Committee: 8th May 2019 Ward: Wednesbury North

DC/18/62165

Mr Paul Evans	Proposed health centre and 5		
Sandwell Council House	no. residential dwellings		
Freeth Street	Site Of Former Kingsbury House		
Oldbury	And Resource Centre		
King Street,			
	Wednesbury		

Date Valid Application Received: 21st August 2018

1. Recommendations

Subject to comments from Environmental Health relating to the extended opening hours; approval is recommended subject the following conditions: -

- i) Implementation of drainage including SUDS;
- ii) Site investigations and remedial measures where appropriate;
- iii) External materials;
- iv) Review of parking restrictions along King Street following occupation;
- v) Details of additional parking on the Leisure Centre;
- vi) Details of directional signage to all parking facilities;
- vii) Provision and retention of parking;
- viii) Implementation of boundary treatment;
- ix) Implementation of landscaping;
- x) External lighting;
- xi) Refuse storage;
- xii) CCTV;
- xiii) Implementation of secure cycle parking;
- xiv) Method of working statement including hours of work limitations;
- Details of fixed plant and plant room ventilation measures;
- xvi) Submission of a noise assessment;
- xvii) Details of electric vehicle charging points;
- xviii) Amendment to the Travel Plan and its subsequent implementation;
- xix) Installation of link between the site and Leisure centre prior to occupation;

- xx) Reduce height of retaining wall adjacent to drive of plot 1 prior to occupation;
- xxi) Removal of PD rights in relation to the dwellings;
- xxii) Apprenticeship opportunities; and
- xxiii) Restrictions on opening hours of the health centre from 07.15-20.00 hours Monday to Friday and 08.30-16.30 hours on Saturdays with no Sunday or Bank Holiday opening.

2. Observations

At your last meeting Committee resolved to visit the site, following a late request from the applicant to increase the originally proposed opening hours of the health centre from those suggested in condition (xxiii) above to 22.00 hours every day. Environmental Health as well as neighbouring residents have been re-consulted regarding the proposed increase in opening hours since your last meeting.

This application is being brought to the attention of your Committee because both the applicant and agent are Council employees and there have been objections to the proposal.

The Application Site

The application refers to a vacant plot of land on the east side of King Street, a residential area. The site was formally occupied by Kingsbury House and Resource Centre but is now clear of all buildings. It is relatively flat with two large unprotected trees and other natural vegetation. The site is adjoined by housing to the north, south and to the opposite side of King Street. Wednesbury Leisure Centre and its associated car park lies to the east at an elevated level from the application site by approximately 2-3m. There is an existing vehicular access point into the site that is roughly centrally located along King Street.

Planning History

The former resource centre was demolished in 2008. In 2012 outline planning consent was granted (DC/12/54180) for the construction of a health centre but this was not implemented. The proposal for a health centre has been the subject of significant pre-application discussions in subsequent years. However, more recently pre-application discussions have centred

around dual use of the site for a health centre and residential development.

Proposal

During the processing of the application amendments have been sought and the proposal now seeks the construction of a health centre as well as 5 dwellings (6 originally proposed).

The purpose of the proposal is to relocate the existing Spires GP Practice from its current temporary location in Victoria Street, Wednesbury, along with District Nurses and Podiatry services currently run from Mesty Croft Clinic in Alma Street, Wednesbury, into a single purpose built permanent accommodation.

The health centre would be sited along the southern boundary of the site. It would be largely single-storey, of contemporary construction with two-storey feature elements. There would be 13 consulting/treatment rooms, a large reception area and associated offices. Two pedestrian entrances are proposed from the north and south sides of the building.

Vehicular access would be off King Street in approximately the same location as the current vehicular access point. 32 parking spaces would be provided comprising 22 patient spaces, 4 disabled access bays, and 6 secure staff spaces. However, the secure spaces would be for drop-off and pick-ups by staff (not for long stay parking). There would also be a drop-off/ambulance bay. In addition, it is anticipated that the Leisure Centre car park would provide additional parking. Although, outside the application site boundary, the Leisure Centre car park is owned and controlled by the Council and there appears to be capacity within it, to accommodate shared parking. There is a pedestrian link to the site from the Leisure Centre but a full ramped and stepped footpath/cycle route would be formed between the two sites to provide access from Wednesbury Town Centre.

When the application was submitted the proposed opening hours were 07.15-20.00 Monday to Friday and 08.30-16.30 on Saturdays with no Sunday or Bank Holiday opening. However, the applicant now wishes to open from 07.15-22.00 hours every day including Sundays and Bank Holidays. It is anticipated that there would be 10 full-time and 20 part-time staff employed at the centre.

The proposed residential element would be constructed on the northern half of the site, separated from the health centre by the access road. It would comprise of 5 two-storey dwellings, including two pairs of 2-bed semis facing King Street and one detached 3-bed dwelling at the rear of the semis facing the health centre. Each 2-bed dwelling would have one off-street parking space with the 3-bed having two off-street parking spaces. All dwellings would have private external amenity space.

The application is accompanied by a Design and Access Statement, Transport Statement, a Coal Mining Risk Assessment and Geotechnical site investigation report.

