

Transport:

Rail travel between Handforth and Macclesfield is virtually a non-starter. The passenger has to get to Handforth Station (unusable by anyone dependent on wheelchair or pushchair), take a train to Cheadle Hulme, take a southbound train to Macclesfield, then a bus or taxi to Macclesfield Hospital.

The 130 bus service from Handforth Health Centre to Macclesfield Hospital is an exceedingly uncomfortable 45 bus stops – potentially 90 on a return journey. The number of uncomfortable jolts and turns would be distressing for people with some conditions.

Using the car means finding a parking place at Macclesfield Hospital, a near impossible problem.

The Parish Council submits this as its formal response to the current consultation by the Trust and the Commissioning Group, and also asks these views to be fully taken into account by Cheshire East Council's Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. “

Ashley Comiskey Dawson
Clerk to Handforth Parish Council



Handforth Parish Council

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Handforth Parish Council is extremely concerned at the proposals by the East Cheshire NHS Trust and the East Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group, to terminate the provision of a number of clinical services at the Handforth Health Clinic. The loss of these services would be a serious retrograde step for local residents of both Handforth and Wilmslow. This loss would be significantly magnified as the developments under the Local Plan are realised, since the number of households in the area is expected to grow by some 3,000, virtually doubling the potential attendees at the Health Centre. Furthermore the cost (and major inconvenience) to residents of travelling to alternative sites far outweighs the costs to the Trust of continuing to provide these services in Handforth. We object to the proposals and urge the Trust and the CCG to reconsider, and at least to defer them for two years whilst alternative arrangements can be discussed with Handforth Parish Council and all parties who have expressed objections to the proposals.

It is also notable that the health professionals in the two Handforth GP surgeries do not support the proposals.

The report submitted by the Trust and the CCG to Cheshire East Council stated that in the 12 months to February 2017, there were 2,713 clinic appointments of the kind that would be relocated. This averages out to 11 appointments per working day. One would expect a single consulting room to be adequate to carry out these appointments. If we can assume a room of (say) 150 sq ft, at normal rents in Handforth of between £10 and £20 per square foot pa, then that would suggest a maximum true cost of no more than £3,000 pa. We cannot see how the figure of £67,000 is explicable.

Indeed, at market rates the £67k would equate to a space of at minimum over 300 sqm in Handforth, and substantially over 200 sqm even with heavy service charges. If the services to be relocated require this amount of space in (principally) Macclesfield General hospital, then the true cost there should have been taken into account in the Trust's proposals, but it has not. There is no likelihood that perhaps 200sqm or more (assuming it is efficiently used) could be accommodated in a major hospital without incurring heavy costs.