

**Balham Park Surgery Patients Liaison Group  
Balham Park Surgery  
236 Balham High Road, London SW17 7 AW**

May 2007

Dear Wandsworth PCT

**The Bolingbroke Hospital – consultation on options for the future**

This is the response of BPSPLG to the current consultation. Below is the result of voting on five options (including the one proposed by Wandsworth Borough Council) about the short-term relocation of Bolingbroke Hospital services until the future of health provision in Battersea/North Wandsworth is determined.

We held a two hour meeting on this subject on 14 March at Balham Park Surgery Patients Liaison Group. Presentations were made by Dr Chris Streather of St George's and Dr David Finch of the PCT. The meeting was advertised within the practice and was open to registered patients and practice staff. BPSPLG members had been sent the summary "options for the future" document" in advance of the meeting. Twenty-six patients and staff attended.

In order to test the full range of views, the meeting agreed to put "option 5" as promoted by the Council to the vote. The results are recorded below, showing a preference for either option 1 or option 3 and a complete rejection of options 2 and 4.

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| Option 1 transfer majority of services to SJTC: <b>8 votes</b>   |
| Option 2 transfer some services to SJTC and some to QMH: <b>0 votes</b>  |
| Option 3 transfer most services to SGH: <b>8 votes</b>   |
| Option 4 transfer some services to SJTC and some to SHG: <b>0 votes</b>  |
| "Option 5": (as put forward by Wandsworth Borough Council) BH services relocation should not be proceeded with until such time as a site for a new community health facility(ies) in Battersea has been identified. <b>6 votes</b> |
| None of the four proposals in the consultation document: <b>4 votes</b>  |

We would like to draw other strong patient opinion about the consultation process to your attention. Patients attending the meeting regretted that the two NHS bodies had not informed the public about the problems surrounding the continued use of the Bolingbroke Hospital building until quite late in the process of considering alternatives. Had the public known about this earlier, it was felt that there could have been more positive discussion about options and less entrenched views from some quarters.

The meeting also expressed the view that the consultation was "back to front". What should have happened initially was a consultation on the future of health care provision for North Wandsworth, of which the Bolingbroke is only one

aspect. The results of that consultation would have made it much clearer to people that the Bolingbroke was not being considered on its own, which is the impression given by the current consultation document. Both outside speakers said the two-stage arrangement was done at the request of Wandsworth Council. The meeting was not persuaded that this was a wise decision as it had the effect of confusing the public.

We were also concerned that the NHS bodies and the Local Authority were on record as making strongly opposing statements about what might be possible in terms of minimal improvements needed to retain services at the Bolingbroke. This was disconcerting for the public, because the positions taken were so contradictory.

If you would like any more details from the meeting, I would be glad to provide them.

Yours sincerely

*Tom Pollak*

Tom Pollak  
BPSPLG Member and meeting chair