
From: KB
Sent: 24 August 2015 19:30
To: DPD
Subject: NORTH WEST CULLOMPTON DEVELOPMENT MASTERPLAN - CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Dear MDDC,

As part of the response to consultation I would like to add my comment in support of the proposal for a Community Health Garden attached to the College Surgery and Centre for Integrated Health. There are numerous studies in the public domain that indicate the benefits of such a facility, particularly around mental health and physical wellbeing, and many of these show a clear financial benefit when taking in to account the costs of preventative actions – such as this community health garden – compared to the subsequent treatment costs of the disorders and ill-health that have a higher level of prevalence without this type of psychological and physical intervention.

The Health Garden has the potential to provide huge benefits not just to College Surgery patients but the whole community and the new Primary School. Patients will not only be able to access the garden to help them deal with stress, depression, bereavements etc, but some may be invited to work in the Garden to help with conditions such as Diabetes, Obesity, rehabilitation etc. Produce from the Garden would be used in cookery demonstrations to help those with diabetes or obesity to have a better understanding of nutrition, healthy eating and how to cook.

As I've said above, there is a great deal of evidence to show that 'Green prescription' is hugely beneficial. As the NHS is under a huge challenge as demands for treatment grow, this is the kind of initiative which is likely to be vital in the future and in the best interest of patients.

This is also a Centre of Excellence, and a teaching facility which is nationally and internationally renowned, recognised by the Department of Health and The Prince of Wales for its valuable pioneering work. It would be tragic if the Health Garden did not materialise and allow them to expand and build upon the work they have already started.

Whilst Persimmon are clearly focused on profit in terms of units sold per square metre, there is a considerable degree of positive PR value for them that could be realised if they supported this proposal.

Additionally, around the UK there is increasing trend of devolvement of responsibility and budget for local health and wellbeing from the NHS to local government and MDDC will be demonstrating that it supports the ethos and responsibility of this change by ensuring that it puts in place safeguards to ensure the implementation of a health garden of sufficient size and scope to deliver the benefits to the residents within its catchment area.

I therefore wish to add my support and name to the proposal to ensure the necessary amount of land for the garden is included in any planning consent.

K Bracken

Resident, MDDC area (EX15 1XA)