

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

NEW HOSPITAL IN FOREST OF DEAN

We think that the range of services proposed in this Consultation will meet the needs of local people. Please tell us whether you agree with this statement, or each of the following:-

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
<i>Inpatient care</i>			X		
<i>Urgent care</i>			X		
<i>Diagnostic Services</i>			X		
<i>Outpatient Services</i>			X		

Please tell us why you think this, eg the information you would like us to consider

It appears no consideration has been given to the foreseeable future. If 24 community beds are enough now, then what of the ever-increasing population due to the increase in housebuilding as decreed by central government. There will be an increase in the ageing population whose needs must be met.

It is welcoming that rehabilitation will be available 7 days a week and that care will be focused on the need of all those living within the District which must include the area North of the Forest. Affordable transport needs to be a consideration from the North as an important part of recovery is a connection to family and friends.

There is no provision for a birthing facility even one manned by midwives, so everyone must go to Gloucester and there are no more Freeminers resulting in the loss of a Forester's birth right. It is important that due recognition is given if taking something away.

There is no reference to pathology but with a new hospital one would expect to see an improvement in services not static provision, or there is not going to be any perceived benefits. With improved and increased clinics there would be the need for the same level of aid to diagnosis currently enjoyed at GRH otherwise it will not be easy to attract the clinics, as it would mean consultants taking time away from those who need it to travel out to the District. We should be looking at improved services rather than the same as there are currently.

Currently Gloucestershire NHS Trust is provider for a variety of services, as out-patients. While there is provision for this in the new hospital there is not enough detail to make well informed decisions.

Please tell us about the impact, either positive or negative, that you think any of our proposals could have on you and/or your family?

Under normal circumstances there are currently 2 hospitals offering urgent and out of hours care from 8.00 am until 11.00 pm 7 days a week. The intention is to reduce this to one hospital 7 days a week 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. The argument is that there is not enough demand. Bearing in mind that we are regularly told of the problems facing A and E in GRH there has been little effort to advertise the opening hours of the urgent care provision in the Forest hospitals, except on the hospital doors.

Do you think any of our proposals could have a negative impact on you and/or your family, how should we try to limit this?

The new provision could be run with seasonal variations in hours.

During earlier engagement, concerns were raised about people accessing a single urgent care facility located in Cinderford. Please tell us your ideas for how you think urgent care could be made more accessible for people living in the south of the Forest.

We do not know what the proposals are to be for the old hospital sites but see no reason why given the fact that GP practice premises that work could not be done at the one in Newerne Street to make a secure area for out of hours presence by nurse practitioners. The provision of Xray and other diagnostics would probably not be practical.

Anything else you would like to say?

There needs to be a halfway house provision such as was in Glos/Chelt a service where the elderly (in particular) could be rehabilitated with a low level of support from the higher skilled members of the medical profession. The residents had their own rooms (most ensuite) got their own breakfasts in a central kitchenette, the main meals were provided by an on-site kitchen and they could make their own snacks and drinks in-between. Maximum stay 6 weeks. If the NHS is determined to keep the numbers of community beds low then perhaps the Dilke, could be used for that purpose.