

ALDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Council Document To consider forming a working party to investigate possible implementation of policy RV2 -- Medical Services of the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan	AGENDA item 7 Full Council Meeting 26 February 2024
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Background

The Radlett Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) was adopted in May 2021 following the positive referendum result earlier that month. The RNP is now considered as a statutory planning document on any proposed development within the plans area. In fact, it was cited recently by the barristers acting for Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC) and Aldenham Parish Council (APC) at the recent appeal on the 'Land to the South of Shenley Hill' development. The RNP was also used by the planning inspector in his ruling on the appeal which was ultimately dismissed.

One of the 'mitigation' measures put forward by the developer of 'Land to the South of Shenley Hill' was the proposal to build a medical centre on the site, the argument being that the sites proposed under point 3.66 - 'Medical Facilities' of the RNP, had not either been explored or were unviable. As this proposal has now been dismissed APC would like to follow up on point 3.67 of the plan and 'strongly encourage the provision of a new medical service in the Village Centre'.

Working Party - Next Steps

As with other initiatives suggested by APC, the formation of a 'working party' will allow APC to invite interested members of the public (who are not councillors) to be part of a 'one-off' commitment to a project they are interested in. For example, APC could approach those who spoke so eloquently at the public inquiry about the proposed medical facility and its shortcomings, based upon their own experiences.

A draft 'terms of reference' for the proposed working party is set out below.

Terms of Reference

This working party is formed to review policy RV2 Medical Facilities as identified in the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan (RNP).

The policy states 'The retention or enhancement of medical services in Radlett will be supported. Any such use should be located in the Village Centre unless it can be demonstrated that there are no viable and deliverable sites, in which case provision elsewhere in the settlement will be supported'.

The working party will

- Investigate the site options identified in the RNP and also any other sites that might come forward that are in the Village Centre.
- Liaise with the Red House Surgery and any other providers to ascertain their needs both now, and in the future.
- Work with all parties to try and find a solution that will benefit the local community and the medical provider.

Recommendations

- a) That APC form the RV2 -Medical Facilities working party with at least two APC councillors initially.
- b) That APC advertise for volunteers from within the parish to join the working party.

Reasons for recommendation

With the proposals for a new Local Plan being considered by HBC formation of this working party could help discussions regarding future medical facilities within Radlett which could be included in that plan.

Alternative options

That APC do not form a working party, but that this is against the requirements under the RNP, or a group is formed separate to the council.

Financial Implications

There are no initial costs to set up the working party. However, funding may be required in future should the working party need to obtain any specialist reports etc, in which case the working party will approach the council for funding.

Risk Management Implications

The risk is that by not taking this opportunity to investigate further possible medical facilities within the Village Centre, that further developers approach HBC with proposals that move the Red House out of the village centre.

Members are asked to consider this report.

Peter Evans,
Council Manager