

Builth & Llanwrtyd Statement on maintenance of services in Builth Wells Cottage Hospital to Chief Executive Andy Williams

10 November 2006

Mr Andy Williams  
Chief Executive  
Powys Local Health Board  
Headquarters,  
Mansion House,  
Bronllys  
Brecon  
Powys LD3 0LS

Dear Mr Williams

Re: Maintenance of Services In Builth Wells Cottage Hospital

We understand from the local press that the Welsh Assembly Government and yourselves may be in the process of deciding to delay consultation on the future of community hospitals until after the Assembly Government election. This is of considerable concern to us since it is likely to have an extremely negative effect on the services provided from Builth Cottage Hospital.

As I am sure you are aware as a result of the publication of your proposals at the end of September, morale at the hospital is extremely low and there is a feeling amongst many of the staff that they have no future in the hospital. We have also seen, since that time, a steady and continuous withdrawal of services from the hospital such as out patient clinics and latterly the administrative functions. This leads us to believe that you may be pursuing a policy of allowing the hospital to wither on the vine thus achieving your stated long term objectives of closure.

We believe that this is an entirely unacceptable situation and would like you to confirm in writing that you intend to maintain the existing services at the hospital, providing proper staffing and back up for those services, as well as a supportive management environment until such time as the consultation process is completed.

Yours sincerely

Dr R L Gibbins

CC Dr A Raynsford, Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council, Dr S O'Reilly, Kirsty Williams AM, Mrs C Davies (Matron, BCH), Roger Williams MP, Builth Wells Town Council, BACH.