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From the Chairman
GEORGE JENKINS

Our Ref: GRJ/vp

3rd January 2007

Tim Prater
Shepway Liberal Democrats
16 Riviera Court
Sandgate High Street
Folkestone
Kent
CT20 3RP

Dear Mr Prater

Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone

The Trust's position in relation to the RVH site is that it is exploring the option of a sale to save the organisation an estimated £1.2million per year in ongoing costs currently maintaining a building that is underutilised, which could be better spent on the health care of East Kent patients.

East Kent Hospitals Trust is committed to provide local access to local health services for the residents of Shepway. The present outline plan is to provide all the services listed below in the new part of the hospital/nursing home (the building adjacent to the Walk-In Centre on site), should it be decided to sell the remaining site.

The current range of services at the Royal Victoria Hospital will continue to be provided in the RVH namely: the out patient Audiology, Cardiology, Colorectal, Dermatology, Diabetes, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), Endocrinology, Falls and Osteoporosis Service, Walk-in Centre, Wheelchair Service, Gastroenterology, General Medicine, General Surgery, Geriatric Medicine, Glaucoma, Gynaecology, Haematology, Nephrology (Renal), Occupational Therapy, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic, Orthoptic service, Diagnostics, Paediatrics, Physiotherapy, Psychological services, Rehabilitation, Rheumatology, services for older people, Speech and language therapy, Subfertility, Therapy services, Thoracic Medicine, Urology and Women's Health Services.

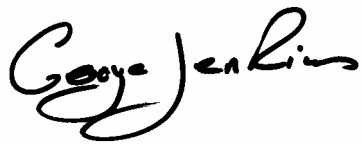
In addition to those services listed by you in your email, mental health services, HIV services, a hearing aid clinic and a Minor Injuries Unit/Walk-In Centre will also continue to be provided from the RVH. Our plans also include the relocation and co-location of radiology services (X-Ray) and the ultrasound unit in to a new area on site much closer to the Minor Injury Unit/Walk-In Centre. In this new unit, new digital equipment will be provided to improve the service available to patients. In fact the Trust's plans for RVH include the modernisation and upgrade of facilities, which will see the Trust investing approximately £1 million, to ensure that the current range of services accessed by Folkestone residents continue to be provided locally.

The Derry unit provides urogynaecology services and a urology diagnostic triage and treatment service to a population far wider than just the Folkestone area, and discussions will be held shortly to determine whether or not the RVH is the best location for this service.

For the moment no plans have been formalised to sell the building, and the only steps that have been taken are informal discussions with planners to ascertain what kind of alternative use they might approve of for the site.

Overall, I hope that you can see that the Trust is intending to continue to modernise the services that are present on the RVH site to the benefit of the patients that we serve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'G' and 'J'.

George Jenkins
Chairman
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust