Dear Lowestoft Town Council,

**Proposed North Lowestoft Health Centre**

As you are well aware, HealthEast CCG made a promise to townsfolk in their original 2013 consultation document **'Developing exceptional and sustainable health services in Lowestoft'** that led to Lowestoft Hospital's closure by a majority voting for option one:

**"Move services to Kirkley Rise and develop services in north Lowestoft."**

**"This preferred option would see services move to the-state-of-the-art health centre which is currently be being built at Kirkley Rise on Economy Road. In addition, another modern health centre would be built in north Lowestoft to ensure everyone in the town could easily access services."**

This was the basis on which people voted for the closure of our hospital – a new unit would be constructed in the north of the town! However, no date was given and after six years the centre has not materialised, so many consultees were duped into not supporting the case for option three to retain the hospital. Many in Lowestoft could have continued receiving medical treatment so relieving the bed discharge issue that has become a major problem at the District Hospital after their acute treatment there.

Now that the Lowestoft Hospital site has been sold out of the NHS estate and is being used through leasing at the moment for other purposes, the question of a new medical centre is more urgent. Where and when will the promised new health facility be opened? We considered the old Lowestoft hospital site to be ideal but that is now gone so we need the CCG to publicly address the situation. Answers are urgently needed by us in Lowestoft who number around 70,000 akin to the number in the Borough of Gt Yarmouth. Promises of future multi million pound investment in the NHS are all very well and being made by all the major parties for this coming general election and we hope they materialise in our particular area but we want to know the present plans.

Today it was reported at the governor's public meeting of the Gt. Yarmouth & Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group in Beccles by Finance Officer Howard Martin, that our local STP group was doing well and was on target to have a surplus of £2.8 million by the end of 2020! This is despite supporting other CCGs in North and South Norfolk by £5.9 million to reduce their deficit! We feel there is a good 'seedcorn' amount in our coffers here to start providing the promised facility in North Lowestoft.

We understand the CCG has looked into likely sites but there has been little or no public discussion or notice of progress being made. Where is the transparency and urgency? What about a target date and likely site and services that could be provided in a new health centre for north Lowestoft?

We don't forget the CCG made a public commitment given at 2.1 in the Consultation document – A summary 20 May - 12th August 2013. It stated **"Rest assured however, we are committed to providing state-of-the-art healthcare facilities in both the north and the south of Lowestoft."**

So - is this still the policy? The CCG must reassure us – what vision do they have and what plans are there for this now? We would like to know because *tempus fugit* and after six years it has not been delivered, yet new housing developments are being planned! We hope you agree and can find out by using such a letter as this to them.

Yours sincerely,

Citizens openly concerned for the future of Lowestoft.

John Stannard – Chair of Lowestoft Civic Society; Trustee of the Gwen Baker Trust.

Jane Murray – Oulton Parish Councillor.

Richard Chilvers – Secretary, Waveney Trades Union Council.

Christopher Brooks – Chair of Suffolk, & Anglia Region, Pensioners Associations (NPC). *For RSVP.*