

To Shona

Copy Alan Green

Apologies for late delivery but was due to come to tonight's meeting as part of the public forum but now unable to attend.

I will be attending the full Council meeting on February 22nd as might by then have a response from Peter Aldous.?

Report/ Review statement for the next full Council meeting to be sent out with the agenda posts.

" The Lowestoft Hospital Contact group met with our MP at his constituency office in early January to review the Lowestoft hospital closure as part of the generalised NHS and Social Care Crisis which has now become increasingly chronic with the unavailability of care home beds and lack of necessary domiciliary support for those deemed ready to return home. It's now the case at this present moment that the JPUH has around a hundred patients medically fit for discharge or what is often termed bed blockers with nowhere to go and nobody to look after them.

Today's announcement at the Norfolk and Waveney CCG of a 15 room Care Hotel, soon to be opened in Norwich on a three month trial by AbbeyCare is tantamount to this discharge crisis with corresponding lack of care beds, sufficient domiciliary support and the abject failure to keep open cottage hospitals : could not the Lowestoft Hospital have been refitted to deliver the same rather as proposed outsourcing to an out of area company bringing in out of area staff?

The MP said that he would be contacting the NWCCG over all the issues Including it's failure to implement the results of the 2013 Lowestoft Hospital consultation which made a commitment to establish a northern medical centre as a replacement but instead went ahead with a continuous closure plan concluding with the minor injuries unit at Beccles Hospital despite an overwhelming public vote and concluding All Hallows in Ditchingham which saw on one Sunday morning, sufficient number of people coming from all quarters and able to link a defensive wall of arms around the whole hospital but to no avail.

It seems a long time ago, and before the age of COVID but the council along with its MP knows full well that both tried to forestall the sale on the day of the auction with a hand delivered letter but without success. Given sufficient time, it might well have been able to consider using legislation covering the control and sale of community assets.

After its sale, at a contact group meeting with Alice Taylor as chair, she agreed to have a meeting with new owner of the site and the present chair of the CCG Melanie Craig.

Yes, COVID intervened but we still have not had any information about whether these meetings ever took place, and if they did whether there were any commitments?

As a contact group, we are very concerned at the state of the site despite the fact that the independent charity Brainwaves is developing one wing of the hospital in Tennyson Road.

The recent coms from JPUH referring to the site makes it clear that the site is covered by a ten year clause, and that after that date, the owner will be free of the overage clause which would have required him to provide a proportion of any future sale as per the undisclosed contract of sale with the JPUH. Yes, all he has to do is to wait for time to pass.

This is s a major concern, and why a case could be made for a compulsory purchase order via the East Suffolk Council on the grounds of securing extra capacity as a minor injuries

and as an ultra care centre as well as enabling discharge, rehabilitation and recuperation plus a suite of extra services for long COVID and mental distress including many staff members who are now traumatised during this emergency, as well as taking into consideration the historic nature of the hospital, paid out by public subscription, and sold for less than 500 grand which as revealed via an FOI request over two years ago as now designated as zero rated for business rates.

We raised our concern at the meeting that Lowestoft as an NHS should not have had to pay an annual 70 thousand pounds which as a health service is duty bound to balance the books and not as a profit making entity: our understanding is that's the case for all NHS hospitals whether they are designated as foundation hospitals or not?"

I will forward recent communication with JPUH.