8nNfS-NpWTvi-2aMnFdB-2aMnw7a) (and [swimming](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpuseswildswimmingmyfutureyork/) in it) or gardens to give [structure and interest](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/43734784830/in/photolist-29DKc8A-2cqn2R8-29DKc23-2cqn2LP-29DGqYs-2ckRuCQ-2bja7bb-29CLrUJ-2cjVCv1-2cjVCoC-29CGdh1-2bicYsL-29CGcQj-29CGcBy-29CGcry-2cphKEV-2cphKAX-29CGc3C-2coazQ4-2aYKLB2-Q76SWN-Q76SSQ-NrH7B4-NrH6BD-2ccY5SB-NrH5ED-2ccY5oF-2ccY4mF-2b6Wn7G-2b6WjGm-2b6WjpC-29rmVjN-2aP6fQZ-2c8nS8w-2b6WaQJ-2b6WakA-2c8nPt3-2c8nPjL-2c8nP9f-2c8nNfS-29rmJz1-29rmHuq-2ccXR4V-NpWTvi-2aMnFdB-2aMnw7a-29pDDzE-2c6DUqh-2c6DUnS-2c6DU8J) to the space.

Specifically, the [importance of peace and nature](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45548409142/in/photolist-QujYtS-2bbdMJH-2b8vdjv-29GMvKy-29GMvF5-29GMv3w-2coXvJ7-2coXva1-Qkyxs5-Qkyx9E-QkywXC-2aZpguZ-NBdo2v-29pDZV9-NpWTHH-2cDASDq-2coXvQj-Qkyx7L-2cpnX4B-NpWTd4-2aMnwZc) for mental wellbeing was noted by many, both in terms of it simply being a therapeutic place to be, and in respect of the opportunities for gentle social activities such as [gardening](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesgardeningmyfutureyork/) or [food growing](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesfoodgrowingmyfutureyork/).

*‘Open green space; sensory garden no development on precious green space for public use. Trees, forest, natural habitat for birds. Access for walking in green space’.* (online survey)

## The size of the site offers opportunities for mixed uses

One thing that a number of people noted was that the size of the site – especially with the inclusion of the former nurses housing site and [the car/coach park](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45714133652/in/photolist-2bkkk6z-ND8Gq2-2aMnFi6-2aMnDQM-2c6EcCd-2c6EcoW-2cDATh9) – was sufficient for there to be [a mix of uses](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesintegratedmyfutureyork/); it was potentially a number of smaller areas which had – and could have – [distinct characters and uses](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesnotjusthealthmyfutureyork/), clear an issue would be how to balance the peace and calm desire by some with ideas for play and sport (online survey).

People noted that the site can provide considerable indoor floorspace (both existing and new) [in a green setting](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpplacesgeneralgreenmyfutureyork/). There was much discussion of housing; the [creation of homes for key workers](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpuseskeyworkerhousingmyfutureyork/) was generally viewed very positively. There was broad support for more general [affordable homes](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesaffordablehousingmyfutureyork/) but [accommodation for health staff](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/44747920175/in/photolist-2bbdMF6-2b8vdf2-29GMvKy-2coXvJ7-2coXvyY-2coXvaS-2coXv7f-QkyxJY-QkyxCW-QkywCu-Qkywob-QkywhQ-Qkywf5-Qkyw67-Qkyw2E-QkyvT3-QkyvGw-2ctpR9H-2ctpR2D-29GMsw9-2ctpQcH-QkysBJ-QkysmU-NH7Puk-QkyrFL-2ctpNUn-2ctpNRB-2ctpNMt-2ctpNwZ-2ctpMPg-2cn2eyf-2ckRvHA-2b2wwqp-QhrGwE-ND8GqT-2b1Cmc2-2b1Cm5D-2cpnX6R-2bihhSo-2bihhL1-2b1zgB6-2cjVCmU-2coazAX-2coazuK-NBdo5r-NBdo1i-2bberNs-2bberGA-Q76SWN-2b6WmTf) had the additional benefit of keeping more of the site in health-related use.

There were interesting comments once we look at the territory beyond “what we want” and look at input on “what we might do to enable it”. There were a few voices on social media who felt that the costs to public bodies would be too great and the Bootham Park hospital site should just be sold. There were plenty of hardliners on both “[no hotels](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesnohotelmyfutureyork/)” and “no [housing](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesnohousingmyfutureyork/) or [apartments](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesapartmentsmyfutureyork/)” (this was a feature of the twitter discussions) but also suggestions that development of some sort was required [in order to pay for](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpfinancecrossfundmyfutureyork/) facilities and access for the public. There was little consensus on the best way to do this – suggestions included [hotel use](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpuseshotelmyfutureyork/), cafes, being a wedding venue, being a Hub for the voluntary sector (online survey), the creation of a [museum themed on mental health](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesmuseummyfutureyork/), and housing for sale either by [converting the old buildings](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45539449861/in/photolist-ND8FhF-2ciHnk1-2coazSD-2aMnxgV-2aMnwDc-29pDDFS-2c6EcBG-29pDDtC-2c6DUtd) or by [new build](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/45714133652/in/photolist-2bkkjTF-2cDATh9-2bepB4e-2cuyLKj-2bbdMG8-ND8GkT-2coazAX-2c6DUtd) on parts of the site.

In particular it was suggested that there could be mixed uses – spanning between commercial and community – which are [complementary](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusescommercialmyfutureyork/), in particular [arts/culture](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesartsculturemyfutureyork/), [sporting](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusessportsmyfutureyork/) activities (such as Tennis) or a City Farm which could provide [benefits to people using](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusescommunitymyfutureyork/) health (and especially mental health) facilities on the site. Links with [the universities](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusesuniversitymyfutureyork/) were also seen as important in bridging the public/private divide and in particular as partners for developing [training](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpusestrainingmyfutureyork/) and [education](https://www.flickr.com/photos/165399988%40N08/tags/bpuseseducationmyfutureyork/) facilities on site.

## Directions for future public engagement

During the Bootham Park discussions we have been able to draw out a set of possible trajectories, all of which need further open discussion and exploration.

Any further public discussion would be aided by building a deeper public understanding about the circumstances and drivers for the sale of Bootham Park Hospital and what these questions of ownership and viability might mean for future uses.

This might include:

* Spelling out the current ownership situation, why the sale came about and what is needed in order for Bootham Park to be kept in public ownership.
* Open discussion about why Bootham Park Hospital is not considered fit to be used for mental health services
* Exploring further what local benefit might mean
* Investigating the level and type of commercial activity that would be publicly acceptable in order to achieve other desirable uses and activities on the site.

It was also very clear that there are many local groups and local residents that are keen to be actively involved in these conversations, have resources of various kinds (social and economic) and can see how new uses of site might enhance their lives and the wider area. There are, therefore, opportunities to actively involve interested local people as part of developing ideas and networks to shape the future of the site.

Overall, this is a part of the city which is seen as belonging to York, it is seen as a place of sanctuary and peace and it is seen as a place that should play a crucial role in the future wellbeing (broadly conceived) of the city. Moreover, there are individuals, groups, charities and businesses who would like to be involved in making this possible.