

Havant Matters

Keeping Residents up-to-date with Local Issues



Dear Residents,

You may remember the Oak Park School on the site next to Crossland Drive which closed over thirty years ago. You probably also remember that planning consent was granted for a community hospital, including provisions for the elderly, on the site in 2010 but that fell through because of the financial crisis.

However, the Oak Park Clinic was developed to provide most of the services that would have been in the hospital but not the 90 beds for older people needed due to the closures of the Havant War Memorial and the Emsworth Victoria Hospital hospital.

More recently, plans were drawn up by Hampshire County Council for an 80 bed nursing home and 100 Extra Care flats for older people on the empty site. This £25 million project was to be named the Oak Park Health and Wellbeing Centre.

The scheme was tendered to contractors in 2014 with a completion date of 2017. But Conservative policies on Welfare Reform paralysed the £25 million project. The consortium who were going to build the scheme then pulled out.



The Oak Park School Site prior to demolition

The Conservative council found another developer and this time promised that the scheme would be ready in 2021.

Following the Covid pandemic, Conservative run Hampshire County Council said the scheme was no longer viable and then the second group of developers pulled out.



All there is to show after thirteen years of broken promises is some tarmac and an overgrown site. It is disappointing that, close to the town centre and at the heart of the community, this large site remains empty while nursing home beds and extra care flats are desperately needed - with over 1500 people and families on Havant's housing waiting list.

Older residents in the area would have the option to downsize from housing association homes to these purpose built extra care flats.

Jamie Biltcliffe, Leigh Park & West Leigh Candidate for Havant Labour Party, says "*The Oak Park Wellbeing Campus would provide jobs and affordable homes for local people.*"

What you can do?

Currently there is a consultation underway from Hampshire County Council about proposed changes to care services. This would involve the closure of Malmesbury Lawn Care Home in Warren Park and some changes to the Emsworth House Nursing Home and Care Home.

Jason Horton, Leigh Park & West Leigh Candidate for Havant Labour Party says "*Havant has lost elderly nursing home beds, leaving a need for them to be filled locally so that residents don't have to move away from family, friends, and familiar places.*" The new proposal is that the residents of Malmesbury Lawn Care Home would move to a new care home specialising in dementia care on the Oak Park site after 2027. The residents and staff of Malmesbury may be better served by more modern facilities on the Oak Park site but this is still another four years away.



Conservative run Hampshire County Council have completely failed with this site and failed to keep you informed as local residents.

You can find the full consultation on the HCC web site under consultations and we hope you will respond by email or letter. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230904>

We think it's important to know:

1. What is going to happen to the rest of the Oak Park site and when?
2. What will happen to the land where Malmesbury Lawn is currently situated in Warren Park if the home closes?
3. What has happened to the £25 million allocated to this project?

You can express your disappointment that promises to open the Oak Park Health and Wellbeing Centre in 2017 at Oak Park have completely failed and your frustration that HCC Conservative councillors have not kept local residents informed. Email your response to Hampshire County Council at: AS.Consultation@hants.gov.uk or write to Hampshire County Council at Freepost, Hampshire. On the back of the envelope please write the following reference: AH&C Consultation FM06 PMO.

Please respond to the consultation by 12th November.