

Katrina O'Shea, Acting Chief Nurse at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust said:

"East Surrey Hospital is currently experiencing very high demand, alongside increased levels of winter viruses, which is impacting staffing and how we move patients around our site. As a result, our services are under significant pressure.

"Our teams are working around the clock to care for patients, but please only attend East Surrey Hospital in a life-threatening emergency.

"If your condition isn't life-threatening, please utilise other NHS services such as 111 online, your local pharmacy or GP, as well as nearby treatment centres at Crawley, Caterham Dene, Horsham and East Grinstead. This will help ensure emergency care is available to patients who need it most."

I have highlighted the comments made by Katrina O'Shea, Acting Chief Nurse at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust in respect of East Surrey hospital, While the premises are located in Surrey, it remains the main treatment centre for the residents of the borough of Crawley and it environs including Ifield. I can say this with certainty as [REDACTED] my self have been patients there in the past, as indeed have several of my neighbours. East Surrey Hospital previously declared a 'Critical Incident' in the winter of 2022/2023 and so this in not the first time that our local services have come under pressure, and it is unlikely to be the last. As far as I am aware there are no plans to expand/upgrade the facilities at either East Surrey or Crawley hospitals.

Homes England's proposal for an additional 3,000 homes, with a likely increase of some 9,000 people, will only exacerbate the situation and add further pressures on medical facilities - hospitals, GP surgeries and dental practices - struggling to meet demand.

In the circumstances, again I ask that you, the elected representatives, heed the concerns of of those constituents who will be severely and dramatically impacted by these proposals, and refuse this hybrid Planning Application and send Homes England and their monstrous proposals packing.

Yours aye

[REDACTED]
'Greenacre' Rusper Road, Ifield, Crawley. West Sussex RH11 0LN
cc Horsham District Councillors