

(NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE CCG)

From: Dierdre Morley <clerk@upleadonpc.org.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2020 17:36
To: Participation (NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE CCG)
Subject: New Hospital - Forest of Dean

Categories: Actioned, Forest booklet

Thank you for consulting with us regarding the new hospital in the Forest of Dean.

Members of Upleadon Parish Council discussed this at its meeting last week and wished to comment as follows:-

The Parish Council is concerned about the number of beds at the new hospital as being only 24 and will this be enough given the expansion of housing development within the Forest of Dean? Will there be room on site for expansion in the future if necessary?

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Morley
Parish Clerk

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From: Dave Kent <admin@westdeanpc.org.uk>
Sent: 15 December 2020 10:01
To: Participation (NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE CCG)
Subject: West Dean Parish Council - Proposals for New Community Hospital Hospital in the Forest of Dean

I forward these comments from West Dean Parish Council

We wish to express our concerns about 3 important issues.

1. We are concerned about the lack of capacity at the proposed Community Hospital. We note with dismay the reduction of beds in the proposed hospital, which will involve using overflow facilities at Gloucester and Cheltenham.
2. Transport is a serious problem in the Forest, considering the inadequacy of public transport facilities and the road infrastructure. Any use of overflow capacity outside the area will create serious difficulties for staff, patients, relatives and visitors. Has this been fully considered.
3. Accommodation for staff is an important consideration and should be properly considered.

I trust that you will take these matters fully into consideration.

Thank you

Dave Kent CiLCA
Clerk

West Dean Parish Council

Parish Office, The West Dean Centre, Bream, GL15 6JW

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GL16 8BD

Coleford Town Council

Telephone: 01594 832103

Email: ctcoffice@colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk

www.colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk

16 December 2020

Dear Gloucestershire CCG and Health and Care,

Response to “A new Hospital for the Forest of Dean”

Coleford Town Council wishes to register the following comments, working through the consultation by heading:

Inpatient unit

Will the 24 beds (single rooms) suffice for the Forest needs now and in future?

The population and number of households is set to rise significantly both according to the [Local Plan strategic options](#) currently out for consultation, and may be even more if the Central Government calculation changes and/or the Planning for the Future proposals happen. We are also aware of people moving to the area out of choice following Covid, as a rural area.

When the original proposal by CCG was made, we questioned the accuracy of the data being used on population, and we still need to know the figures have been updated so that general care needs are correctly addressed.

In the Local Plan options it states: “The number of 4000 additional dwellings remains the one considered for these options, but a government consultation in August 2020 has proposed changes to the way in which housing requirements would be calculated and this has changed the potential requirement to one which may require an additional 8000 homes and a total of over 12000 over the 20 year period (as opposed to the current running total of 7440).”

Thus there must be careful calculation as to need, with the right layout on site so that appropriate space is there to be able to extend provision if numbers rise even further than is forecast. If say provision for a further 6 patients is needed in the future, that includes the infrastructure as well as the room space. The building and site should be future-proofed.

Ms. Annie Lapington Town Clerk

Mr Chris Haine Assistant Town Clerk (seconded)



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The existing evidence upon which the number 24 is based, does not (we think) include the number of Forest patients who may be using other hospitals around the county. Also, someone in a care home temporarily may go to a different hospital than where they usually live. We note the stroke specialism at The Vale. Will Foresters be admitted to “their own” hospital as a priority, and not have to go elsewhere? We know there are attempts being made to accommodate Gloucester and Cheltenham residents nearer their homes, but as yet no new establishment has been provided. The arrangements with care homes in and around Gloucester are new, and we do not know if they will work effectively to reduce the Gloucester numbers in the Forest hospital.

