

West Hertfordshire Hospitals   
NHS Trust

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Mayor Thornhill  
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16 October 2012

Dear Dorothy,

I understand that at its meeting on 17 October the Council will discuss the Watford Health Campus and in particular the potential inclusion within the proposed development of the land presently allocated for use as garden allotments.

At the centre of the Health Campus is Watford General. At present, the buildings occupied by our hospital are in poor state and not appropriate for twenty first century medicine: and I know that like me you are committed to ensure that the people of West Hertfordshire receive the best possible environment for their health care.

The agreed strategy of the Trust Board is to develop the new hospital in a phased fashion, as funds become available, and to deliver facilities appropriate to a modern, state of the art, District General Hospital.

Kier's innovative plan will provide the opportunity to deliver one of the new hospital buildings on top of the underground car park. This will connect with the new road which will provide a direct link between the new hospital and the existing motorway network. I am delighted and excited by this. However, this will not be adequate to provide for the full needs of the new hospital at Watford and of course there is additional complexity as we need to offer full services to our patients whilst our redevelopment is underway. Therefore, it will be imperative that the option of additional land is available to provide for the facilities required by our patients and in my view it will be most difficult to achieve this without the contribution of part of the land presently allocated to the farm terrace allotments. In light of this, I would wish to support the Council in giving full consideration to the patients' needs in reaching its decision to consider this for hospital use.

I should add that I am aware of your commitment to provide alternative allotment facilities within the locality and equally supportive of the attention to detail with plans for green open space, the well being agenda and sustainability.

In my experience, opportunity to build a new hospital is rare in the extreme and we should do all that we can to ensure that the our new healthcare facilities in Watford are fully fit for purpose now and for the foreseeable future.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Hanahoe', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Thomas Hanahoe**  
**Chairman**  
**West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust**

**Dear Editor,**

I am writing to you because we are seeing a huge increase in people coming to A&E, in fact 600 more patients each month compared to last year. These people are coming from Watford and the surrounding areas, as well as from further afield.

I must now say thank you to our incredibly dedicated staff, who have worked tirelessly in the face of huge pressure to maintain our performance and excellent clinical standards. Some of our patients' experience of A&E has not been good during this incredibly busy time and for that I am sorry. With the support of NHS Hertfordshire and Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group we are increasing the hospital's capacity with new state of the art mobile bedded units and we'll have a new 36-bedded unit by the end of the year. We've also improved the way in which we treat and admit patients using a new Clinical Decision Unit. I want to reassure everyone that the Trust is managing to cope with the extra people coming to use our services and patient safety has not, and will not, be affected.

Our inpatients, people who are admitted to a bed and stay overnight, are telling us that we've made significant improvements and that their overall experience of our hospitals is good. Recent weeks have tested our ability to provide the same positive experience in A&E.

NHS Hertfordshire has a very good GP Out of Hours service which can be contacted outside of normal GP surgery hours on 03000 33 33 33 or visit [www.wheredoigo.org.uk](http://www.wheredoigo.org.uk). They will help people decide which NHS service is right for them.

Now, looking ahead to the future, the Trust is a committed partner in the delivery of the Watford Health Campus. This scheme will transform the current hospital site, creating green open spaces, tranquil water frontage and welcoming public spaces. Eco friendly buildings will also help create a much more accessible healing environment. We are working hard to fulfil our vision for a modern general hospital for Watford, potentially in a phased approach. We already have £7m for a new access road to the hospital and not only that, the 'Croxley Rail Link' will extend the Metropolitan Line to a new station nearby. Emergency and normal access to the site will be dramatically improved.

Most readers will know, and understand the land around the hospital and the slope of the site, which doesn't help when trying to piece together the Campus 'jigsaw'. Using the current allotment sites would really help the future redevelopment of the hospital and make its delivery more certain. But remember this is not just about the hospital. The Campus also creates jobs for local people, affordable homes and other benefits for Watford and we should be and indeed are, working together to make it happen.

Yours sincerely

**Jan Filochowski**

**Chief Executive, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.**