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From: Stennett Andrew (COLLEGE SURGERY PARTNERSHIP - L83092)
Sent: 30 September 2015 09:55
To: DPD
Subject: North West Cullompton Urban Extension
Attachments: Potential Community Garden at CVICH.docx
Importance: High

On behalf of College Surgery Partnership please find attached our response to the above consultation.

Regards

Andrew

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Potential Community Garden at Culm Valley Integrated Centre for Health Official Submission

We are writing to ask that .1 hectore of land should safeguarded in the masterplan for our proposed community health garden.

This garden has been discussed with local planners over very many years as a much needed facility to supplement our centre's commitment to improving local health and our specific mission that patients should be seen as assets in their own health.

The proposed community garden will build upon our small organic fruit and vegetable garden in the car park and herbal physic garden nearby, which are tended by our volunteer "gardening club" and a focus of great interest to patients and visitors.

The garden will have a threefold purpose. Firstly, to provide healthy outdoor activity for the gardeners with the opportunity to develop occupational skills and network socially. Secondly, to provide and demonstrate attractive plants and healthy food and vegetables, which can be used in our health café and for our regular cookery demonstration evenings. Thirdly, to provide an educational resource for patients, school children and others on the growing, cooking and health benefits of the various plants and herbs. A book will accompany the garden, which will be a source of reference for patients and visitors as to how the garden and its products can improve health. The book and the garden will feature herbs and foods that have specific benefits, for instance, for patients with cancer, depression, arthritis, heart disease, chronic fatigue or frequent infections.

The community garden will sit within the context of the Integrated Centre for Health, which itself is a national flagship and demonstration site for the College of Medicine and has had frequent visits from Secretaries of State and Ministers for Health and HRH The Prince of Wales. It will enable the Centre and Cullompton to become a showpiece for gardening and healthy eating in the wider context of plans for Cullompton to become one of the NHS England's five "Healthy Towns".

The need for new homes must not ignore the health and social needs of those, who will inhabit those homes. Those people and the wider community need to become assets of health creation every bit as much as users of health services and we believe that the ripple effect of having a high profile community garden will play a major contribution to the sustainability of our local health services as well as our local community.

On behalf of College Surgery Partnership