



Lowestoft Town Council  
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VAT No 275 3662 80

24 October 2018

Christine Allen, Chief Executive and Anna Davidson, Chair (both by hand-delivered letter and by email via [Louise.trett@jpaget.nhs.uk](mailto:Louise.trett@jpaget.nhs.uk)), James Paget University Hospitals Foundation Trust

Cc Melanie Craig, Chief Officer and Dr Liam Stevens, Chair and Clinical Vice Chair, NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group via [gywccg.your-views-matter@nhs.net](mailto:gywccg.your-views-matter@nhs.net)

Dear Ms Allen and Ms Davidson

### **Urgent - Postponement of Sale of Old Hospital Site, Tennyson Road, Lowestoft**

It has come to our attention that the Old Hospital site in Lowestoft is to be put up for auction tomorrow and this letter is to request that you take immediate steps to postpone the sale of this site. Although we accept that the site might become mixed use, this sale is proceeding without due public engagement and consultation and without consideration of all the options which might enable some health service provision. This is completely unacceptable, particularly when dealing with a population that has many social and economic challenges and struggles to make its voice heard.

You will appreciate that the level of accessible health services per head of population is much lower than in other areas. This paucity of support must be addressed, particularly given that Lowestoft is an area beleaguered by health problems. By way of example, nine of the neighbourhoods in the town are within the 10% most deprived in the country and life expectancy is lower in some of the central wards of Lowestoft than the rest of the District. The Normanston ward of Lowestoft has a much higher proportion of the population which is obese, than the national average. Harbour and Kirkley wards have additional problems of unemployment levels which are double the national average.

The result of changes to health care provision locally has been an exacerbation of health problems and inequality. Any plans which would further reduce the potential for an accessible and appropriate health service would be a great blow. Local people cannot afford, economically and in health terms, to continue to be subject to increasingly remote and inaccessible health services. It is unacceptable that people here, who cannot afford the taxi fares and significant other additional costs and practical complications that arise from trying to access remote health services, suffer these additional costs and problems compared to other more privileged and geographically-fortunate areas. The Old Hospital



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site provides a prime opportunity to explore opportunities to improve quality of life for this large population.

You will also be aware that there are aspects of the building itself that should be carefully considered and preserved in any development works, not least the memorial provided by the town to commemorate the service personnel who fell in the Great War.

The Council urges you to join the Town Council in its aspiration to see a strong framework of services and facilities developed to support the health and well-being of the people in Lowestoft. Please do contact me to discuss how we can work together to help develop plans for the site that support this ambition for a community that is vulnerable to being overlooked and neglected. The Council would be happy to meet with you or attend a Board meeting and would urge you to ensure that your governance meetings are held in public given the considerable public interest in the publicly-funded health service.

Yours sincerely

Shona Bendix  
Town Clerk