

**COUNCILLOR LAXMI ATTAWAR**  
(Labour, Colliers Wood Ward)



Mr Elkeles  
Chief Executive  
St Helier Hospital

London Borough of Merton  
Merton Civic Centre  
London Road  
Morden SM4 5DX

*Tel:* 020 8545 3424 (Civic Centre)  
*Mob:* 07818 062 647  
*Email:* laxmi.attawar@merton.gov.uk

*Date:* 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Mr Elkeles,

### **St Helier Hospital Engagement - 2017**

I am writing to respond to the St Helier Hospital Engagement you are conducting. It concerns me that this appears to be the 5<sup>th</sup> consultation being carried out by the St Helier and Epsom Trust and feel that the money spent on the consultation (approximately £50 million) would have been better spent on the building of the new hospital at St Helier (part of the £219million) which was agreed and budgeted for in 2009.

As a resident and councillor for Colliers Wood I cannot stress enough why it is important for the residents of Mitcham and Morden to have a modern 'state of the art' new hospital built on the current St Helier site at Rose Hill - providing its acute services, including a consultant let maternity unit and major A&E. Living very close to St Georges Hospital my family and I are very dependant on St Georges and value it greatly. We have all had need to use it on several occasions. St Georges Hospital Trust is currently struggling and will not be able to cope with any increased pressure put upon its services and its finances.

### **Reasons why St Helier Site is crucial:**

**Economic Impact:** The residents of Mitcham and Morden, especially those on the east of the constituency nearest to St Helier Hospital, are not only totally dependant on St Helier Hospital for their medical care they are reliant upon but also for their jobs. St Helier Hospital is the biggest employer in the local area which will also have a detrimental impact on businesses in the Rose Hill area who benefit from the throughput of traffic of staff patients and visitors attending the hospital.

**Area of deprivation:** The percentage of neighbourhoods within a mile of each hospital site considered in the 40% most deprived neighbourhoods for employment are as follows:

St Helier – 50%  
Belmont - 8%  
Epsom - 0%

**Transport links:** As the majority of the Mitcham and Morden residents living in and around St Helier Hospital are reliant on public transport St Helier has the best transport links. There are 7 different bus routes to St Helier Hospital with 5 running every 12 minutes and more frequently in peak times. Of the 7 routes, 4 stop directly at the hospital and there is the additional option for residents to use the Morden tube and 157 as an additional option. On the other hand the travel to Epsom Hospital has fewer options with longer travel times requiring residents to change at St Helier for their onward journeys to Epsom or Belmont.

1,335 people in Mitcham and Morden who live within a mile of St Helier Hospital live in households with no car ownership so totally reliant on public transport which is 3 times the number of people without transport in Belmont and 5 times the number in Epsom.

I therefore feel that for all of the above reasons I cannot stress strongly enough why it is important for the residents of Mitcham and Morden living on the east of the constituency to have a new hospital built on its current site at Rose Hill.

Finally, I would like to put on record that I was pleased to hear you say at a recent Health Scrutiny meeting in Merton in September that you had no preference where the new hospital would be built and would be happy for it to be built on the St Helier Site if that was where the need was greatest.

We look forward to hearing the results of the outcome of your engagement.

Yours sincerely



**Laxmi Attawar**  
**Councillor Colliers Wood Ward**