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Welwyn Garden City  
Hertfordshire  
AL8 6JL  
20 August 2024

By email:

Leanne Palmer  
Section 62A Applications Team

Dear Leanne,

**Planning Application Consultation: S62A/2024/0057 – Former Friends School Field Mount Pleasant Road Saffron Walden Essex**

**Proposal: Consultation on S62A/2024/0057 - Erection of 91 no. dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Provision of playing field and associated clubhouse**

Thank you for consulting the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (HWE ICB) on the above-mentioned planning application.

The HWE ICB became a statutory body on 1 July 2022 and is the health commissioner responsible for delivering joined up health and social health care to a population of c1.8m. in Hertfordshire and west Essex.

The HWE ICB works in partnership with health providers, local authorities, and other organisations to:

- improve the general health and wellbeing of Hertfordshire and west Essex residents and improve health care services in the area.
- tackle the inequalities which affect people's physical and mental health, such as their ability to get the health services they need, and the quality of those services help tackle health and wider inequalities.
- get the most out of local health and care services and make sure that they are good value for money.
- help the NHS support social and economic development in Hertfordshire and west Essex.

Dr Jane Halpin, Chief Executive

Rt. Hon. Paul Burstow, Chair

## ***Assessment of impact on existing Healthcare Provision***

The HWE ICB has assessed the impact of the proposed development on existing primary health care provision in and around the vicinity of Saffron Walden.

This proposed development would deliver 91 dwellings. The ICB is not aware of the detail of the housing mix to allow for more accuracy in terms of the occupancy rates and therefore the likely increase in new patient registrations. For the time being the ICB will work on an average occupancy of 2.4 per dwelling x 91 dwellings = **218.4 new patient registrations across the development**

**The ICB requests that they be informed once the dwelling mix is known and what the Local Authorities expected occupancy rate is of each type of dwelling to allow them, if appropriate, to revise this response.**

Within the HWE ICB there are 35 Primary Care Networks (PCNs) across the 14 localities; each covering a population of between circa 27,000 and 68,000 patients. These PCNs are expected to deliver services at scale for its registered population whilst working collaboratively with acute, community, voluntary and social care services in order to ensure an integrated approach to patient care. As such a doctors' general practitioners' surgery may include an ancillary pharmacy and ancillary facilities for treatments provided by general practitioners, nurses and other healthcare professionals. The PCN that covers Saffron Walden (North Uttlesford PCN) and under which this development falls has a combined patient registration **list of 42,380** which is growing.

Patients are at liberty to choose which GP practice to register with providing they live within the practice boundary. However, the majority of patients choose to register with the surgery closest and/or most easily accessible to their home for the following reasons: it is the quickest journey, accessible by public transport or is in walking distance), parking provision, especially for families with young children and for older adults.

Despite premises constraints GP Practices are not allowed to close their lists to new registrations without consultation with, and permission from the HWE ICB. Even when surgeries are significantly constrained the NHS will seek to avoid a situation where a patient is denied access to their nearest GP surgery, with patient lists only closed in exceptional circumstances.

As a result of significant growth proposed in Local Plans, the HWE ICB expects applications to close lists to increase. It is therefore important that new developments make a financial contribution to mitigate any primary health care impacts the development will have.

## Healthcare Needs Arising from the Proposed Development

Development at Former Friends School Field, Mount Pleasant Road will have an impact on primary health care provision in the area, and its implications, if unmitigated, would be unsustainable for the NHS.

The financial contribution for health infrastructure that the HWE ICB is seeking, to mitigate the primary health care impacts from this development, has been calculated using a formula based on the number of units proposed and does not take into account any existing deficiencies or shortfalls in Saffron Walden and its vicinity, or other development proposals in the area.

### ***Cost calculation of additional primary healthcare services arising from the development proposal***

218.4 new patient registrations/2000 = 0.1092 of a GP \*GP based on ratio of 2,000 patients per 1 GP and 199m<sup>2</sup> as set out in the NHS England “Premises Principles of Best Practice Part 1 Procurement & Development”

0.1092 x 199 m<sup>2</sup> = 21.7308 m<sup>2</sup> of additional space required

21.7308 m<sup>2</sup> x £7,000\* per m<sup>2</sup> = £152,115.60 (\*Build cost; includes fit out and fees)

£152,115.60 / 91 dwellings = £1,671.60 per dwelling (rounded up to £1,672 per dwelling)

**Total GMS monies requested: 91 dwellings x £1,672 per dwelling = £152,152.00**

The HWE ICB therefore requests that this sum is secured through a planning obligation attached to any grant of planning permission, in the form of a Section 106 planning obligation. A trigger point of payment on occupancy of the 10th Dwelling is also requested.

Please note, the developer contribution figure referred to in this response is a calculation only and that the final payment will be based on the actual dwelling unit mix and the inclusion of indexation. If planning permission is granted, the HWE ICB propose to focus Section 106 monies on The Gold Street Surgery and/or Crocus Medical Practice. The ICB are already in discussion with the practices and are exploring an increase in capacity by way of re-configuring, extending or relocating the GP premises to provide sufficient space to increase resources and clinical services and thus keep the patient lists open. This would likely, at least in the case of The Gold Street Surgery, include the cost of the removal of the patient records to offsite storage or digitisation of them to allow the space they occupy to be repurposed and ultimately increase clinical space.

In terms of identifying a project in full at this stage, please note:

- All projects are subject to Full Business Case approval by the HWE ICB and NHS England.
- A commercial arrangement has to be agreed between the landowner, developer and end user based on a compliant design specification and which demonstrates value for money.
- All planning applications and responses are in the public domain; identifying a project before any design work starts and funding is discussed, agreed and secured may raise public expectation and indicate a promise of improvements and increased capacity, which are subject to both above points. Securing developers contributions to all aspects of healthcare is therefore vital.
- A project identified and costed in response to the planning application may not meet the objectives of current strategies or could have significantly increased in cost, especially if there has been any significant time lapse from the date of the response to the date of implementation of the planning consent.

In conclusion, in its capacity as the primary healthcare commissioner with full delegation from NHS England, the HWE ICB has identified a need for additional primary healthcare provision to mitigate the impacts arising from the proposed development. The cost calculation, set out above are those that the HWE ICB and NHS England deem appropriate having regard to the formulated needs arising from the development.

The HWE ICB is satisfied that the basis and value of the developer contribution sought is consistent with the policy and tests for imposing planning obligations, as set out in the NPPF. Further, NHS England and the HWE ICB reserve the right to apply for S106 money retrospectively and the right to amend and request that this be reflected in any S106 agreement.

Subject to certainty that developer contributions will be secured, as set out above, the HWE ICB does not raise an objection to the proposed development.

The HWE ICB looks forward to working with the Council and applicant to satisfactorily address the issues raised in this consultation response and would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this letter.

Dr Jane Halpin, Chief Executive

Rt. Hon. Paul Burstow, Chair



Yours faithfully,



Sue Fogden MRICS LLB (Hons)  
Director – Estates and Capital  
NHS Hertfordshire & West Essex ICB

Dr Jane Halpin, Chief Executive

Rt. Hon. Paul Burstow, Chair

