From:

PlanningPolicy

To: Subject: North East Thatcham development SP17

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Attachments: West Berkshire Strategic Development Plan 2037 LL1 (002).docx

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### Good afternoon

Please see attached response from Thatcham Medical Practice to the proposed North East Thatcham Development.

Many thanks

Kind regards

# **Linda Lawson Strategic Director**

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Thatcham Medical Practice Bath road Thatcham Berks RG18 3HD

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## West Berkshire Strategic Development Plan 2037

# North East Thatcham Development Consultation . Policy SP17

### Thatcham Medical Practice Consultation Submission.

Thatcham Medical Practice is one of three local practices affected by the planned development of 1500 residential units in NE Thatcham. It is also affected by the proposed development of 85 dwellings on land at lower way. Site Ref: THA025.

Thatcham Medical Practice currently has 18,632 registered patients. We provide medical care for patients who reside within our practice boundary and over the past 5 years have employed additional allied health professionals and nursing staff to meet the increasingly complex health care needs of our patient population. 3 in 8 of our patients have a least one long term condition and 10% are aged 75 years or over. A key requirement in future will be the need for more 'accessible' clinical rooms.

We wish to continue to register all patients who move into our practice boundaries, however the predicted increase in patient population as a result of new housing developments would not be manageable in the absence of further premises development.

The draft policy indicates 450 sq m of GP surgery is to be offered to the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board or other such body. This would be the equivalent of a Satellite Site or Hub, which we wouldn't support. It would not be financially viable to run, we would be unable to meet GMS contract requirements and associated standards of healthcare.

If the appropriate funding was made available, we could extensively restructure our internal building to create more accessible clinical space within the footprint of our current premises. This would accommodate patients, within our practice boundary, who move into the new housing development site. This investment would include putting in a lift to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to create 4 additional clinical rooms.

Whilst we support proposed plans for a new surgery to be relocated within the NE Thatcham Development site, in the absence of the above investment healthcare provision for patients at Thatcham Medical Practice would be severely compromised.

Linda Lawson. Strategic Director, Thatcham Medical Practice.

6.3.2023