



North Horsham Parish Council

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Horsham and Mid Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group
Lower Ground Floor
Crawley Hospital
West Green Drive
Crawley
West Sussex
RH11 7DH

29th November 2019

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I write in respect of the health care arrangements for residents on the proposed development north of Horsham and residents in North Horsham who use the Holbrook Surgery.

North Horsham Parish Council has held liaison meetings with key stakeholders in the development north of the A264 in North Horsham Parish since it was approved, commented on Reserved Matters that have been presented to the Parish Council through the Planning System and kept a close watch on how the development is progressing. Since the proposals for the development were initially raised it has been evident that one of the major areas of concern for residents is that there will be adequate provision of health care on the development in the form of a doctors surgery and that existing healthcare facilities in North Horsham will not be compromised by the influx of patients from new development.

At the last Parish Liaison Meeting on 4th October 2019, Legal and General noted that they were testing the appropriateness of the possible functions of the designated mixed use area on the development north of Horsham and whether it is sited in the best place to give the maximum opportunities for future residents. It was noted that "the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex had been given options to provide a doctor's surgery in the mixed area, but at the moment the CCG has rejected the offer as they consider the proposed building to be too small. The CCG suggest that the Holbrook surgery could take additional patients from the development. Legal and General will continue their discussion with the CCG." The Parish Council is aware that Horsham District Council also hopes to discuss future health care and all of the associated considerations with the CCG.

Whilst appreciating the benefits of having a doctor's surgery that can provide a wide range of facilities to residents, housed in a larger building, the Parish Council is concerned that the total lack of health facilities on such a large residential site will be detrimental to residents, especially those without their own transport. The Parish Council notes that the Central Sussex and Mid Surrey Commissioning Alliance states that "one of the focuses on improving local care is to look at ways in which patients can access care closer to home, how they can get the right care in the right place quicker and prevent people having to go to hospital so often for treatment." The

Sussex Health and Care Partnership also state that “one of our priorities is to develop more community based services helping people to stay well closer to home”. Nationally, we are encouraged to limit our impact on the natural world, however, without local facilities within the community, future residents on the development north of Horsham will be forced to travel to access a doctor’s surgery. Whilst public transport may be an option, it is more likely that travel will be by car which increases local traffic and impacts on the environment.

The available capacity for taking on additional patients at the Holbrook Surgery without reducing the ability for their existing patients to access healthcare in a timely manner is also of great concern. The Holbrook surgery appears to have little room for expansion and the Parish Council would appreciate a clearer understanding of how the CCG propose to incorporate what will be sizable additional numbers of patients within the surgery whilst maintaining their standard of service. The Parish Council would also be keen to understand the predicted forecasts for the number of additional GPs that will be required to ensure that future residents will receive necessary care and will influence the size of facility that is required.

Links between age and the need for health care have been well documented. The Horsham District Economic Profile (2016) identifies that “the age category [in Horsham] that continues to exhibit the greatest amount of growth is 65+”. The prospect of more people needing access to healthcare, with no additional facility on the development north of Horsham and putting pressure on an existing doctor’s surgery to take increased patients, only serves to bring greater concern about the ability to access the care they need to those living in North Horsham. The concern extends to future residents who may not be aware of this situation when they purchase homes on this site.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Whitehead BA(Hons) FSLCC
Clerk to the Council

Cc Legal and General; Horsham District Council; West Sussex County Council; local MP and Minister of State.