

## **Bromham Parish Council – June 2019**

### **Bromham GP Surgeries**

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group attended a Parish Council meeting in March 2019 to explain a proposal that would see both surgeries with facilities in Bromham, i.e. the De Parys Group and Linden Road Surgery, move to a purpose-built medical centre in Biddenham. The Parish Council expressed a number of concerns: these included –

- Bromham would be left with no medical facilities within the village,
- Pedestrian and cycle access to and from the new Medical Centre would have to be across Bromham Bridge which is not safe for cyclists and walkers, particularly for older people, and there are currently no buses convenient for the proposed medical centre. This suggests that the new Medical Centre would not be encouraging sustainability in transport terms, as required by national planning policy.
- Bromham is required to accommodate a minimum of 500 houses in the period to 2030 because it is a key rural service centre, a status accorded to villages with a range of services including GP surgeries. The proposal to move both current Bromham surgeries out of the village – which would have a particular impact on the village's older-than-average population - seems to the Parish Council to undermine Bromham's key service centre status.

Since the March meeting, the Parish Council has written to Bedford Borough Council, the Mayor and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to articulate these concerns.

Borough Councillors Rigby & Gambold have written to Alistair Burt, MP to raise their concerns on the village's behalf.

A petition with 631 signatures opposing the loss of GP surgeries in Bromham has been received by the Parish Council and submitted to Bedford Borough Council. This will be presented at a full meeting of the Borough Council on 17 July 2019.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group are considering how these proposed changes and the concerns expressed within the village could be reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan or its supporting documents.

### **UPDATE**

Representatives from Bromham Parish Council attended Full Council at Bedford Borough Council on Wednesday 17 July 2019. Chair Sian Woodfine submitted a petition from residents about the removal of GP Services in Bromham to a new purpose built facility in Biddenham.

Councillor Louise Jackson, portfolio for health, spoke about the proposal and proposed that Bedford Borough Council would write to the BCG to ask them to reconsult with Bromham residents before going any further with the application. She did suggest that the least we should expect was to leave one surgery open in Bromham possibly part time ideally the De Parys as the other surgery has access problems.

Bromham Parish Council continues to be concerned by this issue and will do everything in its power to retain medical facilities within the village.