

Planning Policy & Economic Development
Test Valley Borough Council
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25th March 2024

BY E-MAIL ONLY

Re: Consultation on Test Valley draft Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 2

We, the Partners of The Castle Practice, as the local providers of Primary Care services, are writing to you regarding the proposed areas of development under the plans arising from Policy SS6: Meeting the Housing Requirement:

NA7: Land to the East of Ludgershall

NA8: Land to the Southeast of Ludgershall

The proposal, presented at the consultation event held at Ludgershall Memorial Hall 4th March 2024, was attended by members of The Castle Practice partnership. On discussion with the representatives of Test Valley Borough Council, it became evident that whilst discussions had been held with Hampshire ICB about healthcare provision, that Wiltshire's ICB i.e. Bath & Northeast Somerset, Swindon & Wiltshire (BSW) ICB had not been included in any discussions at that point in time.

Ludgershall is a town which crosses the Hampshire and Wiltshire border, The Castle Practice has patients from both Hampshire and Wiltshire, our catchment area includes Appleshaw and The Chutes up to Charleton and Weyhill, across to Everleigh and Shipton Bellinger, all of which have areas within the Hampshire border. For the purposes of healthcare provision our service comes under the BSW ICB as it is deemed a Wiltshire Practice. Any Hampshire Primary Care services are at the closest six miles away, situated just outside Andover in Charleton. The Castle Practice has GP Practices in Ludgershall which is 0.8 miles from the intended development, and in the neighbouring town of Tidworth which is 2.9 miles away. Therefore, as The Castle Practice is closest to the development, it is likely to be most affected by the increase in demand which will be caused by the increase in housing.

In addition, we also support a fifty-five bed Nursing Home which is located at Millway House and have actively and successfully worked with the Hampshire Practices and ICB, to ensure that the Care

Homes on our borders are supported and under one GP Practice service to ensure continuity of care for those patients.

Our understanding is that the proposals will look to deliver 1,500 homes, which when taken at the average occupation per household for the local area being at 2.4 persons, will equate to an increase of 3,600 persons. The development comes alongside the additional 1,200 homes proposed to extend the Empress Way development, under Wiltshire Council's proposals. This will increase the demand by a further 2,880 residents. Giving a combined approximate population growth of just under 6,500 residents.

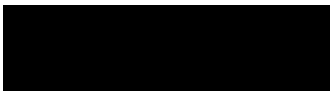
The above developments are in addition to population increases which have already occurred (within the Wiltshire Council's border), along the Empress Way, Granby Gardens, and Drummond Park in Ludgershall and Riverbourne View in Tidworth. To date these developments have seen the registered patient population grow by 4,000 patients since 2019, with more due to come on stream as the Drummond Park and Empress Way developments which have already agreed, become habited. We expect this to have a further effect of an additional 1,680 patients. At this point, The Castle Practice has not benefitted from any assistance with the population growth from Section 106 and has had to self-fund any development of its premises to accommodate the growth. There have been several extensions to the Wellington Academy Snr School and two additional Primary Schools across the Ludgershall/Tidworth area in this period.

Due to the constraints on current and future funding, whilst the Partnership agrees it is willing and physically able, it cannot foreseeably afford to continue to self-fund further development of its premises to accommodate the additional population growth without assistance to improve its premises. As a training practice, with a good reputation for offering quality training, we usually accommodate up to three GP trainees at any one time, this benefits us as we have fewer recruitment issues than experienced elsewhere in the country.

We therefore request that Test Valley Council plans to immediately engage with BSW ICB on the future growth requirements for Primary Care provision. We have flagged the proposals to our NHS Premises Team at the ICB who I understand will be making comments on the consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Test Valley draft Local Plan. We hope that you will take our comments into consideration for the next stages of planning and would welcome any opportunities to engage in further consultations to ensure that we have a resilient and sustainable healthcare provision for the local area. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss our comments further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Dr Louise O'Leary, Snr Partner, on behalf of The Castle Practice