North Ferriby Parish Council

www.northferribyparishcouncil.gov.uk North Ferriby Playing Field Trustees – Charity No. 523280 North Ferriby Village Hall Custodian Trustee – Charity No. 223908

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26th February 2021

FAO : Practice Manager

North Ferriby – Patient Consultation

North Ferriby Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed closure of the branch surgery in North Ferriby and would like to register our extreme dismay in the so called consultation.

At no point have you contacted the Parish Council about this proposal, instead we had to find out 'via the grapevine' and be on the receiving end of telephone calls from worried residents who have only just received a letter informing them of the proposed closure, which gives them just one week to register feedback – if they are in a position to do so at all.

North Ferriby Parish Council is also very concerned with the timing of your announcement. We are still under lockdown restrictions and it is known that the pandemic has led to increased levels of anxiety, your proposals are only adding to this. One would assume this decision was taken with more than one week's notice and would ask therefore why letters have only just been sent out?

As you will be aware, many of North Ferriby's residents are elderly and not all have access to either the internet or transport. The recent reduction in bus service means that there is no longer a bus service to Hessle, and Dr Mitchell's surgery is not taking on any new patients. This proposal therefore has the potential to leave North Ferriby residents unable to see a GP.

In this regard we wish to request the following information:-

- 1. How many residents in North Ferriby are registered at your practice?
- 2. How many patients are registered with you in total?
- 3. What provision are you making available to residents that have no means of transport for example will you offer house calls to those elderly and infirm residents, or arrange NHS pick up?
- 4. What is the view of NHS CCG on your provision for patients in North Ferriby?

Whilst we appreciate that the Health Centre can offer more services than available in the North Ferriby surgery, we would suspect that most face to face appointments do not require complex procedures, and those that do can be referred on as we assume is already the case for those attending at the Health Centre itself. Although we also appreciate that there are necessary Covid restrictions at present, the currently successful roll out of the vaccine means that these restrictions will become less and less onerous going forward.

Whilst your letter to patients gives the distinct impression the decision to close the North Ferriby branch has already been taken, especially given the short notice for feedback, we would ask that you consider the inconvenience and difficulties this decision will produce, not only for the elderly, but also for those others without transport. Even operating a regular surgery for one day a week would be of enormous benefit to the village.

Yours faithfully,

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Jo Haslope Clerk to North Ferriby Parish Council

For and on behalf of North Ferriby Parish Council

cc East Riding of Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group

David Davis MP