



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Mike Rollings,
Leader, Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
High Street
Esher
Surrey
KT10 9SD.

Our reference: BS22458

14 January 2025

Dear Cllr Rollings,

Re: Weybridge health centre planning process

As you will be aware, supporting progress towards the rebuild of the Weybridge health centre has been a priority for me since I was elected in 2019. Having had years of engagement with the project partners, residents, and Ministers, including holding a debate in Parliament and pressing for funding to be agreed, I was delighted to see the planning application for the site formally submitted before Christmas.

However I have today been made aware that an objection to the plans has been received from Surrey County Council as the local flood authority, due to a lack of details about surface water drainage and sustainable drainage systems - set out in the National Planning Policy Framework as a material consideration in such applications - having been included in the plans. I am incredibly concerned that this could lead to further delays in this vital project, and would like to understand how this issue was not identified before now, given the original timescales for the application have already been delayed as it went through Elmbridge's pre-application advice process.

I would be grateful if you could look into this matter and provide answers to the following questions:

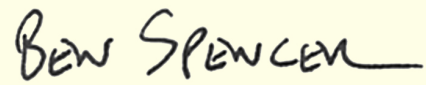
- When did Elmbridge planning department first receive plans for the site?
- What issues were identified, and what was the timescale for subsequent discussions and revisions
- Were issues of compliance with the NPPF raised as part of these discussions?
- Were issues of flooding and surface water discharge considered as part of this process?
- Whether you have confidence that the Elmbridge Planning department have fully discharged their duties regarding the service provided in this matter?
- Whether this planning issue is likely to cause further delays to this project?

I will also be writing to NHS Property Services who are responsible for having submitted the application.

Given Elmbridge planning is already facing significant questions over its performance, following the failure of the Elmbridge Local Plan and the cost and impact on our communities this will cause, this raises further questions over the ability of the Council to deliver its core

duties for residents. I would welcome a swift response to the questions outlined above, and the opportunity to discuss these broader concerns once this information has been provided.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Spencer". The letters are cursive and connected, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the word "SPENCER".

Dr Ben Spencer MP
Runnymede and Weybridge