

Nevells Road Surgery
Nevells Road
Letchworth SG6 4TS

14th March 2019

By Email

Anthony Roche
Deputy Chief Executive
North Herts District Council

Dear Anthony

RE: Letchworth Health Hub, The High Street Fund

I am writing on behalf of the Partners at Nevells Road Surgery to support your bid for the Future High Streets Fund. In addition to Letchworth Town Centre, Primary Care is facing huge challenges at the moment. We have a clear vision that the only way of delivering high quality and sustainable primary care to the residents of Letchworth is by having one Health Hub at the centre of our town. Three practices in Letchworth have agreed to merge and come together under one roof. The aspiration is for the fourth Letchworth practice to join once phase one is established. By doing so, we can offer a stable more integrated health service for our patient population, with better access to health care appointments, an improved patient experience together with extended services.

We have been working on this project for several years with a variety of organisations including the CCG, the Heritage Foundation and North Herts District Council, Public Health England, and NHS England – all of whom support this vision. Our Patient Participation Group has been kept informed of the plans through the past year, and shares the vision of a central Health Hub and fully supports it.

Faced with the severe problem of GP recruitment the Letchworth Health Hub will attract more GPs to work with us and make Primary Care sustainable for the future. By coming together under one roof we will have more flexibility in the type of clinics we can offer and streamline the back office functions, as well as develop closer working relationships with our allied health care professionals from HCT (district nurses etc) and the community mental health teams, as well as social navigation, social services and community wellbeing groups. The patients are very keen to have improved accommodation, including a waiting room with enough seats for all to sit on!

The centre of Letchworth is ideally placed to serve this purpose and with the Health Hub in phase one serving over 30,000 residents of the town, the daily footfall to the area will be huge.

The Letchworth Heritage Foundation official estimate is an increased footfall of 5000 per week, but our own modelling suggests it may be considerably higher, when taking into account relatives attending with patients, and that as the above ancillary services come on board they will generate increased footfall. We have scoped many areas in Letchworth but feel the town centre will be perfectly placed to realise this ambition, the PPG preferring this as being accessible by public transport, unlike existing sites, and also served by the largest car park in Letchworth.

So we believe this unique project would be mutually valuable to both the Letchworth high street and primary care, and prove a wonderful legacy to the Garden City for a generation.

A successful bid for the High Street Fund would be a vital vehicle to develop this large project and drive it forward to the benefit of all the residents and businesses of this historic Garden City.

Yours sincerely

Dr Melanie Lacy MB:BS MRCGP