The York hospital foundation trust continues to work on improvements in services available to the residents of Whitby and Esk at York and Scarborough hospitals. The service for joint replacements at Bridlington hospital is flourishing and Whitby residents using this facility are genuinely impressed.

The new Urology referral clinics will soon be available over three days per week at Malton hospital, in a newly developed wing which we are hopeful will be used by the GPs in the area.

The use of Whitby Hospital by the Trust continues to function well, as patients are stepped down from Scarborough to recover and return home to their families.

Winter pressures and increased demands upon NHS services are lengthening the times for referral and turnaround times at A&E Departments. Please be patient and wherever the situation is non-life threatening; please call NHS 111 to be directed to an appropriate service. I am happy to receive any feedback you may have on the service received.

I have attended the regular Governors meetings and some Board of Directors meetings; including various committee meetings, and I continue to ask questions pertinent to our local membership.

I hope 2017 is a good year for all the Trust members in the Whitby area, as well as to all NHS staff providing services to our community.

Do visit the Trust website as it contains lots of interesting information; including the Public Board and Council of Governors meeting dates for 2017, should you wish to attend. Inhibitory postal costs mean that Trust members will need to gain information by this method in the future.

**Steve Hinchliffe - Public governor for Whitby – 03 January 2017**