

Dear Lisa,

I don't know if you are still taking comments on your proposals, but if so you might like to include the following responses to your key questions.

This is a joint response which has been cleared by the committees of:

Belmont & South Cheam Residents Association
Belmont, South Sutton and South Cheam Neighbourhood Forum

Thanks once again for coming to address our meetings,

Kind regards,

Peter Matthey

Chair, Belmont & South Cheam Residents Association
Chair, Belmont, South Sutton and South Cheam Neighbourhood Forum

Q1 Do you agree with our aim to provide as much care as possible from our existing hospital sites at St Helier and Epsom and do this by working more closely with the other local health and care providers?

Our Response: Yes. This is much more preferable than closing either of the existing hospitals which had been proposed previously.

Q2 Do you think we have made the case that we will improve patient care by bringing together our services for our sickest or most at-risk patients on a new specialist acute facility on one site?

Our Response: In an ideal world both hospitals would be enhanced to have their own Acute Care Unit. However, we appreciate that funds are unlikely to be available to provide two Acute Care Units in our area. We have waited many years for a "state of the art" hospital in our area and demanding two at this time would probably result in us getting none. Also we understand that you are already having difficulty recruiting sufficient qualified staff to run the units that it does have. You have told us that concentrating their staff in one unit would mean it would be able to offer experienced staff for longer hours of cover and reduce the agency staff bill by over £1m per month. We therefore agree that you have made a good case.

Q3 We have set out several scenarios on how we can do this. In all scenarios 85% of patients will continue to be treated at Epsom or St Helier as now. Do you think we should consider any other scenarios?

Our Response: In none of our meetings was an alternative suggested other than the option mentioned above of enhancing both hospitals. So "No".

In summary we support your proposal to press ahead with a business case for a single Acute Care Unit. There have been so many attempts for over 25 years to make a step function improvement in our health care facilities. It is vital that this initiative succeeds and we have confidence in your current management team that they can make this happen.

This, of course, leads to the difficult question which will arrive next as to where the ACU should be located.

What if the Acute Care Unit is located at Belmont?

For the future, our position is that it would be good for our area to have a local state of the art hospital. Being an Acute Care facility, patient arrivals and departures will be much lower volumes than a unit specialising in, say, outpatient care. However, that doesn't reduce the concerns about the impact of the unit on the surrounding neighbourhood.

We re assured by your statement that 10% of the capital funding you hope to obtain would be expected to be spent on infrastructure improvements.

IF the Acute Care Unit is to go to the Sutton Hospital site in Belmont, then improvements we must ensure are provided as a minimum must include:

- Provision of sufficient and affordable parking onsite. We have major concerns that the underground car park proposed as part of the London Cancer Hub development may not be established within acceptable timescales. If not committed, then a car park under the ACU may be a practical alternative.
- A plan put in place to ensure that on-street parking in the surrounding roads is not seen as an attractive alternative
- The road network around the site must be enhanced both at a macro and a micro level to ensure that emergency services can reach the site and to ensure that there is no detrimental effect for local residents.
- Public transport improvements will be needed to ease travel throughout the hospital's catchment area and in particular between Belmont and Epsom and Belmont and St Helier.

We will demand that all such improvements are in place before the facility is opened.