

**AGENDA FOR THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL OFFICES TOTNES**

You are hereby SUMMONED to attend the meeting of the People Committee, which is to be held in the Guildhall, Totnes on **Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 9.30am** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Subject** | **Comments** |
| 1 | To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Committee.  |  |
|  | *The Committee will adjourn for the following item:* |  |
|  | *Public Engagement: A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Committee or other items that affect Totnes.* |  |
|  | *The Committee will convene to consider the following items:* |  |
| 2 | To receive a presentation from Cllr T Whitty on the draft Neighbourhood Plan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy. | Presentation from Cllr T Whitty |
| 3 | To consider a response to the current CCG consultation (closes 20th November 2016) which restructures health services in the area. | Please see Appendix A attached |
| 4 | To diary the date of the next meeting – 9.30am Wednesday 16th November 2016 |  |

Catherine Marlton

Deputy Town Clerk

**Appendix A**

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: ROBERT VINT <rjvint@icloud.com>
Date: 4 October 2016 at 11:13
Subject: Letter concerning Community Hospital closures / CCG Consultation Public Event, 11th October, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Civic Hall.
To: Cllr Marion Adams <adamshollytree@btinternet.com>
Cc: Catherine Marlton <assets@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk>, Cllr Tony Whitty <tonywhitty@yahoo.com>, Totnes Town Council <office@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk>

Hello Marion,

I attach a draft letter to NHS England drafted by Cllr Simon Rines (Buckfastleigh Town Council) and other campaigners concerned about the loss of community hospitals in South Devon.
They aim to invite local MPs to sign it.
These issues will be discussed at the CCG Consultation Public Event (11th October, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Civic Hall).
As the People Committee doesn’t meet until after the 11th I understand that we agreed last night to raise such matters at the Operations Committee on the 6th October. Could this letter please be included under that agenda item?

Kind regards,
Robert.

**LETTER FROM BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL**

*I am writing regarding the public consultation concerning the proposed closure of four hospitals in South Devon.*

*The consultation is being held by The South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group and runs until 23 November.*

*As a Town Council, representing constituents who will be affected by the proposals, we are calling on NHS England to stop this consultation on several grounds.*

*First, the consultation is not being conducted according to the Governments consultation principles and fails the test on four of the 11 principles that it should meet, namely:*

***1. Do not ask questions about issues on which you already have a final view.***

*The CCG consultation documents state quite openly that it plans to close four community hospitals (in Ashburton/Buckfastleigh, Bovey Tracey, Dartmouth and Paignton). Indeed staff these hospitals have been told that they should look for other jobs.*

***2. Give enough information to ensure that those consulted understand the issues and can give informed responses. Include validated assessments of the costs and benefits of the options being considered when possible.***

*There are virtually no specifics about what the closures will be replaced with. The documentation is very vague, with no costings provided at all. There is no assessment of benefits or consequences of the proposals.*

*There is actually a section on ‘Money’ in the FAQs but it doesn’t include a single figure – not one – just vague statements about budgets and whether they have looked at costs.*

*The only specific commitments are to put x-ray machines in Totnes, Newton Abbot and Dawlish minor injury units. Other than that there is vague talk of more community staff, well being co-ordinators, investing in clinics – but no specific numbers of staff, no costings.*

*The documentation says most of the money from the closures would go towards the new proposals – but what is most of the money – that could be 51%?*

***3. Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time***

*This consultation closes on 23 November 2016, five weeks after the final public meeting. Given that the CCG states that it will go ahead with its proposal unless the communities affected can produce more appropriate plans, and given that virtually no data has been provided to create a plan for a complex requirement, this clearly does not give enough time for communities to respond. Many of those who would be in a position to analyse costings and propose alternative plans have full-time jobs and other commitments and to expect people to be able to produce a well-research, fully costed plan for healthcare for a large and diverse community in such a period is clearly not realistic.*

***4. Consider targeting specific groups if appropriate. Ensure they are aware of the consultation and can access it.***

*There has been very little publicity regarding the consultation. The CCG has not publicised the public consultation meetings by use of posters in towns affected or taken out advertisements in the local press. The principle is to ‘ensure’ people are aware of the consultation, yet the CCG has done very little to promote the process.*

*On these grounds the consultation fails on these four very important principles.*

*Furthermore, the consultation includes an online questionnaire which is clearly manipulative and is designed to garner responses that the CCG wishes to see rather than to poll the genuine views of residents.*

