



HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL HERTFORDSHIRE

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 31st July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Wellfield Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mendez – Town Mayor
Councillor Mark Bolitho Councillor Caron Juggins
Councillor Lenny Brandon Councillor Hazel Laming
Councillor Jackie Brennan Councillor Angus MacKay
Councillor Richard Brisbin Councillor John Percival
Councillor Eames-Petersen
Councillor Richard Griffiths
OFFICERS: Sam Frake (Deputy Town Clerk)

31. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri (work commitment), Councillor Tristan Wiltshire (work commitment), Councillor Lee Newman (work commitment) and Councillor Rory Craig (work commitment).

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest.

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman

34. TO RECONSIDER THIS COUNCIL'S DECISION (OR OTHERWISE) ON 6/2019/1338/FULL - UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE, CLUB DE HAVILLAND, MOSQUITO WAY, HATFIELD, AL10 9EU - CHANGE OF USE FROM ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE (USE CLASS D2) TO TEACHING FACILITY (USE CLASS D1)

A presentation was given by Mr Ian Grimes, Director Of Estates at the University of Hertfordshire.

RESOLVED that the Council now supports the planning application submitted by the University of Hertfordshire.

A recorded vote was taken

	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Councillor Linda Mendez	X		
Councillor Margaret Eames-Petersen			X
Councillor Lenny Brandon	X		
Councillor Mark Bolitho	X		
Councillor John Percival	X		
Councillor Jackie Brennan	X		
Councillor Richard Brisbin	X		
Councillor Richard Griffiths	X		
Councillor Caron Juggins	X		
Councillor Hazel Laming	X		
Councillor Angus MacKay	X		

35. RESPONSE TO PROPOSED NIGHT CLOSURE OF URGENT CARE AT QE2 HOSPITAL

Members listened to the proposed response from the Council by Councillor John Percival.

Hatfield Town Council writes to express its serious concern to the proposals from East and North Hertfordshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), to close the New QEII Urgent Care Centre overnight from 10pm to 8am.

We believe that the proposals fly in the face of previous commitments given to Hatfield residents.

The Council is concerned that the data contained in the public engagement document does not refer to all patients using the Urgent Care Centre but only those from the local area. However, we note that even using the data provided this could still result in around 3,000 patients being adversely affected.

The Council also expresses surprise that the Impact Assessment for this proposal makes no reference to how elderly people are likely to be affected. The Council fears that elderly residents of Hatfield are likely to be negatively impacted by the proposed overnight closure. We would therefore request that the CCG publish their assessment of the impact the proposal will have on Hatfield's elderly residents.

In addition, we also wish to highlight that there is no data currently collected by the CCG for the protected characteristics other than age, sex and race therefore questions how the CCG has come to the conclusion that there is no anticipated impact on these groups in the assessment.

We are worried that the closure of the Urgent Care Centre at the QEII removes a 'safe space' where out-of-hours GPs can meet with mental health patients and/or their families overnight. The council believes a 'safe space' in

the area must be available for patients where it is not appropriate for them to be visited at home.

Furthermore, the Council believes that this proposal will cause significant hardship to Hatfield residents. Those living in central Hatfield will be forced to travel an extra 22 miles on a round trip to Lister Hospital – taking an estimated additional 28 minutes to do so. The Council highlights that taxi fare calculation sites estimate that an overnight round trip to Lister will cost over £100.

The Council does not believe that transferring a small number of staff from *the QEII* to Stevenage does anything to address the underlying staff retention problems at Lister and, if anything, could lead to increased numbers of staff members leaving if forced to travel further for work on a more regular basis.

Hatfield Town Council therefore strongly disagrees with the proposal to close the QEII Urgent Care Centre overnight from 10pm to 8am and urges NHS East and North Hertfordshire to reconsider the proposals.

Members wish the response to be put forward.

(Action: Town Clerk)

36. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Resources & Policy Committee – 12th June 2019

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

b) Planning Committee – 26th June 2019

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

c) Sport & Leisure Committee – 3rd July 2019

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

d) Planning Committee – 17th July 2019

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next Council meeting would be 7.30pm on 16th October 2019.

Closure: 20:30hrs

Mayor