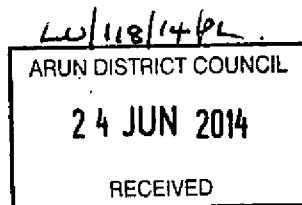


The Assistant Director Planning and Economic
Regeneration
Arun Civic Centre,
Maltravers Road,
Littlehampton
BN17 5LF

NHS
Coastal West Sussex
Clinical Commissioning Group
1 The Causeway
Goring-by-Sea
Worthing
BN12 6BT



23 June 2014

For the attention of the Assistant Director Planning and Economic Regeneration

As the Head of Primary Care Development at NHS Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group, I am writing to share our support for a planning application to change the use of part of a building on Courtwick Lane to new medical facilities.

As a CCG, our main focus is to look at how current health services are providing care for people across Coastal West Sussex, and make further improvements if necessary. Primary care is an essential part of local health care provision, and as such needs to be able to provide the best possible services for local residents. The proposed relocation of Arun Medical Group to Courtwick Lane would strengthen primary care in the wider Littlehampton area, allowing the practice to grow and develop, and provide more care locally for their patients. We are very supportive of the plans, and have been working alongside the practice to develop these proposals and ensure they meet local need.

In Littlehampton specifically there is an urgent need to address the growing demand for primary care in the north of the town. There is significant additional housing planned for this area and currently no primary care facilities. Relocating Arun Medical Group would allow this need to be met, whilst at the same time as the practice's existing patients continue to receive the care and support they expect from a modern, state-of-the-art GP practice.

As the local NHS we also need to address the availability of Section 106 money, which is associated with the development of health services in the north of Littlehampton. This proposed relocation would allow this money to be used for the benefit of the town, both existing residents and new residents, in the area for which it is specified to be used. Not exploring this opportunity could risk this investment for local health services when the greater Littlehampton area could benefit significantly by its use.

As it has also been said elsewhere, the relocation of Arun Medical Group to Courtwick Lane would also open up the potential opportunity for The Lawns Surgery, which is currently based in Rustington, to relocate to the existing East Preston surgery site. The Lawns have been in challenged premises for many years now and have been waiting for a suitable opportunity to move; this would provide suitable alternative premises and would allow this practice to grow and develop, and ensure primary care provision remains in East Preston.

Overall, we believe this relocation presents a unique opportunity for the local NHS to significantly improve primary care services across the greater Littlehampton area. Pressure on general practices is continuing to grow, and as a local health system we need to make sure we can support our practices to be in the best possible position to meet that demand, and develop and grow, to meet the increasing pressures upon them. Premises are always a key issue and this provides an opportunity to address the needs of two practices, whilst providing a significant opportunity for improvement to local health services for the people of the greater Littlehampton area.

We hope this planning application is considered favourably, and permission is given for the local NHS to make these improvements to local healthcare in the greater Littlehampton area.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Tina Tompkins.

Tina Tompkins

Head of Primary Care Development, NHS Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group