*The format of the questionnaire is in clear breach of the Market Research Society (MRS) code of conduct and, although the CCG is not a member of the MRS, it is reasonable to expect a publicly funded organisation to conduct research according to the highest professional standards, especially when it concerns such important decisions as the future healthcare of a large population.*

*There are many examples of leading questions in the questionnaire, however, the most blatant is Section 9:*

*If the choice is between:*

*Using resources to keep open community hospitals which look after people from across the CCG area*

*Or*

*Using the resources to expand community health services by recruiting trained nurses and therapists to help keep people healthier, out of hospital and supported closer to their home*

*Do you agree that it is better to do the latter? Yes No*

*The first of the two options is framed at best as a neutral statement. It does not suggest that there would be any improvement to the health of people – they would simply be looked after.*

*The second option is full of positive messages and lots of very active words: ‘expand’, ‘recruiting’, ‘trained’, ‘healthier’, ‘supported’ and it includes mentions of ‘nurses’ and ‘therapists’ and ‘home’.*

*It then invites the respondent to agree with the statement. To disagree would be much more difficult here, because it would be suggesting that the respondent is being in some way irrational in not agreeing with this expert suggestion.*

*On this basis, the consultation results must be discounted as respondents have been deliberately manipulated to provide agreement to the proposal.*

*We therefore call upon and fully expect NHS England to suspend this ‘consultation’ immediately and instruct the CCG to announce that plans for hospital closure are suspended and will not be re-considered until a proper consultation has been undertaken.*

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **ROBERT VINT** <rjvint@icloud.com>
Date: 7 October 2016 at 10:17
Subject: Hospital Cuts Consultation - pre-meeting at Guildhall today 10.30am
To: Councillor Andy Simms <andysimmstotnes@gmail.com>, Councillor Barker <margietotnes@icloud.com>, Councillor Ben Piper <fireflylnm@yahoo.co.uk>, Cllr Eleanor Cohen <ecohenuk@yahoo.co.uk>, Mark Elliot-Smith <mark.elliot-smith@hotmail.co.uk>, Councillor Hart-Williams <nickhartwilliams@gmail.com>, Cllr Jacqi Hodgson <jacqihodgson@gmail.com>, Councillor Jo Sweett <josweett@gmail.com>, Cllr Judy Westacott MBE <tq9jude@gmail.com>, Cllr Marion Adams <adamshollytree@btinternet.com>, Councillor Ray Hendriksen <rayhendriksen@yahoo.com>, Councillor Rosie Adams <rosieintotnes@gmail.com>, Kate Sermon <katesermon@hotmail.com>, Cllr Tony Whitty <TonyWhitty@yahoo.com>, Pip Paine <philipcpaine@gmail.com>, Catherine Marlton <assets@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk>, Totnes Town Council Clerk <clerk@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk>

Dear Town Councillors,

I hope some of you can come along to the Guildhall in a few minutes at 10.30am to agree some questions to raise at the consultation event on the 11th.

There was a very lively debate at Devon County Council about this yesterday.  I attach details below.

Best wishes,

Robert.

Dear All,

Here’s a summary of the large amount of discussion about the CCG Consultation at yesterday’s meeting of Devon County Council.

**Item 6: Questions from the Public**

Here is Anne’s Question and the Reply from the Leader of the Council:

**Item 8: Questions from Members of the Council:**

I copy below the reply from Cllr **Stuart Barker** to my Written Question - which was:

1. Department of Health guidance on Local Authority Health Scrutiny (June 2014) states that *“In considering substantial reconfiguration proposals health scrutiny needs to recognise the resource envelope within which the NHS operates and should therefore take into account the effect of the proposals on sustainability of services, as well as on their quality and safety”*. In taking into account the 'Resource Envelope' within which our CCGs operate, does the Council, in the present economic situation, have any means of guaranteeing that changes made to healthcare, as proposed in the **Success Regime** and the **Sustainability and Transformation Plans**, will be reviewed and amended to ensure that the safety and accessibility of services is sustained? If this assurance cannot be provided, can the Council confirm that it will take this matter to the Secretary of State for Health on the basis that the present service is the best that the CCG can offer within the Resource Envelope and that therefore this Resource Envelope is inadequate and has to be improved?

The reply was...

