

Dr Martin Ayres
Town Clerk

Tel: 01929 423636
Fax: 01929 427888
E-Mail: admin@swanage.gov.uk



TOWN HALL
SWANAGE
DORSET
BH19 2NZ

Our ref: MKA/NLC

18th September 2017

Dear Sirs

NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group - Improving Dorset's Healthcare Public Consultation Results

Further to the Town Council's consultation response letter dated 27th February 2017 (a copy of which is enclosed for your information), and in response to the results of the consultation being published, this matter was placed on the agenda of the Council's Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 4th September 2017 for further discussion/consideration.

Grave concerns have again been raised by local residents regarding the proposals and, at the meeting, both members of the public and Councillors expressed their disappointment with the way in which the results have been reported. It is felt that the numerous concerns raised, and the number of petitioners, have not been given due consideration.

The Town Council shares many of the concerns that were reiterated by residents at the meeting, most of which remain the same as detailed in the Council's original letter of response. These are summarised below.

- That the 'Quantitative Results' reported in the 'Summary Report of Findings' did not take into account the total number of petition signatories when calculating those for or against the proposals (75,570 signatures in total - in excess of 8,000 have been gathered in Purbeck in support of a petition against the downgrading of Poole A&E and maternity services, and 4,000 of which are from Swanage residents). The Council considers that this omission constitutes a misrepresentation of the views of Dorset residents.
- Serious concerns regarding the distance of the Royal Bournemouth Hospital from Swanage, and the additional time that it would take to reach the facilities in an emergency, placing lives at risk.
- Concerns reiterated regarding the congestion seen all year round on roads from Swanage to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, and comments made that the travel time analysis had not addressed these concerns in the proposals.
- The concerns over the proximity of the proposed services to Swanage were underpinned by serious doubts over the efficiency of the local ambulance service in reaching Swanage patients.

- The loss of beds at Wareham Community Hospital and the impact this may have on resources in Swanage.

The Council therefore requests that these concerns be acknowledged, and any response received will be reported to a future Council meeting.

Yours faithfully

Dr Martin Ayres

Town Clerk

Encl. Copy of Swanage Town Council's letter dated 27th February 2017.

cc Richard Drax MP, South Dorset

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
Vespasian House
Barrack Road
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1TG