

To the Mayor and Saltash Councillors

Congratulations on being elected to Saltash Town Council. I realise you have many demands upon your time. I am the Secretary of the League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital and I write to remind you of the uncertain future of our community hospital.

As many of you know, St Barnabas Community Hospital is owned by NHS Property Services and leased to Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CFT), which provides adult community services in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The hospital's minor injury unit (MIU) closed in December 2016 to focus staff onto the inpatient wards. In February 2017 the inpatient beds were temporarily closed to support safe staffing levels at Liskeard Hospital. In the previous 12 months, 209 people were admitted to an inpatient bed at St Barnabas.

In 2019 a number of community teams including health visitors, school nurses and speech and language therapists moved into St Barnabas. There are now more than 70 staff members from across children's and adult's community teams who are working in the community from St Barnabas Hospital. Regular clinics continue to be run at St Barnabas, both community clinics such as physiotherapy and respiratory, as well as consultant-led clinics from University Hospital Plymouth.

The NHS had been meeting regularly with a group of local people which included Cornwall Council and Saltash Town councillors, patient representatives, GPs, the League of Friends and other NHS organisations. Together they were discussing the needs of the community and how services could respond to those needs. These meetings were suspended during Covid lockdown. I assume they will resume soon.

The last workshop meeting was online in September 2020, two proposals were chosen to be put forward for consideration in the next phase.

- The first was to consider the potential for St Barnabas community hospital to be re-purposed as a community health and wellbeing hub should there be a clearly identified need for those activities
- The second was to consider a longer term view around a new build/enhanced healthcare facility on an alternative site (inpatient/extra care, care home/enhanced delivery at primary care. This proposal would mean that the Port view site would be deemed to be no longer necessary and would be sold.

Since that meeting we have heard that The Edward Hain Memorial Hospital in St Ives has been closed. Their Consultation process was further along than ours. There are similarities between the two buildings especially safety and fire concerns and we fear that St Barnabas will be next. Although we are not currently fund raising we have been spending. We have been supporting the District Nurses and the Acute Care at Home team of nurses.

Please will you help us to keep a hospital in our expanding town. I attach some comments from our committee members.

Thank you, with best wishes, Hon. Sec. LOF St. Barnabas Hospital