



Dear Dr Spencer,

As you are well aware, the Weybridge 'Hospital' burned to the ground seven years ago in the summer of 2017. At a public meeting soon afterwards, residents were promised that it would be rebuilt within a year. We are still waiting – and residents of Weybridge and Oatlands are fed up with waiting.

First, we were teased with the exciting prospect of a new heart to the town centre through the grand ideas of Lord Mawson (who sits on the Board of NW Surrey Alliance) and his Well North Enterprises team, funded with money from One Public Estate designed to bring together public bodies, such as the NHS and two-tier councils, to work out solutions across their estates for the benefit of the public. This would have included an holistic development of the hospital site, the Library site and Churchfields car park. That took nearly four years but floundered when the costs were deemed unattainable.

Then NHS Property Services set about producing their own plans to rebuild a Health Centre for use by the current GP practices in place of their second-hand portacabins. But there was a funding gap between the estimated cost and the money available. Indeed, you put questions to the Health Minister at an adjournment debate on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2022, five years after the fire, and you were informed by Will Quince MP that the project was not fully funded and additional money would need to be raised locally.

Without any such sources of local funding, NHS Property Services' architects scaled down to a rather basic design of building and last year opened pre-application discussions of their plans with the local planning authority.

We were alarmed to find out that upon then engaging a local developer, Willmott Dixon, this firm insisted on using their own architect. New designs had to be drawn up and the process of gaining planning approval was stalled again.

But even more of a concern is the news on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March given at the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG). Members were told that the Project Leader and his team are to be replaced in a 'reorganisation' of staff and it is expected that this will cause a further delay. They may also have to reduce the size of the building because the service charges and operating costs paid by the GP practices and other partners were too expensive, or the whole scheme may have to be scrapped!

You were elected in 2019 and have regularly made claims to be helping to expedite the building of this much-needed new Weybridge Health Centre. Five years later, nothing has been built and there is further delay.

Cllr Tim Oliver is not only our local Surrey County councillor but, in his role as Leader of the Council, he chairs the Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Partnership. He has therefore been closely involved in discussions on this project, and we are copying this letter to him so that you both understand the tremendous sense of frustration that we are hearing regularly on the doorstep and in our inboxes from residents.

We need you to turn your words into action to secure a new Health Centre in Weybridge as soon as possible.

Regards,

**Ellen Nicholson**  
(Lib Dem PPC for Runnymede & Weybridge)

**Monica Harding**  
(Lib Dem PPC Esher & Walton)

**Cllr Ashley Tilling**  
Weybridge Riverside Liberal Democrat Councillors

**Cllr Helgi Joensen**

**Cllr Judy Sarsby**

**Eva Ferlez**  
Oatlands & Burwood Park  
Lib Dem Campaigner