



Maggie Maclsaac
Chief Executive
South Eastern Hampshire CCG
CommCen Building, Fort Southwick
James Callaghan Drive
Fareham
PO17 6AR

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10 August 2018

Reversing CCG declaration re: status of Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site and suspending proposed sale

Dear Maggie,

I am writing to you regarding the decision by the South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to declare the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital (EVCH) site as surplus for medical use, and the subsequent actions by NHS Property Services (NHSPS) to place the site on the market for sale without informing me or the community in advance.

As you will know, I have been working closely with the CCG since I was first elected in May 2015 to ensure that Emsworth has high-quality medical facilities that are future-proof given our growing population. For the last ten years, efforts from the community have focussed on relocating the Emsworth Medical Practice (EMP) to the EVCH site which I have supported. However, due to a number of factors the EMP then decided to explore the potential of a new site at Redlands Grange in north Emsworth.

While the EMP's negotiations with NHS England and the CCG are ongoing, they are far from being concluded. In fact, I understand that the EMP are yet to submit a formal Business Case to the CCG and NHS England for the Redlands Grange site.

In addition, the current draft Havant Borough Council Local Plan states that the EVCH site is reserved as the location for a new doctors' surgery if the Redlands Grange site does not go ahead. The relevant extract from the Plan is below:

"The Local Plan as a whole provides for a new site for primary care in the Emsworth area. The Victoria Cottage Hospital site is allocated for residential development. However this is specifically only allocated if the proposal to relocate the surgery to the Hampshire Farm development takes place. If this does not happen, the site will remain available to use as a health centre."

Please can you let me know how the CCG came to the conclusion that the EVCH site was surplus for medical use, thereby triggering the disposal of site through NHSPS? I would be grateful for the relevant documents/minutes which evidence the decision-making process and the decision itself.

Since NHSPS put the EVCH site up for sale last Friday, I have met a number of community representatives who believe the EVCH site is the best location for EMP's new surgery building. Having also spoken to Dr. Abu Chinwala from the EMP I have received confirmation from him that the EMP have notified the CCG they would now be willing to consider the EVCH site as the location for their new building if the community's efforts to acquire it are successful and a financial arrangement for the doctors can be agreed with relevant NHS stakeholders. This is a positive new development.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Taking into consideration the draft Local Plan (which is expected to be voted on by local councillors in January 2019), the EMP's revised position as regards the viability of the EVCH site, and the strong community support for a new surgery building at the EVCH site, I am writing to ask the CCG to reverse its declaration that the site is surplus for medical use. This would give EMP and community groups time to come together to discuss, agree and propose a plan for the site's future without undue time pressure. It would also give the EMP more flexibility to decide on the best location for their new surgery building.

Additionally, following the reversal of your declaration, please could you ask NHSPS to take the EVCH site off the market for sale immediately, and remove the "for sale" signage at the site and all other sale-related promotional materials. I will also contact NHSPS directly in relation to this request as well.

There is a public meeting taking place in Emsworth on Wednesday 22 August 2018 to discuss the above issues (and a roundtable meeting which I am convening for key stakeholders in early September to which you have been invited), so I would be grateful if you could come back to me on the above three questions before the public meeting.

Given the community's interest in this matter, I am putting this letter into the public domain, and I would be grateful for your swift response. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Mak MP

- CC:
- John Westwood, Director of Asset Management, NHS Property Services Ltd
 - Daniel Hotson, Principal Transaction Manager (London & South England), NHS Property Services Ltd
 - Nicola Booth, Senior Transaction Manager (Portsmouth Office), NHS Property Services Ltd
 - Cllr Leah Turner, Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing, HBC
 - David Hayward, Planning Policy Manager, HBC
 - Nicki Conyard, Community Manager, HBC, with responsibility for Assets of Community Value
 - Cllr Richard Kennett, Cllr Rivka Cresswell, Cllr Lulu Bowerman (Emsworth's councillors on HBC)
 - County Cllr Ray Bolton (Emsworth's representative on Hampshire County Council)
 - Dr. Barbara Rushton, Chair, South East Hampshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Dr Abu Chinwala, Emsworth Medical Practice