

COPY

Drs Kirkham, Curtin, Taylor, Low Edwards, Williams & Webb

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The Health Centre
Saffron Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8DJ

8th October 2009

REVISED

Cllr Mrs W Smith
7 Brunel Drive
Biggleswade
SG18 8BT

Dear Cllr Smith

Cristina Ward from the Ivel Medical Centre passed on to this surgery a copy of the letter written to you on 25th September 2009 concerning the BIGG PROJECT.

This Practice would like to state that it agrees with the content of the letter and is anxious to continue to work towards the building of improved Health care facilities in the town of Biggleswade. At the present time our two surgeries are woefully inadequate to provide high quality healthcare to the population we serve. As you are aware we have been involved for many years in various projects and undertaking to move this forward but feel frustrated that no real progress seems to have been made in the last 8 years.

We welcome the recent involvement between the Practices and the Town Council and you have our assurance of our commitment to a financially viable project that will enhance patient care in Biggleswade and the surrounding area.

Yours sincerely



Signed on behalf of all of the Partners at
Dr Kirkham and Partners

RECEIVED

30 SEP 2009

Dr William Hollington
Dr Jane Hartree
Dr Anna Zahorski
Dr Nigel Smith
Dr Margaret Kalilani
Dr Rihan Bashir

Ivel Medical Centre
35-39 The Baulk
Biggleswade
Beds
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25 September 2009

Cllr Mrs W Smith
7 Brunel Drive
BIGGLESWADE
Beds
SG18 8BT

REVISED

Dear Cllr Smith – Wendy

BIGG PROJECT

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you to thank you for inviting my colleague Jenny Morley and myself to meet with members of the Town Council and Savills on 7 July. It was also nice to see you again on 4th September which unfortunately Jenny could not attend, at the Meeting with Central Bedfordshire representatives, Savills and the PCT,

I have now had an opportunity to update my Partners on these two Meetings at our recent Partners' Meeting, and they have asked me to write to you and as you will see they have also signed this letter in support of the work that you are undertaking.

The Partners were interested to hear about the BIGG project and the areas of the Town that you are looking to redevelop. They were particularly encouraged that The Town Council is also very keen to ensure that appropriate health care facilities are made available for the residents of Biggleswade and the surrounding villages as part of this Project. I have also advised them of your intention, as part of the redevelopment plans, to include a provision for health as part of the Planning Permission process you are undertaking, on the four areas that were discussed to ensure that the health provision is also high on the agenda.

At the Meeting on 4th September it was explained that you wish to carry out a Public Consultation on the BIGG Picture Project at the beginning of 2010. I explained to them that you are also very keen to include health as part of this Consultation, although as was explained by the PCT it is necessary for us to undertake a 12 week consultation compared to your 6 week period, but the Partners, like you, feel that it would be an ideal opportunity and it would mean that the public would only be consulted once on major plans for Biggleswade.

We all feel that this is an opportunity to finally achieve the aim and mission of our Practice for the last 15 years, in not only being able to offer our patients healthcare accommodation that is fit for purpose, but to also be able to expand the range of services we offer. I am aware that the Health Centre would also agree with this sentiment. This development will also provide an opportunity to provide local additional services that are currently only provided in Hospital. As I am sure you will appreciate this would be of great benefit to the local residents.

We consider that the BIGG Project is a window of opportunity for the two Practices and local residents, as we appreciate that you are also taking into consideration the infrastructure that is required with regard to public transport and car parking. With a volume of 1,000 booked appointments per week for our Practice which does not include other patient encounters for example requesting and collecting prescriptions, obtaining test results and other enquiries, this is also a very important facet that needs to be borne in mind when deciding where the healthcare facilities are located.

On behalf of my Partners, I would like to thank you very much for the support importance, and high profile that you and your fellow Councillors have given and placed on the provision of healthcare facilities within the Town.

Both I and my Partners look forward to working further with the Town Council, and if you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Christina Ward

Christina Ward
Executive Director


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Dr William Hollington


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Dr Jane Hartree


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Dr Anna Zahorski


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Dr Nigel Denton


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Dr Margaret Kalilani


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Dr Rihan Bashir

copies sent to:

Cllr David Albone
Cllr Rose Forbes
Cllr Sheila Grayston
Cllr Rebecca Kerfoot
Cllr David Lawrence
Cllr Jane Lawrence
Cllr Peter Rook
Cllr Rex Skinner
Cllr David Smith
Cllr Peter Vickers
Cllr Steven Watkins
Cllr George Wilson
Cllr Peter Woodward
Cllr Timothy Woodward
Cllr Maurice Jones
Rob McGregor Town Clerk
Alistair Burt MP
Andrew Morgan NHS Bedfordshire Chief Executive
Fiona Benson NHS Bedfordshire Non Executive Director
Sandy Burton NHS Bedfordshire
Tony Medwell NHS Bedfordshire
Peter Graves Local Medical Committee
Dr Jonathan Kirkham Biggleswade Health Centre Senior Partner
Jenny Morley Biggleswade Health Centre Practice Manager
Dr Alvin Low Ivel Valley PBC Chairman
Sonia Jordan Ivel Valley Chief Executive
Karen Fletcher Implementation Manager PBC

