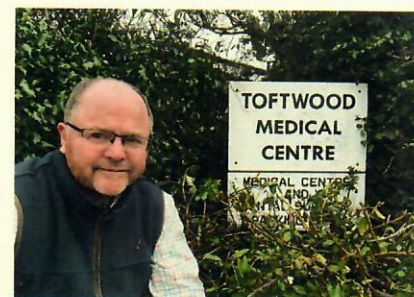




HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Dear Resident,

Closure of NHS Toftwood Medical Centre

I'm writing personally regarding the decision by NHS England to close **Dereham Toftwood Surgery** on March 31st and transfer patients to Orchard and Theatre Royal surgeries, which I am very concerned will have a serious impact on Toftwood patients and residents.

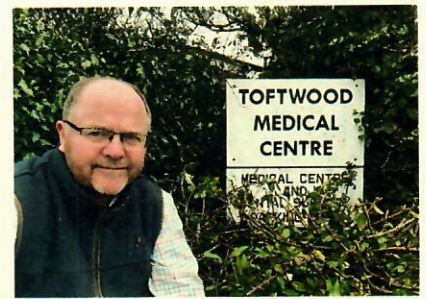
Although NHS provision and planning is not done by MPs, I have held numerous meetings with local NHS managers and Councillors for several months to explain how overstretched Dereham's NHS services are already, to beg them to find a way to continue the Toftwood Medical Centre. I am incredibly disappointed that after my best efforts to get the NHS and the Landlord of Toftwood Surgery to talk and negotiate a deal for the benefit of the residents - they were not able to agree terms.

I know this is causing real concern for many residents - especially the disabled and most elderly who rely most on the surgery and may struggle to get into town easily. I will do my utmost to ensure a smooth transition and ensure residents can access the facilities they need. You should have received notification from the ICB in relation to your new surgery. (If you have not, please do get in contact with me and I will follow up on your behalf). I am insisting that the temporary relocation to Theatre Royal and Orchard Surgeries must be just that - **temporary** - and properly resourced, and that urgent plans be made now for a new **Community Health Hub** in Toftwood.

As Dereham continues to grow, we need more GP (and dental) practices in our area, not fewer. With the steady increase in new housing over the last decade and growing demand for local healthcare rising steadily, combined with the new government's new target to increase the housing allocation in Breckland by 50 percent, we urgently now need improved local GP and community health provision. I know that the growing pressure on the town also leads to congestion between Toftwood and Dereham Town Centre.

As part of the new Government's NHS reforms focussed on strengthening LOCAL provision, I am making the case that we need a proper long-term plan for appropriate community health facilities in Dereham. So I am:

- Urging the local NHS Integrated Care Board and Norfolk County Council to work together to develop a **South Dereham Community Health Hub**.



- Urging Breckland DC and Dereham Town Council to make provision for a **Toftwood Community Health Hub in the Dereham Town Plan.**

- Calling for an urgent meeting with the ICB to ensure **proper resourcing and a smooth transition for patients over to the temporary facilities** at the other surgeries.

Having secured the funding for the refurbishment and renovation of Fred Nicholson's SEN School, that site - perfectly positioned in the middle of Toftwood - would be an ideal site for a community health centre - with GP, Community surgery & Nurses and a Dentistry clinic for the new dentists coming out of the new UEA Dental Training hub.

Getting the right provision will need joint local working by all parties - I hope all Councillors and parties will be able to work together to make sure the needs of the people and town are met.

To help me represent your views please let me know the impact of this on you and your neighbourhood by emailing me at george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk.

Yours

George

George Freeman MP
Member of Parliament for Mid Norfolk
333-335 Breckland Business Centre
St Withburga Lane
Dereham
NR19 1FD

Tel: 01953 600 617
Email: george.freeman.mp@parliament.uk
Website: <https://georgefreeman.co.uk/campaigns>
Facebook: GeorgeFreemanMP