

[REDACTED]
Subject: Ashurst Hospital Site

Date: 4 March 2019 at 15:37:17 GMT

To: "bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com" <bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Banks,

May I take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to comment on the future of the Ashurst Hospital site near Southampton, Hampshire. Whilst I am not a resident within the local Ashurst area, I do live and work within the New Forest area.

I don't feel qualified to answer all of the six points within the document "Inspectors' note on potential additional site allocation at Ashurst Hospital – ID22", however, if I may, I'd still like to comment on the proposal.

Point six of the document asks "In overall terms should the site be allocated for development? What are the benefits? Alternatively should it be included within the settlement boundary for Ashurst?" Having worked within the NHS and healthcare for the past 25 years and in a professional basis, visited this site on numerous occasions I see the benefits of the New Forest Birthing centre and I'm keen for this site not to lose its current way of working including allowing new mothers and their families to enjoy the peace and tranquillity that this establishment offers. Noting of course that this is now the only New Forest birthing units since the closure of both Hythe and Lymington units a few years ago.

I do however feel that the Ashurst Hospital site could benefit from an injection of new buildings and the plan to bring a care home to the site would greatly benefit the residents of the local area allowing relatives, friends and local residents to remain within the village they are a part of. Care homes provide the opportunity for residents to be cared for along with promoting independence and if this remains a possibility it will mean that local residents can remain interacting with other locals without the worry and concerns if they need to use public transport. I therefore wholeheartedly back any plans for a future care home on this site.

My concerns lie with the development of houses. I am not entirely sure that the local road network and infrastructure would take a new housing estate of 30 homes with the possibility of 30 to 60 cars in what is already a difficult area for traffic. I see from the NFNP site that they've another plot of land allocated to housing. Whilst housing may well be needed within Hampshire, is this the most suitable location for two new housing developments? I would oppose any housing development on the old Ashurst Hospital site and positively encourage NHS Estates to look at providing this site for step down care, convalescence care and rehabilitation. West Hampshire is without a doubt in desperate need for these facilities and with an ever increasing aging population within the New Forest, we will continue to need them.

Please accept my apologies if I've not been able to answer the questions needed for the feedback, however, I hope that this has noted my views.

Kind Regards,
Robert.

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