

FRIENDS OF OUR NEW HOSPITAL

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News for Immediate Release – 13Nov20

Release Begins

“NEW HOSPITAL PROJECT – TIME FOR A BRIEF INTERMISSION”

Friends of Our New Hospital are calling on the States to refer back the “Our Hospital Site Selection – Overdale” P.123/2020 which has been lodged by the Council of Ministers. The Proposition is due for debate by the Assembly next Tuesday. The Friends are urging the States to call for a desktop review of the relative costs of building Our New Hospital at Overdale, St Saviour’s and Warwick Farm.

Bruce Willing, Chair of the Friends said:

“The Council of Ministers are not giving the Assembly any choice in the final selection. It’s Overdale or nothing along with a budget of £804 million. There are no cost comparisons with other sites, particularly Warwick Farm and St Saviour’s where experts advise build costs will be considerably less than Overdale. Surely, more information is required before we commit to the Island’s largest ever capital expenditure project.”

The Friends have also noted the release today of the Future Hospital Review Scrutiny Report “Review of the Future Hospital Site Selection Process” S.R. 9/2020. The Report contains 28 Key Findings and 30 Recommendations and is highly critical of the site selection process and concludes that the “Site Selection criteria were largely subjective and not measurable.”

Bruce Willing went on to say:

“Given the lack of cost information, a choice of sites and the open questions raised by Scrutiny we recommend that the Assembly refers the Proposition back. The Council of Ministers should provide the missing information and then bring a revised Proposition back for debate on 15 December. The 28-day postponement will be one of the best investments the Island can make in this all-important Hospital Project and it will not delay completion.”

Bruce Willing concluded:

“We know many members want answers to the many questions arising from the site selection process. We urge one or more brave members to raise a referral motion and the necessary majority to agree.

Release ends

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Please see our enclosed position paper “The Case for Adding Warwick Farm and Saint Saviour’s Hospital to the Our Hospital Site Selection List” for further information.

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