If the rooms are all to be single, and we understand some of the reasoning for that re infection control and intense rehabilitation in particular, then the social spaces must be very carefully designed and managed. The impact of isolation on mental health is recognised, and Forest people relate very closely to their own homes, their independence. If they are not there, but in hospital, then there is a real risk they will not easily move outside their rooms. Outdoor spaces as well as indoor need to be planned in very effectively (and that is additional to the need for flexible space should the extension due to increased population be required). Staff also need to be able to work easily within the framework of space, with potentially some difficult patients, and this means a good ergonomic design is required. Visitors may find access to outdoor spaces make communication with patients more purposeful and friendly.

Outpatient services

The management of the outpatient services is going to be critical. Given the very poor public transport routes in the Forest, appointments need to be timed so that people can actually get there and back with relative ease. There is no point saying a clinic is available at 9am if people can't get there. Timetabling of clinics needs to take into consideration not just need, but also origin of patient, frequency of public transport in their area, which will come to the hospital and the return journey. The older demographic in the Forest means many patients cannot drive, assuming their illness/injury allows.

Providing services to the whole of the Forest is difficult to achieve, given the scale and distances involved, but important for all. For those people in the south of the District, who might naturally consider Chepstow as their nearest hub, the Welsh border is a real problem when it comes to health. When the decision was made to use the Cinderford location, this was pointed out. In the Local Plan under consultation now at least 600 homes are proposed for Beachley Barracks when MoD release that. In addition a new settlement is one option (location not confirmed). There needs to be a better solution for the South Forest area for such health services. The current provision at Lydney will, we understand, remain until the new hospital is up and running. For urgent care, there will be a difficult journey of 30-



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40minutes from Tutshill to Cinderford, and it is more likely people would go via A48 to Gloucester, which would not take that much longer and have a higher level of provision. An improved service for Lydney and to the south should be able to be devised with the help of partners and stakeholders.

Urgent care

The current minor injuries units will be replaced with provision for fewer hours. Urgent care will end at 8pm not 11pm. Given the relationship between injury and alcohol, this timing might be significant. Whilst we understand other areas are trialling use of GP practices in a different way eg at Winchcombe, that does not address either the injury element, or the later nights risk. Should people come to the hospital and then find it closed, they will be even later getting to Gloucester, and with hardly any public transport.

The Forest has a high rate of sports teams, including youth teams, which must be catered for. The use of our rural, natural environment for walking, running, cycling and climbing is increasing significantly both in terms of planning for sustainable and active tourism, and as people have changed habits with Covid and moved into active travel and exercise. Furthermore, our environment encourages events, and we offer walking festivals, twice-yearly half-marathons, tandem and cycling events, climbing points of national standing, orienteering over a dispersed area. The importance of urgent care facilities, their level and availability must plan in these increased risks. Currently, with lack of organised events, data will not be representative of the true picture.

Diagnostic services

The modern and updated facilities will cater for all existing provision, and some additions, in particular the endoscopy proposals. X ray provision at the moment happens at both Lydney and Dilke, so we understand that facilities will be maintained at least at that level (see injury risk noted above).

We have been informed of the rising number of appointments for macular degeneration treatment, which means Forest people are now being directed to Cheltenham as Gloucester is so busy. As this treatment is regular, repetitive, and people are living longer, along with the increase in population mentioned above, would it be possible for some increased capacity to be built in here? It would mean less travel, and demands relatively less dedicated space than other treatments. You note availability of more/larger consulting rooms in your “other facilities” section.

Parking and Transport

As mentioned above re outpatient care, there is a real problem with access to the facility. As you acknowledge, the public transport routes are poor, and do not by any means extend to all parts of the District. Working with partners must address this.



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We know there are also problems with patient transport and community transport as their capacity is stretched to the extreme. Given the distance to Gloucester Royal, the transport causes many problems. This is the opportunity to reduce that.

In addition, visitors need to be able to see their relatives and friends - again an important part of the healing process, and even more so in terms of end of life situations. There needs to be provision of more routes, extended coverage, increasing frequency of public transport and related community/patient transport.

