



**Councillor Duncan Rawlinson Town Mayor**

**Nichola Payne, Chief Officer**

**Telephone: 01621 783 426**

**Email:**

**[townclerk@burnhamoncrouchtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@burnhamoncrouchtowncouncil.gov.uk)**

**Council Offices**

**Chapel Road**

**BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH**

**Essex**

**CMO 8JA**

## **Burnham Town Council's response to the Public Consultation concerning the future of St Peter's Hospital, Maldon which closes on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

Burnham-on-Crouch Town Councillors have attended the Consultation meetings, responded individually, and have invited representatives of the ICB (local health authority) to address their meeting in public session on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Councillors are very disappointed to read of the narrow options being presented. The options do not consider the geography, expanding population size and transport links of Burnham.

Councillors take the view that much more realistic options must be developed and consulted on.

New options must ensure that services are brought closer to home for Burnham-on-Crouch residents not further away. As we understand it the proposals in brief are: -

- to move Stroke rehabilitation beds to Brentwood or Rochford
- to move Intermediate Care to a mix of Brentwood, Rochford, Billericay, Grays, and Halstead.
- to move the freestanding mid-wife led birthing unit to Braintree.
- to move 'out-patient' type services away from St Peter's, such as blood tests, physio, district nursing, mental health therapy (Cherry Trees), lung disease rehab, and many more, (see list on page 68 of the consultation document)
- ultimately, the plan is to close St Peter's hospital.

In short, all these Towns listed for in-patient services are far too far away from Burnham to appropriately serve our population. The transport links to those places are terrible, Rochford is across the river Crouch, which appears to have been missed on the consultation document.

Burnham is a discrete riverside conurbation on the Dengie Peninsula. It is a town of about 8,000 people rising to 10,000 in the next few years because of a massive house building programme. This town desperately needs local NHS services and yet these proposals move essential services many miles further away:

St Peter's is 13 miles away, a minimum 1 hour round trip.

Brentwood Community Hospital is 32 miles away, minimum a 2 hour round trip.

Rochford Cumberledge Centre is 26 miles away, a more time-consuming round trip on narrow roads around the river Crouch - minimum 2 hours and 5 minutes.

Braintree Community Hospital is 27 miles away, a minimum 2 hour round trip.

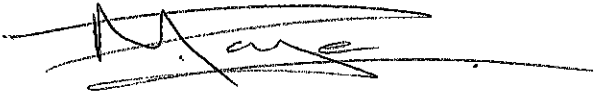
These are, in our view unacceptable journey times for our residents. Just when patients and new mums need their family and friends most, they will find themselves in hospitals far away from loved ones.

All the 'outpatient type' services listed on page 68, need to be brought to Burnham or at least close to Burnham to serve this expanding town population. Not only would this bring services closer to patients and support the over worked GP practice, it would also bring employment opportunities for the residents and attract medical, nursing and their support staff to Burnham to work.

Ideally a new community hospital as a replacement for St Peter's should be commissioned. This has been promised for 30 years or more. There have been so many missed opportunities to build it and Burnham residents feel very badly let down by the 'powers that be'.

The consultation documents suggests that the 'outpatient-type' services as listed on page 68 of the consultation document can be delivered locally and this is where we hope the NHS can come up with creative solutions which could include leasing vacant buildings or underutilised Buildings in Burnham such as the Burnham Clinic or the old Barclays Bank premises from which to run these community services and dovetail them with the GP service resulting in a much more integrated primary and ambulatory care service.

Kind Regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nichola Payne', written over a horizontal line.

Nichola Payne  
Chief Officer  
Signed on behalf of Burnham on Crouch Town Council