



SOUTH LONDON NEPALESE (GURKHA) ASSOCIATION

Dear Mr Elkeles,

I am a resident living near St Helier Hospital, and part of the growing Nepalese community here, and I write to respond to your engagement on the future plans for services at Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust, entitled 'Epsom & St Helier 2020-2030'. I strongly support the building of any new hospital on the current site at St Helier in Rose Hill. I oppose any downgrading of the current A&E unit or consultant led maternity unit.

St Helier, Rose Hill, is the most accessible site by public transport for people who live in my area, where people are less likely to own a car than those living in Belmont or Epsom. There are seven bus routes to St Helier Hospital, four of which stop directly outside the front entrance. In contrast, the nearest bus stop to Belmont is a fifteen-minute walk away and a journey to Epsom would require two further buses and take me an hour. Many of us in the Nepalese community rely heavily on public transport to get around, so St. Helier, Rosehill is the best site for us.

Members of the Nepalese community need regular access to a well located general hospital as many of us suffer from diabetes, heart problems, cancers among other serious health diseases. Indeed, residents near St. Helier Hospital, overall, require a well-located hospital more so than residents in Belmont or Epsom. There are 3,465 people regarded as being in bad or very bad health within a mile of St Helier, in contrast to 1,525 at Belmont and 937 at Epsom. It is clear that those who live in the area closest to St Helier Hospital are those most in need.

I would be very grateful if you could register my views as a formal response to your engagement process.

Yours Sincerely,