Coleford Town Council would certainly offer our support to lobby for improved public transport links. We would like to be involved in such discussions, including with community transport. In our comments to [Chepstow Transport Study](#), we have mentioned the need for such routes and frequency into the Forest from there.

Awareness of weather-related problems such as snow must be considered: in such cases, bus services fail, so the ways in which staff especially can reach the hospital need to be investigated and catered for.

Electric vehicle charging points in the car park would add to access for staff and visitors as well as patients.

Yours faithfully

Chris Haine

Assistant Town Clerk (seconded)

From: Clerk <clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk>
Sent: 16 December 2020 16:50
To: Participation (NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE CCG)
Subject: Fit for The Future - Cinderford Hospital Survey
Attachments: CinderfordHospitalSurveyDocDec20.pdf

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Please find attached response to the survey from Tidenham Parish Council. Councillors feel that a response from them, as Parish Councillors, is an important response to the survey but that the survey itself does not lend itself to such a response.

I have therefore completed the survey pages where possible and included a written comment / question sheet following detailed discussions with Councillors.

I would appreciate an acknowledgement of receipt of this correspondence please.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Carol Hinton
Clerk to Tidenham Parish Council
clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk

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Fit for the Future - A new hospital for the Forest of Dean

10%

We think that the range of services proposed in this Consultation will meet the needs of local people. Please tell us whether you agree with this statement, for each of the following:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Inpatient care:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urgent care:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diagnostic services:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outpatient services:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us why you think this, e.g. the information you would like us to consider

This is a response by Tidenham Parish Council.

Please see attached Page.



Fit for the Future - A new hospital for the Forest of Dean

30%

During earlier engagement, concerns were raised about people accessing a single urgent care facility located in Cinderford. Please tell us your ideas for how you think urgent care could be made more accessible for people living in the south of the Forest.

A Minor Injuries facility should be located in the Lydney / Chepstow area to serve the approx. 20,000 Gloucestershire residents living from Lydney south between the Severn and Wye valleys.
Discussions should be held with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board for this care for Tidenham residents for whom travel may be difficult at the time the care is needed.

If you would like to participate in the discussions about urgent care in the south of the Forest, please leave your preferred contact details below (please note this information will not be associated with any other responses you have given as part of this Consultation)

Clerk to the Parish Council - Mrs Carol Hinton - clerk@tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk

Fit for the Future – a New Hospital for the Forest of Dean.

Response to Public Consultation by Tidenham Parish Council –

Inpatient Care -

No guarantees have been given that the 24 beds will be solely for Forest of Dean Residents, given that currently 50% occupancy is by non Forest residents.

How has the proposed projected house building in and around Gloucester (eg. 4000 proposed at Churcham), as well as the new build estates in Tutshill and Sedbury, been taken into account when deciding on the number of beds to provide? The Forest of Dean District Council has also proposed plans to develop Beachley Barracks to build some 600 homes.

What action will be taken to ensure long stay patients do not take up any of the 24 beds?

End of life care – visiting patients receiving end of life care would be difficult for travel reasons outlined below for residents of Tidenham Parish, particularly for those reliant on public transport, adding unnecessary distress at such a time.

How has the possible future need for extension of the building to increase the number of inpatient beds been taken into account in the architectural design of the hospital?

Urgent and Minor Injuries Care –

Urgent and Minor Injuries care will not be accessible for Tidenham Parish Residents. The journey to Cinderford from the Parish takes at least 40 minutes on narrow roads, often affected by adverse weather conditions, by car. This may be dangerous for drivers in an agitated state.

There is no direct public transport from the Parish to Cinderford. A planned bus journey would take over 1 ½ hours – not an option where urgent care is needed.

What guarantees will there be that residents of Tidenham Parish will have access to urgent and minor injuries care once Lydney MIU is closed? The most accessible Units will be Gloucester – 28 miles on A48 road, Southmead, Bristol – 15 miles across Severn Bridge and the Royal Gwent, Newport – 20 miles A48 road.

