

**Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4th July 2013**

Public Questions and Answers

**Agenda Item 7 (GP Services – Brunswick Park
Medical Centre and Finchley Memorial Hospital)**

From Mr David Howard, Chairman of the Federation of Residents Associations in Barnet

Question

“At a time of national austerity it is a waste of public funds to have NHS clinics and new purpose built GP rooms in Finchley Memorial Hospital empty. The delays on both sites have been ongoing for many months. We do not want a repeat of Vale Drive clinic where the new purpose GP surgery was empty for about three years.

Will the council implement a process whereby the responsible NHS officers are contacted by Barnet officers on a weekly basis to ensure that they are pursuing the matters with the utmost expediency?”

Response

“The Council is similarly frustrated by the delays in ensuring that the GP rooms in Finchley Memorial Hospital are utilised. It is not standard practice for the Council to take on this role of following up on a weekly basis whether another separate public sector body is appropriately discharging its responsibilities. The Scrutiny Committee and Council officers will continue to monitor this situation carefully, and make appropriate representations as required.”

Agenda Item 9 (Transport Services – Finchley Memorial Hospital)

From Mr David Howard, Chairman of the Federation of Residents Associations in Barnet

Question

“The NHS are to be commended on the foresight they showed by building in provision at the new hospital for TfL buses to access and egress the site easily to meet the needs of the elderly, young mothers with pushchairs and all ages suffering from mobility or respiratory ailments attempting to access the hospital by public transport and thus reducing private car use.

The intransigence being showed by TfL is unacceptable as is their failure to engage with the Council and others lobbying for buses to access the site.

1. Will the Council make personal representations to the Mayor to instruct TfL to provide a service without further delay?
2. If this is unsuccessful to ask the three MPs to raise the matter in Parliament to expose the unreasonable uncaring approach of TfL to a reasonable request?
3. Make appropriate representations to the London Assembly investigation into bus services in London?"

Response

"The Council recognises the importance of public transport links to Finchley Memorial Hospital and on this matter, like others will make representations to the Mayor to instruct TfL to provide a service. The pivotal issue from a TfL perspective will be whether the route is economical. However the Council will remind TfL of it's commitment to support equalities and inclusion and the role that public transport plays in opening up opportunities by providing access to education, employment and essential services which Finchley Memorial Hospital is."