

East Leicestershire & Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group
Leicestershire County Council
Room G30
Penn Lloyd Building
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TB

20 March 2018

Dear Sirs
Proposed Closure of Ketton Surgery

The Uppingham Surgery is seeking to close the Ketton Surgery on the grounds that they do not have the staff to provide adequate safe medical cover. The surgery at Ketton has served the medical needs of the community for over 50 years, and was relocated to more suitable premises a few years ago. The Practice seems to be totally ignoring the requirements of patients many of whom, through age, will be seriously disadvantaged should closure take place. There is a significant difficulty for patients, who may no longer drive and suffer limited mobility, because the bus services to Uppingham are extremely poor.

I also have grave concerns about the survey that the Practice issued together with the consultation process and feel that neither is fit for purpose. Five options were presented by the Practice to the CCG but only one option was presented to residents – that of closure. The Uppingham Practice indicates that they are unable to recruit GPs to service the surgeries in Uppingham, Gretton, Barrowden and Ketton. However we calculate that less than 2% of the total GP hours available are spent in Ketton and it is difficult to see how this has any impact on the total GP availability across the Practice and why Ketton should be the surgery to close.

I would ask the CCG to consider the needs of residents in Ketton and not agree to the closure. I understand that medical practices are run as businesses these days but they are significantly funded by the NHS. Should closure take place, we in Ketton will not be receiving the care and service that a growing community needs.

Yours faithfully

Name & Address supplied

Proposed Closure of Ketton Branch Surgery

There has been a surgery in Ketton for 50 or more years, serving what has always been a large community. There are currently 285 patients registered at the Ketton Surgery - a number that exceeds the 250 patients set as a minimum by Uppingham Surgery for the allocation of a GP.

Rutland's Draft Local Plan Review (up to 2036) could allocate another 300 houses to Ketton, which could increase the population from almost 2000 up to 3000. Ketton is classed as a Local Service Centre - in fact it is one of the largest villages in Rutland - and as such is supposed to provide all the necessary day to day services. Rutland's Core Strategy (up to 2026), aims to support thriving, healthy and socially inclusive communities by protecting existing facilities, including for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups - surely Ketton Branch Surgery is such a facility ?

Easy access to a doctor's surgery is essential for disadvantaged and vulnerable residents, such as those who are too elderly, ill or disabled to drive, or who cannot afford to run a car. With the current bus service, it would take up to 6 hours for a round trip for an appointment in Uppingham, and would include quite a walk from the bus stop to the surgery. If patients were to transfer to a surgery in Stamford, there would be a similar issue with the bus service (same bus service), and a walk to the surgery from the bus stop. The Uppingham branch surgeries in Barrowden and Gretton are not accessible from Ketton by bus, nor are surgeries in Empingham or Oakham.

The recruitment of new GPs is a countrywide problem, not just in Rutland, and there must be ways to attract GPs to a particular practice.

Wasted GP time in Ketton between appointments has been cited as a problem - how is it different in the other branch surgeries, or in fact at Uppingham ? Surely a GPs admin work can be done at any location.

It is imperative that our branch surgery remains open, not just for the current patients, but for those who will be part of our community in the future.

Yours sincerely

Name & address withheld