Diagnostic Services –

The Parish Council feels that the lack of public transport and nature of the B roads will make attending the Cinderford hospital for services such as x-rays an option that Tidenham residents will not use where facilities at more easily accessible locations are available, for example at Chepstow Community Hospital or Gloucester that can be accessed easily by train from Lydney.

Outpatient Services –

GP services are crucial for patient release support. The majority of Tidenham residents are registered with Welsh GP practices who are not contracted to provide support under Gloucestershire NHS. The information literature does not give assurances that the GP and home care facilities described will be available to Tidenham residents – how will this be achieved?

25% of the Tidenham Parish population is over 65 years of age – a figure that may well rise over the next years, increasing the need for crucial access to local outpatient services, linked to local GP practices.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 December 2020 22:57
To: GIG (NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE CCG)
Subject: [test] Forest of Dean Community Hospitals Consultation

Forest of Dean Green Party

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to the Forest of Dean Community Hospitals Consultation.

After much discussion and research the paper attached is the response from The Forest of Dean Green Party to The Community Hospitals in the Forest of Dean Consultation.

apologies as it is not on your form, we expected to be able to use it until the end of the 17th December 2020 but it seems to have closed already.

All Green Party policies are designed to promote the health of individuals and communities. We believe that care for its vulnerable members is an essential feature of a compassionate society. Proper healthcare for all requires a sustained provision of well-financed and publicly-funded health services. For these reasons we are campaigning to protect our NHS to ensure that high quality care remains free at the point of delivery and to provide enough beds and staff locally to meet our needs. We need to sustain and make resilient our community hospitals, and put patients before profits.

While we welcome the prospect of further investment in healthcare in the Forest of Dean, our concern is that plans to close our existing hospitals will be forced through after a flawed consultation procedure and without regard to the special needs of our district.

The closer health services are to the communities they serve, the better they function. It is all too likely that building one new hospital in Cinderford will deprive other communities of the reassuring and essential support of their current healthcare

provision. The obvious case is Lydney which would lose its urgent care facilities, at the same time as its population is planned to grow considerably.

It should not be assumed the plan will proceed automatically. The pandemic has reasserted the supreme value of our health and the debt we owe to the key workers who help sustain our lives. It has proved the value of local knowledge in health provision and, in the light of this dreadful experience, it may still be possible and would be wise to look again at the plan.

Whatever route may be taken, we believe it is essential that our local circumstances are taken properly into account and related to best practice. Patients thrive in a sympathetic environment. Research convincingly suggests patients experience less stress and pain if they can view nature and other pleasant distractions, to the benefit of both health and the economy. The benign setting of the Dilke is ideal for convalescent patients. We have far too few rehabilitation beds in the Forest and a major opportunity would be lost to enhance our current facilities if the Dilke was sold off to property developers.

In our response to the consultation, the Forest of Dean Green Party strongly condemned any reduction in the provision of beds. Our experience through the pandemic suggests we should reconsider plans for single-room provision, which offers more effective infection control, though not at the expense of overall bed numbers. We would further argue that it does not seem sensible to reduce the number of beds in Forest hospitals to half of what they are now.

Personal and climate health are intertwined. The final proposal must include a public transport strategy that allows patients, staff, family and visitors throughout the Forest of Dean to readily access hospital services by means of a dedicated bus service. Reducing the need to travel by car and reducing journey distances will help those who cannot afford to drive, while limiting carbon emissions.

The new hospital must be built to standards which are sustainable in terms of the climate and which demonstrates innovative design that not only meets the needs of the community as it is now but which can respond and adapt to changes in service delivery, changing needs and demographic.

We strongly recommend the delivery of more mobile services, home servicing and the enhanced provision of local and accessible mental health care in the community. Future investment is needed desperately for more beds, more nurses, more doctors and shorter waiting times. We need that investment as much for our NHS staff and patients as our buildings.

We look forward to receiving confirmation of receipt.

best wishes

Jackie Dale

Coordinator Forest of Dean Green Party
