

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 March 2019 18:12
To: Hertsvalleyshospital Co Info
Cc: HVCCG, Communications (NHS HERTS VALLEYS CCG)
Subject: Urgent action needed following meeting held 7 March

Categories: In log

Dear West Herts Hospital Trust & Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group evaluation panel

1. The 4 options presented by the CCG & Trust at the public meeting on the 7th of March and also replicated here <http://www.hertsvalleyshospital.co.uk/shendishmeeting/> **do NOT have my support**
2. I believe that the process used, and data available to the evaluation panel (who it was incorrectly indicated supported these options), had **not been given sufficient information (including financial) to enable them to make an informed decision**
3. I believe that the removal of a greenfield site from the shortlist is wrong and it **does not have my support**
4. 98.7% of 400 respondents to a survey conducted in January 2019 by HertsValleysHospital.co.uk agreed that "the Main Hospital for West Herts should be located somewhere in the centre of the area it serves?" **I WHOLE HEARTEDLY AGREE WITH THAT.**

About Thirty-five years ago I used to wheel my youngest son in his pushchair around the then active building site of what was then to be Hemel's new Hospital. Once Tudor and Verulam Wings were complete with the addition of the then new A&E, as a family we had numerous occasions to be glad that our nearest hospital was so near. Both my sons had 2 or three hospital stays in the childrens' ward; my eldest son had to have specialist "plaster" treatment to his legs to correct their mal-formation; he also needed a lot of physiotherapy to both diagnose and to a certain extent treat what turned out to be hyper-mobility. Both had a couple of broken limbs which needed setting; and the catalogue of my outpatients appointments as my arthritis got increasingly bad; a fracture in my wrist after a fall needed special scans and I needed consultant care over a number of issues, one of which resulted in my staying in hospital for over a week when both sons were under 6. Because our hospital was nearby it made child-care arrangements when necessary much easier, I was able to get to the hospital easily and within 20 minutes (even at busy times) – as were the children's father and grandparents (the latter whom lived in Devon and the Isle of Wight, so were not familiar with getting to and from Watford).

Sadly my son, his wife and two daughters have not been so lucky - not least because the lovely new and expensive hospital they watched being built, was after a number of years gradually run down. They still live in Hemel, but have frequently needed to visit and on at least 4 occasions other than the Childrens' births – to be inpatients, as well as attending A&E on many occasions. The time and distance involved considerable added to the stress of all those involved, and on at least one occasion led to problems following a delay in diagnosis as a result of the time taken to get to and be seen at a very crowded A&E in Watford. As a family we at least have all had the benefit of our own cars, but that is far from the case with many families and the elderly in Dacorum.

It is for all these above reasons and more that **I therefore urge the CCG, trust and evaluation panel to take the following action:**

- 1 Halt the current process and fully re-consider options during the forthcoming purdah period
- 2 Ensure that the affordability, quality, patient experience, access, deliverability, value for money and strategic alignment

are corrected to align with the views at the public meeting on the 7th of March and those previously, that the plans do not have the public support.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]