

COUNCILLOR Ross Garrod

Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking Enforcement
(Labour, Lavender Fields Ward)

CE 22/8

merton

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Date: 17 August 2017

Mr Daniel Elkeles
ESTH 2020-2030
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
Ferguson House
St Helier Hospital
Wrythe Lane
Surrey SM5 1AA

Dear Epsom and St Helier University NHS Trust

Re: 2020-2030 engagement

I am contacting you as Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking Enforcement at Merton Council. In addition to this, I am a local Councillor for Lavender Fields ward.

I am writing to support the improvement of St Helier Hospital at its current site in Rose Hill. I strongly believe that St Helier must remain on this site with all its current acute services intact including a consultant led maternity unit and all Accident and Emergency services.

The residents in Lavender Fields, the ward I represent, are reliant on the acute services at St Helier. Removing acute services from the current site would represent a huge risk, taking away from people who need it most. The proposed sites of Epsom and Belmont are considerably less deprived areas than the current area surrounding the Rose Hill site.

Residents in my ward have more health needs than those at the proposed other sites of Epsom and Belmont. Acute services should not be moved away from an area that has more health needs.

There is a lack of good public transport to the site at Belmont and at Epsom for my residents whereas St Helier Hospital has excellent transport links.

Any loss of services from St Helier will reduce access to services for those closest, who are the most in need of health support. However, the impact will also be felt by many in the east of Merton who use St George's Hospital (including most of my constituents). The loss of St Helier's Accident and Emergency, maternity and other units would lead to a significant increase in demand at St George's Hospital which does not have the capacity to be able to cope without a serious reduction in the quality of service there.

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The consultations over the past 18 years have cost an estimated £50million. I can't understand the justification of spending more money on a process that has happened so often before. I consider it to be an absolute misuse of public money. I also don't understand there to be any money in the government's budget for a new hospital and if there is any capital to be spent, it should be spent on improving the current St Helier site.

I hope that my views and the views of my constituents are clear.

Yours sincerely

Ross Garrod

**Councillor Ross Garrod
Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness**