



Gillingham Town Council

The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham. Dorset. SP8 4QR

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27th July 2016

To all it may concern:

Gillingham Town Council, at their Full Council meeting held on the 25th July 2016 discussed the proposed intention of the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group to downgrade Shaftesbury Hospital to an outpatient, and hopefully a minor injury unit, whilst slightly upgrading Blandford and Sherborne Hospitals.

The proposals that the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group anticipate going forward to public consultation later this year will to have two community hubs with a wide range of facilities including outpatients, diagnostic and community beds at Sherborne and Blandford hospitals and a local dynamic community hub without beds providing services such as outpatients, ambulatory care, diagnostics and co-location of community teams in Shaftesbury and Gillingham.

Whilst members of Gillingham Town Council understood the need for the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group reducing spending but still maintaining a safe and high quality care, it was pointed out that not so long ago there were plans to be build a new hospital in Shaftesbury until the money set aside for the project was spent on the latest NHS re-organization initiated by Central Government. Shaftesbury hospital will be vital as the local population increases, especially with the envisaged southern extension in Gillingham and additional homes within Shaftesbury and the hinterlands.

Gillingham Town Council strongly believes that towns and parish councils should fight to retain the current; and up-grade services within Shaftesbury Hospital and would like the whole community to fully engage with this consultation before it is too late.

The Mayor, Cllr B Von Clemens would like to invite the Mayor, Chairman or representative of all the Town and Parish councils, DCC, NDDC and DAPTC representatives and Mr. Simon Hoare MP to a meeting to be held in the Jubilee Room, Town Hall, Gillingham on THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016 at 7.00pm.

The aim of the meeting will be to debate the proposals by the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and to form a united response.

If you wish to attend please telephone: Gillingham Town Council – 01747 823588 or email gtc@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk.

Mrs Sylvia Dobie
Town Clerk to Gillingham Town Council.

N.B: NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group detailed paper can be found online:

<http://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/Downloads/aboutus/CCG%20Board/20%20July%202016/08.1%20Integrated%20Community%20Services%20200716.pdf>