



# GRESFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR CYMUNED GRESFORD

Alyn Family Doctors  
Gresford Health Centre  
Gresford  
Wrexham

30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Alyn Family Doctors

**Re: Proposed Closure of Gresford Health Centre.**

I write on behalf of Gresford Community Council. The Council recently held a special meeting to discuss your decision to rationalise your contract of health provision in the area, and your proposal to close the Gresford Health Centre.

The Council wish to make you aware of their concerns about the impact this will have on the communities of Gresford, Marford and Hosely, especially for the people within those communities without transport, who live alone and are isolated, or who are elderly or have a disability or life limiting illness. In raising these concerns, the Council would strongly urge you to reconsider your proposal to close the Gresford Health Centre.

The main concerns for such patients, are the difficulties associated with accessing the surgeries at Llay and at Rossett from Gresford and Marford. Many elderly or disabled people will have difficulty accessing transport, and it will lead to additional costs of transport to all patients. There is a lack of public transport to and from the surgery at Llay, necessitating a patient to have their own transport in order to attend or be reliant on other persons. It is also considered that it is difficult for people with mobility issues to get to Rossett on public transport. Difficulties in accessing either surgery from Gresford or Marford will be particularly acute in the winter months; there is a long walk down Station Road at Rossett from the bus stop, while in winter the road to Llay can be iced over and dangerous.

There are also concerns in terms of patient capacity at the surgeries, particularly at Rossett. The surgery at Rossett is small with limited seating, and there is no waiting provision for children at Rossett as there is at Gresford

On this basis, the Council wish to challenge your decision to close the Gresford Health Centre and would ask you to reconsider your decision. The Council understands that you may not have come to this decision lightly and acknowledge that you do face challenges, however the concern is for the people of Gresford and Marford and Hosely, and the impact upon them of this proposal.

In particular, the Council would ask you to please consider and provide a response to the following concerns:

1. It is understood that GP recruitment is sometimes lengthy and problematic. Is the issue of recruitment an issue here and have you experienced difficulty recruiting full time GP's? If so, can you please explain what has been done to address this issue.

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2. It is noted that two thirds of the doctors within Alyn Family Doctors appear to work on a part-time or locum basis. Please could you provide details on hours worked by GP's under the current arrangements, and have you considered the need to put more full-time hours into the Gresford Health centre.
3. Have you considered investing in improved technology within the practice, to provide for better patient and resource management? The provision of an online appointment and repeat prescription request system, which is long overdue compared to some practices within the Wrexham area, could free resource time to deal with other matters and reduce costs in the longer term.
4. Approximately 12-18 months ago, you reduced the hours of surgery provision at Gresford Health Centre. Could you please provide a comparative breakdown of the footfall through the health centre- 12 months prior to the reduction in hours, and since that time.
5. Could you please advise who would be the beneficiary if the land the Health Centre is on were to be sold in the future. If it is Alyn Family doctors would that money be ringfenced for health provision in Gresford?
6. The number of persons residing in Gresford and Marford and Hosely, is 5010 compared with 4814 at Llay and 3231 at Rossett. We appreciate these figures are indicative, and patient lists may be more widespread, nevertheless it is reflective of the size of population at Gresford and Marford in comparison to the other villages. In addition, we know that nearly 50% of the population is aged over 50 within Gresford and Marford, and of those, a significant proportion live alone and have a disability or life limiting illness. This compares with 40.2% of the population being over 50 at Rossett and 46.5% over 50 at Llay.
7. As mentioned previously there is no public transport to Llay from Gresford or Marford. Even those who are able to catch the Chester bus through to Rossett, face a long walk down Station road to the surgery, and back again, and this is a concern particularly in the winter months. Have you taken these matters into consideration when reaching your decision? If the closure of the Health Centre does go ahead, have you made any provision for transport for elderly and disabled patients to transport them to Llay or Rossett?

The Council would also ask you to reconsider your decision not to provide a representative to the public meeting which has been organised by the County Councillors on Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Gresford Trust Memorial Hall. It is felt that if you attend this will give an opportunity to allay some of the concerns, fears, and rumours that you will be aware are circulating at the present time. It is felt that if you could explain the facts to patients face to face that they might better understand the reasoning behind your decision.

We would be grateful for your response to the issues and concerns we raise in consideration of your proposal to close the Health Centre.

Yours sincerely

S. Baxter  
Clerk to Gresford Community Council