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Sandra Hutchings

From: Jean Berriman <
Sent: 19 March 2014 12:02
To: DPD
Cc: Christine Quinn
Subject: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH WEST CULLOMPTON

Dear Sirs

On behalf of the Patients' Group at College Surgery, Cullompton Integrated Centre for Health, Willand Road, Cullompton I would like to register our interest regarding the possibility of a small parcel of land being made available to the rear of this site, which could be made into a communal garden for use by the community. (EX15 1FE)

On behalf of our Group, I have been in touch with the Planning Department at Mid Devon and I would refer you to various letters and emails between myself and Luke Smith in the Planning Department.

Below is an extract taken from an email sent to me by Dr. Michael Dixon, a Senior Partner at College Surgery, which gives you some idea of what we would like to do for the community.

"We are not asking to have ownership of the land, simply a tenancy, while the community garden exists. Certainly nobody would be wanting to make a private profit from this. We regard the potential community garden as something very much community owned and community run with us simply being the catalyst for this. I think there is a community need in terms of a public place for demonstration of community gardening providing the volunteers that garden, with skills, companionship and connection to the earth and food, which have been shown to be healing in themselves. Furthermore, this would be an educational facility as well as a leisure facility for all those who lived around and cared to visit. We hope it will create a virtuous circle in terms of interesting people in gardening and producing their own food, providing exercise and stimulation as well as healthy food and an educational facility – particularly for our next generation.

I am sure there is a means of ensuring that the garden can be publicly owned, while being run and led by College Surgery and its Patients Group and garden volunteers. I think this is an opportunity not to be missed in terms of our longer mission to create better health and connection within the community."

I understand that the landowners are hoping to have some options for consultation shortly. I have also been informed that Thea Billeter has passed on our details so that the agents and design team acting for the landowners can incorporate a community garden into any Masterplanning options being drawn up.

I wait to hear from you further in due course.

Jean Berriman
 Chair
 Patients' Group

