

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 29 JANUARY 2014**

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Question by: Mr Adam Connell

To: The Leader of the Council

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**QUESTION**

“As you know, the Milson Road Health Centre currently offers a wide range of care services to local residents who are concerned that the centre is due to be closed and that private talks have already occurred with the Council about the future use of the site. Will he explain exactly what his administration thinks about this closure and exactly what it has discussed with those interested in the future of the site?”

**RESPONSE**

The Council notes that Milson Road Health Centre currently offers a wide range of services to local residents including district nursing, health visiting, diabetes, hospital at home, an ulcer clinic, family planning and podiatry. The council recognises residents’ concerns but it is reassured by the expanded provision of community and primary care services planned for the new Parkview Centre and redeveloped Charing Cross Hospital, at which all services currently provided at Milson Road will be re-provided at the new purpose built facilities. It notes that plans are also under consideration by the NHS to provide new GP facilities on the Milson Road site, in addition to any residential accommodation.

The proposal would involve the closure of the existing medical centre. The Council's Development Management Local Plan Policy DM1 states that "In any development proposal, existing community uses should be retained or replaced, unless there is clear evidence that there is no longer an identified need for a particular facility."

Officers noted information in the submission from the NHS suggesting that the Milson Road Health Centre was earmarked for closure as part of wider restructuring of health care facilities in the borough. However, they advised that to satisfy the principal land use policy any planning application for redevelopment must include a clear justification to demonstrate how and where the existing health care provision would be reprovided and/or why the existing facilities were no longer required.

Planning officers concluded that subject to satisfactory justification of the loss of the facility, a small residential scheme might be an acceptable alternative use. A residential redevelopment must comply with detailed design considerations and standards regarding the quality of accommodation, and impact on neighbouring amenity. The scheme submitted for consideration did not satisfactorily meet all these detailed planning requirements. Officers made their considered response to the scheme in early August 2013.

Although officers' pre-application planning advice is confidential, the NHS did publicise its plans through leaflets to the local community and an exhibition. This generated a great deal of interest from local residents, mostly unhappy about the proposals.

This Council resolves to continue to campaign and negotiate for high quality and localised NHS services which are accessible to residents from across the borough. It welcomes the increased investment that the NHS plans to make in community and health services over coming years.