

## Comment

Consultee	██████████ (1332973)
Email Address	████████████████████
Company / Organisation	Burdwood Surgery
Address	x x x
Event Name	Proposed Submission (Reg 19) West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039
Comment by	Burdwood Surgery (██████████ - 1332973)
Comment ID	PS493
Response Date	03/03/23 08:50
Consultation Point	Policy SP 17 North East Thatcham Strategic Site Allocation ( <a href="#">View</a> )
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.4
Bookmark	Burdwood Surgery

### 1. Do you consider the Local Plan Review is legally compliant?

*Please see the guidance note for an explanation of what 'legally compliant' means*

No

### Please give reasons for your answer

No Health Impact Assesment was available

### 2. Do you consider the Local Plan Review is sound?

*Please see the guidance notes for an explanation of what 'soundness' means.*

The soundness of the LPR should be assessed against the following criteria from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

*Please tick all that apply:*

**Positively Prepared: The plan provides a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed need and is informed by** . No

**agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development.**

**Justified: the plan is an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence.** . No

**Effective: the plan is deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground.** . No

**Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF.** . No

**Please give reasons for your answer**

- . **Burdwood surgery is currently full and could not take on the development patients as it stands**
- . **Appropriate additional health care provision must be present in the proposal for it to proceed**
- . **Burdwood Surgery could relocate in a new facility in the development**
- . **Burdwood Surgery proposal encompasses a thirty year health care planning horizon**

Burdwood Surgery is one of the three local General Practice providers affected by the planned development of 1,500 residential units in this North East Thatcham planning consultation.

Burdwood Surgery is a three partner PMS primary care practice serving a population of 10,250 patients in the locality. The surgery has a CQC rating of good and a Patient Survey satisfaction level of 92%. The surgery is currently operating at 91% room occupancy which is above its planned capacity utilisation of 80% which is already limiting the ability to bring in new staff to create new patient capacity. The surgery has completed two clinical extensions since its original build and now fully occupies its footprint. Surgery additional patient facing resources and services are now severely curtailed due to space.

The Burdwood site limits the integrated health and social care working potential of the Surgery for its population. The increasing healthcare needs of the ageing population and the NHS policy shift to more care being delivered through General Practice settings mean that going forward, due to space constraints at the practice, care capacity and care quality are likely to be under extreme pressure, even without population growth. Our proposal to solve this is a new site on which to relocate Burdwood Surgery. We would not support a Burdwood satellite site on the new housing development, as a satellite site is not economically feasible, nor in line with NHS best practice. The existing Burdwood team plus additional clinical resources would relocate to the new facility. The existing facility would be sold and or exchanged for the new facility as part of the consideration.

A new site would facilitate space for an enlarged team which would fit with the policy direction for more preventative care and care in the community. Over the last ten years Burdwood Surgery has had to move towards only housing it's directly employed staff; this is to the detriment of its patients who then do not have the same access to the allied professionals for their wider care. The shortage of space has been partially mitigated by technology and remote working, including remote consultations, but this leads to sub optimal surgery resource deployment. Further significant increases in utilisation of remote working would not be in line with best medical practice and would also likely make Burdwood Surgery a target of media/NHS management pressure based on rates of consultation done 'in person'.

We have considered alternative approaches that have been suggested to us, such as moving most of our non-clinical staff off site to create more consultation space. We strongly disagree with this idea as we do not believe that our clinicians can function optimally without the dynamic and close relationships we have with our support team. We believe the high patient satisfaction we have, is in large part due to our excellent wider team.

The new facility would be modelled on the existing ethos of the Burdwood Surgery namely, doctor led with an aim for continuity of care and an overall aim of being a practice we would be happy for our own families to be treated at. Based on the above the new facility would be a minimum of approximately 1200m<sup>2</sup> potentially across two floors as this works successfully currently and the enhanced footprint would meet future needs. Suggested capacity consideration also encompasses current undelivered services not offered at the practice due to space constraints such as: smoking cessation, alcohol dependency, Citizen's Advice, mental health clinics, physiotherapy and group consultations. The new facility would bolster the capacity for the wider Kennet PCN. The new surgery would successfully model and conform to the integrated health care structure and direction of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Integrated Care Partnership Strategic Priorities December 2022. The facility would also encompass the NHS Green Practice zero emissions goal protocols consistent with the North East Thatcham Development Plan.

In short, at Burdwood Surgery, we believe we are already at or beyond our patient capacity (especially when considering the growing needs of this group as they age). The practice was designed for 7000 patients using the standards of around 40 years ago when consultation rates were a fraction of what they are now. We do not have the ability to safely take on more patients from a new housing development on our current site. We need either a new site, or a guarantee that the new people arriving would not come under our care. In our opinion, to not do either of these things would jeopardise patient safety and quality of care locally.

**Accordingly, Burdwood Surgery believes for the above reasons the plan to be unsound in relation to SP17, the North East Thatcham development. Burdwood Surgery thus requests either an assurance that none of the residents from the new development will be included in the Burdwood Surgery catchment area or a new surgery is provided of circa 1200 m<sup>2</sup>.**

### 3. Do you consider the Local Plan Review complies with the Duty to Co-operate?

*Please see the guidance note for an explanation of what 'Duty to Cooperate' means.*

Yes

### 4. Proposed Changes

**Please set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan Review legally compliant or sound, having regard to the tests you have identified above (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination).**

*You will need to say why this change will make the Local Plan Review legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.*

A Health Impact Assessment for review and consideration

### 5. Independent Examination

**If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate at the examination hearing session(s)?** Yes

### 6. Notification of Progress of the Local Plan Review

**Do you wish to be notified of any of the following?**

*Please tick all that apply*

**The submission of the Local Plan Review for Independent Examination** . Yes

**The publication of the report of the Inspector appointed to carry out the examination** . Yes

**The adoption of the Local Plan Review** . Yes