

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 2020

Written question from Mrs Rosemary Cantwell to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council

You were not the Leader in 2016 when the origins of this particular issue came about. I do not know what you know about the history of my petitioning to Parliament either in 2016 or 2019. Nevertheless, I believe that you are conscientious and rightly concerned for the health and wellbeing of our local community and wish to ensure the optimal local NHS and Care services are available to us all equally.

This is where I am extremely alarmed by the actions and activities of IWCCG/Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of Clinical Commissioning Groups.

What have you been informed by them in respect of various meetings that have taken place regarding Beech Grove Surgery? What have you considered in relation to my request for a merger of Beech Grove Surgery with Sandown and Shanklin GP practices which are in the process of merging which will happen on 1 April 2020 to make a "supersize" GP practice?

Why cannot the "LIFT" process for example as referenced by IWNHST on their website, enable the Isle of Wight and an NHS partner and potentially a non-State body go into partnership to secure a new site for Beech Grove Surgery both in Brading and Lake?

The issues are serious in that Brading is a Rural Service Centre and has its own Neighbourhood Plan which is accepted by Isle of Wight Council. This plan specifically references GP practice as a local service.

Why should this not continue? What are your views on this matter please?

Connected inextricably with all of this is the provision of planning of new homes and housing needs and your consultation that continues until a date in February 2020. However, this particular survey is not open-ended enough to enable people such as myself to express concerns. Please allow us to write to you separately rather than fill in this very skewed questionnaire as it is not fit for the purpose that you think it is addressing.

For a start, Pennyfeathers is a 904-home plan which has been given approval. Has it been started? If so, where will all the new residents register with GPs? This is about forward-planning. The closure of a major GP resource in Brading and Lake will put increased pressures on the local infrastructure.

This is totally unnecessary and uncalled-for.

Response

Concerns have been expressed regarding this issue and I have requested the Council's Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care to add this to their work plan for consideration.