

Dear Teresa and David

The Future of the Harpenden Memorial Hospital

As well as completing the very useful questionnaire on this subject and asking The Harpenden Society's members to do likewise, we felt that it was only courteous that I should, on behalf of my Working Group colleagues, reply to the really excellent letter which introduced the questionnaire.

The questionnaire, as it the nature of such devices, necessarily dealt – and it will be of enormous help as part of this process – with the clinical services that the public might require. It is, of course, difficult to ask box-ticking questions about less tangible or more discursive aspects of the topic in hand, especially as these apply to preventative as opposed to curative functions and to types and conditions of provision.

We believe this is a clear opportunity to reinforce The Society's commitment to the relevant elements that were emphasised in our original paper, *Red House Revivified* (another copy of which is attached for convenience of reference)

These were:

*the value of the Red House as a Wellness Centre with its balance of activity positively towards advice and the promotion of preventative measures and ventures, over against and/or as well as clinical procedures for those already ill.

*the value of the Red House as a base for multi-disciplinary enterprise, not only of NHS but of county and district public health and allied deployment, plus the engagement of local health-orientated charities and with laypersons acting in volunteer, advisory and managerial roles.

*The value of the Red House as a welcoming and popular place, with, where practical, walk-in facilities, ever user-friendly, with comfortable reception and waiting areas and tasty refreshment amenities.

We trust our re-tracing of these aspects will be helpful when discussion is resumed in the post-questionnaire phase.

With renewed expressions of our appreciation to you both for your bold picking up of the Red House gauntlet and our promise of any further assistance we might be able to provide.

Kindly regards

Eric

Eric Midwinter Joint Convenor and on behalf of the Health and Social Welfare Working Group of The Harpenden Society