

Shocking news on local hospital :

Moorgreen Closure Threat



Cllr David Goodall reports:

In a very short-sighted report, the Strategic Health Authority Board has concluded that at least half the Moorgreen Hospital site is surplus to requirements and, even worse

still, in the long term the remaining older persons' mental health services could be removed and the entire site shut to health care provision.

As a community we need more good local health care provision and not less. The current thinking appears to be to centralise all services in the centre of Southampton and is driven more by cost factors than actually providing the health service required.

There is clearly a need for large regional specialist centres like Southampton General, but not all health services need to be provided in this manner. There is still the need to provide local and district based health services. There should be a balance between a big central hospital and local provision.

At Eastleigh Borough Council the Health Board's decision was condemned as short-sighted nonsense by speakers from all sides of the political spectrum and the following motion was passed :-



• **Chris Huhne MP, Cllr David Goodall and Cllr Tony Noyce outside the threatened hospital**

Council notes that at a recent meeting with Southampton Primary Care Trust the owners of the Moorgreen Hospital site revealed that significant parts of the site are regarded as surplus to future health service requirements and are likely to be sold for redevelopment.

Council further notes that:

a) the Borough's recently adopted Local Plan identifies this site as a Special Policy Area for the exclusive use of healthcare services;

b) the Council has long sought improved health provision for the southern part of the Borough; and

c) the South East Plan shows growth of a further 6,000 new homes in a Strategic Development Area north/north-east of Hedge End by 2026.

Council resolves to continue to support enhanced health provision at the Moorgreen site, to oppose the removal of health services from this location and the disposal of the site for other land uses.

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Government policy is to close 2,500 Post Offices : Could West End Post Office close ?



Cllr David Goodall reports:
There is a grand Government plan to save the Post Office from making large losses, its to shut about 2,500 more offices!!



• **Chris Huhne MP and Cllr David Goodall outside West End Post Office**

This Labour government has the same policy on Post Offices as the previous Conservative one, i.e :-

- Don't invest in the service, just subsidise it
- Don't really change the system, just tinker with it
- As losses mount shut Post Offices under the guise of improvement or investment plans

Under the last Tory government about 3,500 Post Office were shut, under this one about 4,000 have shut already since 1997.

There is not even talk of making sure each natural community has a Post Office, so in the Government's eyes it be would acceptable for West End to have no Post Office because there are Post Offices at Hedge End, Bitterne and on Witts Hill in Southampton. These are all within an acceptable distance in their opinion !!



Better Post Offices

Policy Point

Cllr Tony Noyce reports: Liberal Democrats have good plans for better Post Offices, we would :-

- split the Post Office Ltd from Royal Mail, so they are two separate organisations
 - ⇒ freeing the Post Office from Royal Mail restrictions
 - ⇒ freeing the Royal Mail from having to maintain a Post Office network and so enable it to compete on an equal footing with other post carriers.
- sell 49% of shares in Royal Mail, to raise £2 billion, to create an investment fund for the Post Office
- give employees 50% of the remaining shares, in a John Lewis style trust
- free Royal Mail from Treasury borrowing controls so it can invest
- enable Post Offices to invest in new business without current restrictions, e.g. as mini parcel depots for Royal Mail & private firms, as the shop front for local and central government, as fully integrated small businesses to provide a range of local services, as a local bank with cash machines & terminals in post offices allowed to be on the Link network.

West End Petition For better local services

Please tick to support our campaign(s):
I, the undersigned, call on :-

- Government to stop the unnecessary Post Office closure programme and instead free the business from restrictive regulation, invest in the future of the network and stop removing government business to safeguard our post offices.
- Government and its Health Board to keep the whole Moorgreen site for local health provision.

Signed.....
Name.....
Address.....
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Phone.....
Email.....

**Return to West End Liberal Democrats,
FREEPOST, Eastleigh, SO50 9AA**