

# Wylam Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Marie Moore,  
Parish Council Office,  
Wylam Institute, Church Road,  
Wylam, Northumberland NE41 8AP  
Telephone: (01661) 852498  
E-mail: [clerk@wylamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wylamparishcouncil.org.uk)  
Website: [www.wylamparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.wylamparishcouncil.org.uk)

31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

## BY EMAIL

Mark Adams  
Accountable Officer  
Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

Dear Mark,

### Proposed Closure of Riversdale Surgery

In 2017, we wrote to your predecessor and the various other parties with an interest in the closure of Riversdale Surgery, expressing a number of concerns on behalf of our residents.

It was disappointing not to receive more substantive replies or engagement, and more recently, to learn that this proposed closure had been approved 'in principle' without any indication that our residents' concerns had been considered or addressed. As previously indicated, we would have preferred to work with you on this issue.

Since we have not been offered such an opportunity, we are writing to make clear that these concerns have not diminished with the passage of time. They can be summarised into three categories:

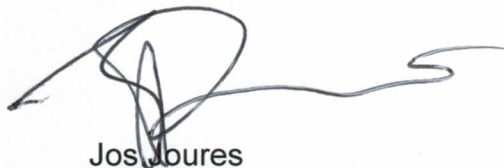
- (1) The consultation on the proposal was flawed and inadequate. From the documentation we have seen, the consultation undertaken appeared to be based on a totally false premise and sought to restrict rather than encourage patients and residents in their ability to make their views known. We seek urgent reassurance that the consultation was in line with the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act and took full account of the diverse needs of the patients and residents affected.
- (2) We remain concerned that the analysis used to inform the decision contained material errors and was insufficient to ensure the decision was consistent with the requirements of the Health and Social Care and the Equality Act. We seek urgent assurance that the analysis was correct and sufficient.
- (3) We remain concerned that the decision has received insufficient scrutiny from a sufficiently wide and high-level governance process, appropriate to a proposal with this level of impact on our residents' ability to access Primary Healthcare. Again, we seek urgent reassurance on this point.

We would therefore be grateful if:

- (1) You would attend a public meeting organised by the Parish Council on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm in Wylam Institute, Church Road Wylam NE41 8AP. This will provide you with the opportunity to reassure residents both that a correct decision has been taken using correct process, and that their Primary Healthcare needs will continue to be met if the surgery is closed.
- (2) You would provide us with an explanation of the consultations, analysis and governance supporting this decision, including copies of all relevant and associated documents. If necessary, please regard this as a Freedom of Information request.
- (3) You could confirm that your view is that this decision, and the processes supporting it, are consistent with all relevant legislation, including the Health and Social Care Act and the Equality Act, together with an explanation of why you believe this to be the case.
- (4) You agree that the process to close the surgery should not be pursued further until adequate public consultation and engagement has been completed, including public reassurance on the adequacy of the processes followed to date and on the accessibility of Primary Healthcare going forwards.

We reiterate our desire to engage positively with you and the Riversdale Practice in ensuring Primary Healthcare can best serve the needs of our area, and are happy to meet at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Jos Joures  
Chair of the Parish Council

**C.C.**

Riversdale Surgery  
Guy Opperman MP  
Councillor K Quinn  
Clerks to Heddon, Horsley, Ovingham, Ovington, Newton and Bywell Parish Councils and  
Prudhoe Town Council  
Wylam Surgeries Users' Group  
Wylam Pharmacy