



EMSWORTHFORUM

EMSWORTH EMPOWERED

C/o The Emsworth Community Centre
North Street, Emsworth PO10 7DD

www.emsworthforum.com

Dr Barabara Rushton, Chair
South Eastern Hampshire CCG
CommCen Building
Fort Southwick
James Callaghan Drive
Fareham
Hampshire
PO17 6AR

11/10/2015

Dear Dr Rushton

Re. Planning for a new Surgery on the site of the former Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital

I am writing on behalf of the Emsworth Forum to present to you a report on the findings of a survey we have conducted in the last few weeks of views of Emsworth residents on the future of the former Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site.

I am sure you are familiar with the discussions that have recently taken place between the Emsworth Surgery practice, NHS England and your officials and the plans for developing a new Emsworth Surgery on the site. Everyone in Emsworth is pleased to hear that plans for a new surgery on this site are, after many years, progressing and we are all keen to avoid any likelihood of putting that at risk in any way. You may also be aware that some of our community leaders, led on the Forum's behalf by Dr Theo Schofield, OBE, have been endeavouring to persuade the parties involved to consider the need for additional community health services on this site when developing this scheme. Dr Schofield persuaded one of our local charities, the Friends of Emsworth Community Health (formerly Friends of the Hospital), which has a substantial endowment, to offer its support to such a proposition.

This suggestion was put to the CCG and the Surgery in July, but we understand it was not discussed at the meeting to progress the project chaired by Alan Mak MP in September on the grounds that it would put the funding of the scheme at risk and cause delay.

As stated previously, the Forum does not wish to put the funding for the new surgery at risk or cause any significant delay. However we felt we should not ignore feedback we had received from Emsworth residents in a survey we conducted last year and a public meeting



we held on health and social care in Emsworth this summer. This indicated clearly that there is a need and aspiration for more health services than are currently provided by the Emsworth Surgery to be delivered locally. This feedback is in the appendices to the enclosed report. We therefore decided to present the situation to local people and ask their views on this issue. This enclosed report summarises our survey findings and we will share all the data with Sara Tiller and Lisa Medway.

As you can see from the report, we had a huge response to the survey with over 600 replies and 79% in favour of the site being used for the surgery and community health services. In light of this there are a number of points which I would like to highlight:

Firstly, to our knowledge, no needs assessment has been done of the future needs of Emsworth and the surrounding area for this scheme. If it had, it would need to take into account not just the current pressures on the Emsworth Surgery (which are known to be considerable) but all the other local community health services which are all stretched. It would also need to take into account the ageing demographic of the area and known future housing developments in Emsworth and the neighbouring settlements – including across the border into West Sussex. We believe that such a needs assessment should and can be done quickly in order to maximise the opportunity this scheme presents to cater for future as well as current needs. We ask you to ensure that this is done as soon as possible.

Secondly, it is not clear to us what risk, if any, there would be to the funding of this scheme if you were to do a needs assessment as outlined above and we would be grateful for clarification on that point. We appreciate that funding in the NHS is very stretched at the present time but would counter that increased and better integrated local community services on sites such as this could help with the pressures felt at other acute centres in the local health economy. This point is made eloquently by a number of respondents to our survey. Regardless of this, we are clear that if funding is not available to expand services on this site in the short term, or it would significantly delay the new surgery being built, then we believe that it would be important to enable the Surgery scheme to be developed further at a later date when funding is available. It is also worth noting that Emsworth has a history of being able to raise funds for this purpose and would probably do so again if necessary.

Finally, we are concerned that the decisions on this scheme have already been taken without proper consideration of need (as mentioned above) or public consultation. We understand that there are plans for a public consultation in the new year – but if the PID has already been approved we believe that there will be little scope for adapting the scheme for the range of services that are needed now and in the future. This would result in a building led project instead of a service led building which would be a wasted opportunity and potentially add to cost in the long term.

In conclusion, I would repeat that residents in Emsworth are pleased that a project is now in hand to deliver the new Surgery that we so badly need. Our intention is not to delay this but



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to ensure that what is delivered is fit for purpose for the future as well as for now. I hope very much you can reassure us on the points we have raised above. We would be delighted to discuss this further with you and your team and would offer to work with you to deliver this scheme successfully and in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

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Cc Richard Samuel, Sara Tiller & Lisa Medway, SE Hants CCG
The Emsworth Surgery
Members of Parliament for Havant & Chichester,
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