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By e-mail

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Cossington Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-examination Consultation

We are writing in response to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Cossington.

The NHS Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB) are supportive of the vision set out in your draft plan and would want to work collectively with you to understand in more detail how the local NHS can contribute to its delivery.

Many of the themes identified in the plan will impact upon the wider determinants of health and as a result population health outcomes. We would therefore welcome working together to maximise the opportunity for health and wellbeing within the vision outlined in your plan.

In particular we would welcome:

- Actions to support the development of community identity; maximising opportunities for residents to come together to create community cohesion and support each other.
- Maximise the opportunities and provision of green space and local recreational facilities that actively promote enable residents to access and undertake physical activity with ease.
- That any new developments are designed in such a way to encourage and enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- A range of options for travel (including active travel) within the plan that enables residents to get to and from work, leisure facilities and health services easily.

- Infrastructure for Active Travel should be actively encouraged with provision for high quality cycling and walking routes, good connectivity to surrounding settlements and ease of access to public transport. We are particularly pleased that the impact on those with disabilities has been considered to ensure inclusivity to cycling and walking routes.
- Designs that support the reduction in carbon emissions and air pollution, as this has a direct impact on some resident's health.

As well as the above generic comments it is important to note we are supportive of improved access to faster broadband for all business and households. Since the pandemic, a variety of health and wellbeing services are delivered online and poor access to reliable connectivity puts the residents of Cossington at a disadvantage.

We also fully support your stance on protecting community facilities and promoting a strong community spirit within Cossington. Not only is this important for the good health and wellbeing of the community, but Primary Care services are increasingly under pressure due to the growing number of additional roles now required to provide care closer to home for residents. Space and facilities are stretched and therefore we would welcome a discussion around potential health use of some of these protected facilities.

It is also important to note that any increase in the number of new residents in any area due to housing development will have a direct impact upon local NHS services whether that is primary, hospital or community care. Local primary care services are already under high demand and therefore any additional demand from housing developments will require developer contribution to mitigate this.

Finally, we are pleased to see that the impact of an ageing population has been noted and the impact on future housing requirements considered so it can meet the needs of present and future generations. The provision of bungalows and smaller dwellings suitable for elderly people is particularly supported.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your vision and I look forward to working together to make the most of the opportunity and mitigate any impacts from increases in population upon local NHS services.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Clinton
Head of Strategy and Planning