

Chris Clarence 21.6.2022

Formerly I served as a Conservative DCC Councillor here in the years 2009 to 2017. I am currently Vice Chairman of Teignbridge District Council and a member of Shaldon Parish Council.

I am speaking today to urge you all please to vote for a referral to be made to the Secretary of State to try and save Teignmouth Hospital from closure.

As some of you might recall I did email you all some while ago and was puzzled by the fact that the issue was referred by yourselves at a previous meeting and somehow this referral made to the Sec of State, and by him to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, failed to question any grounds or the case of the medical service provision for the retention of Teignmouth Hospital.

Although your original referral did say that “all relevant information” should be examined it appears that your committee was not satisfied that consultation between the CCG and themselves (the IRP) has been adequate in relation to content or time allowed. So for the absence of doubt, hence as said, I do urge you all this time please to refer this to the Sec of State to now refer it “on a question of medical/service provision in the local community”.

What is more - why would you all not back this proposal, as it won't impact in any way on your finances at DCC.

On the night of the 9th May I had a personal experience myself of how inadequate medical service provision currently is. A 96 year old lady living on her own turned to me for help at 8pm that evening. It took 7.5 hours wait for an ambulance to attend her. On facebook that night we learned there was a 6.5 hour wait in A/E with 16 ambulances stacked up waiting to discharge patients. Apart from old age and lack of care there was nothing fundamentally wrong with this elderly person; she recovered having blocked a bed in Torbay Hospital for a week. Do you all really believe such medical provision is a satisfactory state of affairs?

Teignmouth Hospital functions now doing operations there with many a clinic.

However, 12 rehab beds were promised to be reinstated but haven't materialised.

How useful they would have been to stop all this bed blocking in the main district hospitals had Teignmouth Hospital had some beds to offer.

Finally the majority of you are of the same political persuasion as me -a

Conservative. How does this possible closure of Teignmouth Hospital look to the local community when our leader, Boris Johnson is advocating the building of more hospitals? Yet here we are, the SDNHS Trust considering closing one? Lets hope such a referral to the SoS, triggering an examination by the IRP will lead to the obvious conclusion of retaining Teignmouth Hospital with beds put back in it.

Thank you for listening to me