Consultation Evidence on behalf of Heybridge Parish Council

March 19th formal meeting at Maldon Town Hall

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Equality in accessibility to services

One of the key principles of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) is to help ensure equality in access to the services it provides.

For the residents of Heybridge – as well as the residents of the district more widely – the range of proposals in this consultation would promote inequality of access. This presentation aims to examine some of the reasons why.

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Heybridge, deprivation and age profile

- Data for Heybridge West shows that on one side of the ward there are indicators of high-level deprivation in a number of categories.
- This data is taken from Indices of Deprivation 2015 and 2019 (communities.gov.uk)
- It is split down into LSOAs. A Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) is a GEOGRAPHICAL AREA designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales.

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Some Deprivation Data Headlines for Heybridge West Ward (right hand side)

- Income deprivation: among the most deprived 20%
- Employment deprivation: among the most deprived 30%
- Health deprivation and disability: among the most deprived 40%
- Income deprivation affecting older people: among the most deprived 40%
- Income deprivation affecting children: among the most deprived 20%

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One important deprivation statistic for Heybridge West (left hand side)

- **BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SERVICES:**
- **Among the most deprived 20%**

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Heybridge and connectivity to services

- Heybridge, as with much of the Maldon district, suffers from poor public transport infrastructure
- On the left-hand side of Heybridge West there is just one regular bus service to Chelmsford (and not to Broomfield Hospital) – a two-hourly service
- The one-way fare for a taxi or cab to Broomfield is around £40. Braintree would be around £30 and Brentwood up to £50.

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Equality of Access to Services

- Both Mid and South Essex ICB and the Mid and South Essex Foundation Trust have key objectives focusing on equity for the population they serve.

ANY LOSS OF MEDICAL SERVICES TO MALDON DISTRICT WILL BE IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THESE KEY OBJECTIVES WITH REGARD TO HEYBRIDGE - INDEED, TO THE RESIDENTS OF MALDON DISTRICT.

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'Other' Services currently offered at St Peter's

- This part of the consultation is vague and, in fact, unacceptable
- The options to answer the question will undoubtedly lead to the possible misinterpretation of data
- The consultation has been inadequate in targeting the most affected groups, including people with disabilities
- The experience of HEYBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL with regard to this consultation has been highly unsatisfactory

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New GP Facilities at Heybridge

- The planned new GP facility at Heybridge is no compensation at all to the harm of these proposals for the residents of the parish.
- I will now read a paragraph from a Maldon District Council 2010 report on the planned new 'health hub' to justify this statement.
- Data shows clearly that in fact that access to primary care services for Maldon District (including Heybridge) have worsened since this time and compares badly to both the national and Essex picture.

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Sam, a Heybridge resident who had her second baby at St Peter's

- " When I had my first child it was in a big maternity unit at a main hospital and I felt scared and alone.
- "My life isn't easy for a lot of reasons and I suffer from a lot of anxiety and depression. When I went to St Peter's to have my second baby, the whole experience was so different and it meant I left feeling positive and glad I live here. Having that local care meant a lot to me in my situation. Please don't take it away from other mums here."

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Carol speaking on her father, aged 93

"I have to take my Dad, whose memory is fading fast, to have his hearing and eyesight checked regularly at St Peter's. I am now 64 and still working full time, so have to have an hour off to take him to appointments.

"If I had to go to Broomfield I would have to take a whole day off work each time because of the distance, as well as leaving up to an hour to park."

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Nikki, a lifelong Heybridge resident and local care home worker, speaking about her father

- "After 12 weeks of stroke rehab at St Peter's, my Dad was able to eat, talk and walk.

"Knowing I was going to be his sole carer I was able to visit him at the hospital daily and sit in on his physiotherapy and speech therapy sessions. This meant I could learn directly from the therapists what my Dad needed so I could continue their good work when he came home."

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Abbie (real name changed to protect her identity) direct and unchanged quote:

- "I have a son, aged 6, who has serious disabilities.

"I take my boy to St Peter's a lot, for speech therapy and for a few other things. I find this hard to talk about but I have to say something because I'm scared. I'm so worried I can't sleep.

"We can't make ends meet as it is and I won't be able to take him to Broomfield or the other hospitals. They're too far away. I don't have the money to run a car and it's so hard with him on the bus because it takes so long. What will I do?"

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Sara, a Heybridge resident speaking about her travel costs for crucial scans

- "I recently needed to attend an appointment at Broomfield – for a DEXA (bone density) scan. The taxi cost me £36 each way from Heybridge.
- "This is quite a common scan for retirees like myself."

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A view from Penny, a Heybridge resident who is homebound

- "Where is the section of the ICB consultation specifically aimed at and about accessibility? Apart from a phone number to request an alternative versions of the survey.

  "Where are the invitations to the disabled, chronic illness, neurodivergent and special/complex needs community and their carers, ensuring their many complex needs are considered and met? One person has said they are terrified another that they will not cope with the proposed changes to medical provision.

  "I have asked M&SEICS more than once about the focus groups they are inviting people to. They refuse to tell me if one is active in my locality or online. This, as a disabled person who has been homebound for 20 years, with compromised physical and cognitive capacity. My lived experience is of no interest to them. I find the process and attitude discriminatory and ableist."

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Views of Heybridge Parish Councillors

- Moving any of the medical services provided at St Peter's outside the town will have a significant, indeed very serious negative impact on our residents – many of whom already suffer deprivation and/or have very poor access to services
- Public transport is not sufficient from Heybridge to enable easy accessibility to services if services are moved away and will worsen the current situation
- No services should be removed from St Peter's until the long-promised health hub is built in the town

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Views of Heybridge Parish Councillors

- We as a parish council believe that the proposals of this consultation are a total departure from the previous plans and promises made to our residents over the last 30 years
- We feel that the needs of our residents are being overlooked in these proposals
- We urge the Mid Essex Integrated Care Board to submit firm proposals that resolve the claimed issues at St Peter's and retain all medical services provided there within Maldon

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