

Annual Report of the Health in Dacorum Committee for 2019/20

The Committee looked at Health issues affecting Dacorum with interest, commitment and passion.

The proposed redevelopment of the West Herts. Hospitals Trust (WHHT) estate was considered at length. Committee members were not supportive of proposals by WHHT to focus the majority of services and investment at the Watford site, considering that this would not give an acceptable level of provision for residents of Dacorum. They believed that the only option to provide future emergency and specialist hospital care was at a new purpose-built central hospital on a site suitable for 21st century health care delivery. They felt that a new build would better serve the needs of the wider West Herts population. They also believed that there should be a good range of diagnostics and services within the three main settlements of West Hertfordshire.

The Committee heard a presentation from Herts. Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group on Primary Care Networks.

The Committee considered GP provision in Berkhamsted, an issue raised by the previous Council.

The Committee was informed of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (now an Integrated Care System) covering Hertfordshire and West Essex. The idea of the STP was to bring together a system across a geographical area.

The Committee looked at patient transport and how it had been taken over by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust after the previous provider had failed.

At its' meetings the Committee received updates from Herts. County Council's (HCC's) Healthy Scrutiny Committee and HCC Adult Care Services.

At its' meeting on 11th March 2020, the Committee received a presentation from Jim McManus, the Herts. Director of Public Health, on Covid-19 (coronavirus). He was accompanied by C/Cllr Tim Hutchings, HCC's Executive Member for Public Health and Prevention. He explained that restrictions would be coming in to "flatten the peak" of the virus so that the NHS would not be overwhelmed.

Thanks to the Committee's previous Vice Chairman, former Cllr Roger Taylor and to the current Vice Chairman Cllr Alexander Bhinder. Thanks to Cllr Bhinder in his role as Dacorum's representative on HCC's Health Scrutiny Committee and to his predecessor Cllr John Birnie. Thanks to all Committee members and officers for their work.

Chairman
Cllr Fiona Guest

