

Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care  
System  
ICS Estates Department

Email: [nwicb.icsestates@nhs.net](mailto:nwicb.icsestates@nhs.net)

Your Ref: Consultation (Reg 16)  
Draft October 2022  
Our Ref: Watton NP

Watton Town Council  
Wayland Hall, Middle Street  
Watton, Thetford,  
Norfolk  
IP25 6AG

14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

By email: [admin@wattontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@wattontowncouncil.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **Watton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2021-2036**

I write following the above consultation on behalf of the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System (ICS), incorporating Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB), Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust (NCHC), Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (NNUH), Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) and the East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST).

The local Primary Care Network (PCN), the Breckland Alliance, covering Watton is a collaboration between primary, secondary, community, social, voluntary, and mental health care providers to form an integrated health and social care service to our patients.

The Watton Surgery serves a registered population of 13,500 patients from the town and surrounding villages. The Watton Surgery utilises the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital for most of its secondary care, whilst the Norfolk Community Health & Care (NCH&C) Trust provide community nursing and therapy services for Watton, and Norfolk and Suffolk NHS FT cover the mental health needs of the population, with many of these services delivered into patients homes, remotely or from central resources.

Watton is currently serviced by Watton Medical Practice and Watton Health Clinic. In terms of premises space any current capacity will quickly be consumed through new developments in the area. The PCN are looking at ways to better integrate with the community teams who are currently based in poor accommodation at the Watton Health Clinic.

We have reviewed the information available and note that there is reference to Watton residents feeling that with the development of new homes in and around the town centre there has been no benefit of additional infrastructure. It is also noted that there is ambition to retain and expand on the range of health care facilities in the town as this will be essential to the wellbeing of residents given the areas future growth plans.

The ICS recognises and supports the extent to which the plan identifies the need for health development in the Watton area and we welcome the plan set out, with particular emphasis on:

**Page 15** - Objective 2: *'To support the provision and maintenance of social health and wellbeing services and infrastructure'*.

**Page 15 - Objective 21:** *'Look to provide facilities and services that promote and provide for the health, physical and mental wellbeing of the community'*.

**Page 18 (6.8):** *'Retention and expansion of the range of health care facilities in the town will be essential to the wellbeing of residents'*.

**Page 37 (13.1):** *'It is important that an efficient range of local health and community facilities are available to meet the increasing demand'*.

### **Community Action 5 – Use of Planning Funds for Improved Medical Services**

*'The Town Council will seek to work with the Watton Medical Practice and its Patient Participation Group to ensure that all funds available from planning obligations are accessed as well as publicising services not provided by GPs but available to patients of the Practice.'*

### **Community Action 8 – New Community Facilities**

*'The Town Council will seek to work with partner agencies to address the desires of the community for a retail centre, a Country Park, and Centralised Health and Wellbeing Centre.'*

The Norfolk and Waveney ICS agree with these comments and support the plan in principle, and as per the Planning in Health protocol, we will provide a single health response to all planning applications, reiterating the importance by which planning applications are sent to us so that mitigation can be sought through S106 contributions. The exact nature and scale of the contribution and the subsequent expenditure by health care providers will be calculated at an appropriate time as and if schemes come forward over the plan period to realise the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. This will support community action 12, making representation to the local planning authorities to highlight planning policies and raise material considerations.

With regards to Policy WTN2 and the support of proposals where it can be demonstrated that capacity can be made available by the time the development is brought into use. This can be difficult due to the mechanisms by which S106 funding is released to the ICB. There are often trigger points that are set by the developer and local planning authority which specifies when a proportion of the secured funding will be released and is often based on the number/percentage of houses built or occupied (i.e. 50% of funding released on occupation of 100 dwellings etc.), this makes it challenging to demonstrate that the additional capacity will be in place before all dwellings are occupied.

The Norfolk and Waveney ICS would also welcome supporting community actions 7 and 32 to seek additional health and wellbeing provision and to ensure residents are aware of the medical services available to them.

Community actions 29 and 30 will support residents being able to access the health services better and also support community health staff when conducting visits to patients.

The ICS would welcome the addition of a simple statement, to confirm that Watton Town Council will support the ICS in ensuring suitable and sustainable provision of healthcare services for the residents of Watton by securing S106 developer contributions

It should also be noted that, if unmitigated, the impact of developments on healthcare within the Watton area would be unsustainable, including that of Primary Care, Community Care, Mental Healthcare, the Acute Trusts and the ambulance service.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the ICS Strategic Estates team.

Yours faithfully,

  
**Norfolk & Waveney ICS Strategic Estates**