As this Answer didn’t seem to indicate whether he might consider taking this matter to the Secretary of State for Health, I tried to pin him down with a supplementary verbal question (without much success) as you can see from this section of webcast of the meeting:  <http://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/share/open/webcast/0/0/560/232347/0/0/start_time/3004000>

Cllr **Richard Westlake** (Leader of the Labour Group and Chair of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny) asked this question:

Supplementary verbal question from Cllr Westlake: <http://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/share/open/webcast/0/0/560/232347/0/0/start_time/2593000>

**Item 9: Cabinet Member Reports**:  Cllr Westlake asked Cllr Stuart Barker to give a Written Report - which was as follows:

Cllr **Richard Westlake** (Lab) began the debate about this report:  <http://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/share/open/webcast/0/0/560/232347/0/0/start_time/4892000>

He highlights what **isn’t** in the report. Asks about impact of proposals on Council care services and budget over next 5 years.

Cllr **Brian Greenslade** (LibDem) <http://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/share/open/webcast/0/0/560/232347/0/0/start_time/5130000>

Consultation has gone off the rails, there have been leaks, process no longer credible. “Independent Chair” is part of a consultancy with financial interests. Funding very uneven across UK - he contrasts Cumbria & Devon and calls for fair funding.

He has written to Chair of Health England to call for "Success Regime” to be scrapped.

Cllr **Claire Wright** (Independent) <http://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/share/open/webcast/0/0/560/232347/0/0/start_time/5414000>

Reply from Cllr **Stuart Barker** <http://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/share/open/webcast/0/0/560/232347/0/0/start_time/5834000>

**Item 10: Minutes of Previous Meetings.**

Cllr **Alan Connett** (LibDem) discusses matters arising from the Minute 17 of the [Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of 19th September](http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=244)   <http://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/share/open/webcast/0/0/560/232347/0/0/start_time/8938000>

Challenges conflicts of interest, leaks and use of office time for secret briefings of Conservative Councillors. Reference to vast amounts of NHS money (£7.4 million) spent on private management consultants.

Replies from Cllr **John Hart** (Leader) & Cllr **Richard Westlake** (Lab).

**Motion 15: Proposed Cuts to Devon Health Services and Impacts on Patients (Cllr Biederman**(Ind)**).** - **referred to the Cabinet Meeting**.

1. Councillor Biederman to **MOVE**:

*‘This council is deeply concerned about the impact the proposed cuts to Devon health services will have on patients – especially the loss of whole departments including maternity services at North Devon District Hospital - and massive reduction in acute and community hospital beds across Devon, as set out in the sustainable transformation plan.*

*This council also recognises that the government is deliberately not providing the NHS with the adequate level of funding and now calls on local MPs to lobby government ministers to urgently and significantly increase the level of funding to the NHS, in order to protect our precious health services for current and future generations’.*

**Motion 16: NHS Success Regime (Cllr Brian Greenslade**(LibDem)**).**Cllr Greenslade and Opposition Councillors called for an immediate debate on this issue. Conservatives opposed having a debate. The Opposition Cllrs forced a vote and all LibDem, Labour & Independent Cllrs voted for a debate but were outnumbered because all the Conservatives (except one) voted against it. The matter was **referred to the Cabinet**.

1. Councillor Greenslade to **MOVE**

*‘County Council believes that the NHS Success Regime project for Devon is now seriously flawed and accordingly calls on the Secretary of State for Health to cancel it forthwith. County Council further calls on Government to firstly address the issue of fair funding for our area and to deliver upon the Conservatives general election promise of an extra £8 billion of funding for the NHS.*

*Until funding issues are addressed it is not possible to decide whether or not there is a local NHS budget deficit to be addressed. Unnecessary cuts to local NHS budgets must be avoided’!*

*Devon MP’s be asked to support this approach to protecting Devon NHS services!*

The next opportunity to submit Written Questions will be to the [Cabinet meeting](http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=168) on Wed 9th November 10.30am - or at the [Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee](http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=245) on Tue 8th November 2pm.

This issue will be on the agenda of both meetings - but the Cabinet is likely to refer most matters to the H&W Scrutiny Committee.

The Guide to Public Participation at Committee Meetings may give you ideas for influencing the Council:  <https://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/guide/public-participation-at-committee-meetings/>

With best wishes,

Robert.

——――——――—————

[Cllr **Robert Vint**](http://southhams.greenparty.org.uk/elections/robert-vint.html)**,**FRSA

[Devon County Councillor for Totnes Rural](http://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillor/robert-vint/)

Hope House, 75a High St.,

Totnes, Devon TQ9 5PB

*h/w: 01803 868523*

*mobile: 07596 470330*

[twitter.com/Robert\_Vint](https://twitter.com/Robert_Vint)

[facebook.com/CllrRobertVint](https://www.facebook.com/CllrRobertVint)

*email:**rjvint@globalnet.co.uk*

email*:**robert.vint@devon.gov.uk*

——――——――—————