

Appendix 3

Godfrey Horne MBE
Chairman: Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Member for Tonbridge
44 Royal Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2DB

Mr Graham Link
Project Manager
Highways Agency
Federated House
London Road
Dorking
Surrey RH4 1SZ

13 August 2010

Dear Mr Link

Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Health Services in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells

You will be aware of the local public interest presently focussed on the plans proposed for the Reconfiguration of Health Services in the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells area pending the opening of the new PFI Hospital at Pembury.

Highway issues are a major concern and I write to ask for clarification as to the up-to-date position regarding the A21 proposals to duelling that section of the road between Castle Hill, Tonbridge and the roundabout at Longfield Road.

Highway issues were one of the 10 items identified by my Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when referring this matter recently to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

Your help in providing relevant information would be much appreciated and would assist my Committee when answering questions which may be asked of this matter at this present time.

Yours sincerely

Godfrey Horne MBE
Chairman
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Our ref:
Your ref:

Mr Godfrey Horne,
Chairman : Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Kent County Council
Members Suite
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County Hall,
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Kent ME14 1XQ

Chris Bacon
Project Manager
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Federated House
London Road
Dorking RH4 1SZ

Direct Line: 01306 878448

17 August 2010

Dear Mr Horne

A21 TONBRIDGE – PEMBURY DUALLING

Thank you for your letter of 13th August to Graham Link relating to the Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Health Services in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells and requesting details of the current position with the above scheme

Draft Orders to authorise the route of the dual carriageway improvement, the consequential alterations to the local side road network and the compulsory acquisition of land were published on 11th December 2009. At that time it was anticipated that if the scheme was approved, construction could start towards the end of 2011 or beginning of 2012 and be completed by the end of 2013.

The draft Orders were open for objection and comment until 5th March 2010 and as a consequence of objections received, the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Communities and Local Government decided to hold a Public Inquiry which was planned to commence on 13th July 2010. However at the end of May it was announced that the Department of Transport's 2010/11 budget had been reduced and this was followed on 10th June by an announcement by the Secretaries of State that the Public Inquiry for the scheme was to be postponed and the scheme reviewed in the Government Spending Review in the Autumn.

Details of the review are expected to be announced towards the end of October. In the meantime further details of the scheme are available on the Highways Agency's website at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/4003.aspx>

Yours sincerely



Chris Bacon
MP South Project Manager - Dorking
Email: chris.bacon@highways.gsi.gov.uk

*From the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health*



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Dear Councillor Horne,

23 AUG 2010

Thank you for your letter of the 2 August 2010.

I am aware that as you mention in your letter, Maidstone based members of Kent County Council will meet in public with NHS South East Coast, PCT and trust representatives on 9 September 2010. I hope this will be a constructive opportunity to discuss the changes as they proceed to implementation.

As you know, I have asked NHS South East Coast to report to me at the end of September 2010.

In this report, I will expect NHS South East Coast to reflect upon the views of your committee. As you are aware, strengthened public and local authority engagement is a key part of the four tests I expect all planned and ongoing service reconfigurations to meet.

As you point out, your committee has representation from across Kent and I am keen to ensure that the interests of the whole population in West Kent affected by these changes are best served as implementation proceeds.

You raise the issue of the A21 dualling. I am assured by local NHS organisations that adequate access to the Pembury hospital site is not dependent on any planned road developments. As you may be aware, the Chair of Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust has written to me on this issue and I have noted his and your concerns.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE

Godfrey Horne MBE
Chairman: Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Member for Tonbridge
44 Royal Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2DB

Nick Chard
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways & Waste
c/o Members' Desk
Sessions House
County Hall

13 August 2010

Dear Nick

Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Health Services in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells

You will be aware of the local public interest presently focussed on the plans proposed for the Reconfiguration of Health Services in the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells area pending the opening of the new PFI Hospital at Pembury.

Highway issues are a major concern and I write to ask for clarification as to the up-to-date position regarding possible improvements to the A228 between Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, including the Colts Hill Bypass, planned for the next 5 to 10 years.

This issue was one of the 10 items identified by my Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when referring this matter recently to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

Your help in providing relevant information would be much appreciated and would assist my Committee when answering questions which may be asked of this matter at this present time.

A similar request for information is being sent to the Highways Agency for up-to-date information on the A21 proposals to dual that section of the road between Castle Hill, Tonbridge and the roundabout at Longfield Road.

Yours sincerely

Godfrey Horne MBE
Chairman
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

cc: David Brazier
Alan Marsh
Paul Wickenden