

Corporate Services

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WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Julie Dandridge
Deputy Director, Head of Primary Care
and Localities

OCCG

Jubilee House,
John Smith Drive,
Oxford Business Park South,
Oxford
OX4 2LH

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 30 August 2018

VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms Dandridge

Future of Cogges GP Surgery

We convened a cross-party group of interested Councillors to consider issues around the future of Cogges Surgery, and met on 23 August. The purpose of this letter is to summarise the main important points from the meeting, which was chaired by Andrew Beaney, in his capacity of Chairman of the Council's Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

We fully recognise that the District Council does not have a formal role in this matter. Nevertheless, we are seeking to actively contribute to the discussions and consideration as we are collectively very concerned with the well-being of patients and are seeking to influence matters which affect the communities this Council represents.

The specific points we would like to raise are as follows.

1. **Extension of services for six months:** The meeting understood that there is an intention to seek at least a six month extension in the services of the Surgery from the end of January 2019. We call on the OCCG to immediately pursue this as a minimum objective, in the obvious interests of patients.
2. **Continuity of care:** In principle, the meeting expressed a preference for the Surgery to be merged with another as opposed to the procurement of a new service provider. This would, we believe, ensure a longer period of tenure not to mention continuity of care, and be beneficial in cost terms.
3. **Retaining services on Cogges:** The future availability of the existing premises is, clearly, of paramount concern. The complexity of that issue was acknowledged. The meeting was acutely aware of the concerns which many of the current patients have about the possibility of needing to go into the centre of Witney for GP services, and wished to emphasise the desirability of services continuing to be available on Cogges if at all possible. We are hopeful that OCCG can provide an assurance that all possible steps will be taken to try to secure the use of the existing building.
4. **Communication with patients:** The meetings and communication with people registered as patients at Cogges, including the recent letter, are welcomed. However, we

would appreciate a commitment to a continuation of active and frequent communication with patients and stakeholders, and an explanation of how that may be fulfilled.

5. **Keeping residents up to date:** WODC will include links from its website to the two web pages (OCCG and Cogges Surgery) as being sources of information in the coming weeks and months.
6. **Vulnerable patients:** There was a perception that when Deer Park closed, there were vulnerable patients who found the uncertainty particularly distressing, including those with complex medical needs and a reliance on repeat prescription services. The meeting wished to draw this to the attention of OCCG and respectfully request that every effort is made fully to consider such patients and the need for suitable assurances, should the Cogges practice cease to function. Obviously, this should extend to active communication.

We hope that the above are clear and helpful, and make a positive contribution to the ongoing situation, and look forward to hearing from you, and to being included in future communications. Those present at the meeting on 23 August and, we are sure, all other local councillors, will continue to seek to help represent the views and concerns of residents with a view to influencing an outcome which is as positive as possible.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andrew Beaney
Chairman, Economic & Social Overview and
Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Jeanette Baker
Cabinet member

Copies to:

Lou Patten, Chief Executive, OCCG

Diane Hedges, Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive, OCCG

Chris Wilkinson, Practice Manager, Cogges Surgery

Arash Fatemian, Chair, Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Robert Courts, Member of Parliament, Witney Constituency