Publicity

The originally submitted application was publicised by neighbour notification. The proposals were also displayed at Wednesbury Health Centre and Wednesbury Library at the request of Councillor Costigan. One objection letter has been received from a resident in King Street. The grounds of objection are summarised as:-

- (i) King Street is narrow and visibility on exiting the objector's drive is difficult already. Photographic evidence of problems with parking have been supplied.
- (ii) Concern that there would be insufficient parking to meet the demand of staff and patient parking resulting in parking on King Street, unsuitable to cope with the increased demands from this proposal.
- (iii) The proposed entrance and exit directly opposite the drive raises major concerns over safety particularly when the objector and his family are manoeuvring off the drive.

 Also, the objector has a disabled Son and there is a critical need for the objector to park close to the house.
- (iv) There is a query as to whether parked vehicles opposite the entrance would contravene the Highway Code.
- (v) Need for a residents parking scheme. Also, existing traffic calming measures need reviewing because the current speed bumps do not slow cars down.
- (vi) The drives/car ports serving the proposed dwellings would be positioned directly opposite existing residential drives causing a hazard.
- (vii) The proposed new homes should be reduced in number as they are being squeezed onto the site and more room

- should be made available for staff/patient parking and an improved site entrance.
- (viii) There is insufficient parking for the new dwellings resulting in further parking along King Street.
- (ix) During construction of the Leisure Centre, contractors caused a nuisance to residents because their working hours exceeded those that were agreed. There is concern that this will occur once more.
- (x) The health centre and associated development should not compromise existing parking and manoeuvring arrangements of King Street residents.

Following the late proposal to increase the opening hours I have received two additional letters both from residents in King Street, one of which is from the original objector. In this regard concern is raised about loss of amenity from the increased opening hours from one of the residents. The other resident raises concerns about parking problems.

Statutory Consultee Responses

<u>The Coal Authority</u> – The site falls within a high risk coal mining referral area with two recorded mine shafts in the site boundary. Remediation of the shafts will be required and can be controlled by planning conditions.

<u>Severn Trent</u> – No objections subject to satisfactory drainage.

<u>Cadent Gas</u> – No objections but wish to make the applicant aware of gas apparatus near the application site. Observations have been forwarded to the applicant.

<u>Highways</u> – There will be a requirement to provide additional parking on the Leisure Centre car park, the details of which will require assessment and approval. Also, King Street is considered too narrow to accommodate parking on both sides of the carriageway and therefore a review of parking restrictions in the area will be required to ensure highway safety for drivers and pedestrians alike. In addition, the boundary wall adjacent to plot 1 will require lowering in height to ensure adequate driver visibility on exit. The boundary wall is in the ownership of the applicant and can be controlled by planning condition.

Environmental Health

(Contaminated Land Team) – No objection subject to a desk top study in relation to ground contamination with appropriate remedial measures.

(Air Quality Team) – No objections subject to installation of electric vehicle charging points.

(Noise Team) – No objections subject to conditions relating to external plant, ventilation of plant room details, external lighting, construction hours limitations and method of working statement. In addition, there is concern that the residential element may by unduly affected by the Leisure Centre and traffic noise from Trouse Lane and High Bullen. It is recommended that a noise report is submitted. Comments are awaited regarding the proposed increase in opening hours.

Planning Policy – The site is unallocated in the adopted development plans. SAD Policy H2 (Housing Windfalls) would be relevant and in this case the proposed housing is acceptable in that it is previously developed land in a sustainable location and compatible with other adopted policies. As regards the health centre, the proposal is sustainably located close to Wednesbury bus Station and therefore accords with Sustainable Communities part of the BCCS 'Vision' seeking a range of quality community services that reduce the need to travel by car. Furthermore, it generally accords to Policy HOU5 (Education and Health Care Facilities) in that it is well related to public transport infrastructure and Wednesbury Town Centre. Policies relating to sustainable drainage (ENV7) and Air Quality (ENV8) can be controlled by planning conditions. In addition, there is an opportunity to meet Policy EMP2 (Training and recruitment) through apprentices during the construction phase and in association with the use of the health centre. Finally, the development is liable to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

<u>Urban Design</u> – Following the receipt of amended plans addressing design issues relating to both the health centre and residential units, the proposals are now considered satisfactory when assessed against urban design policy ENV3, SAD EOS9 and the Council's Adopted Residential Design Guide. The number of dwellings has been reduced from 6 to 5 to ensure sufficient amenity space per dwelling, the corner plot being repositioned further away from the back edge of footpath to provide additional defensible space and the use of additional fenestration to enliven the appearance of the development.

<u>Healthy Urban Development Officer</u> – Requests a widening (from 1.5m to 2.5m) of the proposed pedestrian link between the development and High Bullen to ensure that it is actively used and safe for both pedestrians and cyclists. The submitted Travel Plan requires amendment to include Modeshift STARS and this can be controlled by planning condition.

Responses to objections

I sympathise with the objections raised by the neighbouring residents. In addressing each point raised I comment as follows:-

- (i) The Head of Highways recognises that King Street is narrow and recommends a review of the traffic parking restrictions along the road to assess whether existing arrangements should be amended or new measures introduced.
- (ii) There will be a requirement for the applicant to provide additional parking within the Leisure Centre car park to ensure that the proposed health centre would have sufficient off-street parking. It is also considered necessary to provide directional signage to direct drivers to the appropriate car parks.
- (iii) Highways have not raised objections in terms of safety matters in relation to the proximity of the objectors drive to the access/egress point of the development. The objector has advised that he is hoping to be able to have provision for a disabled parking bay outside his property. However, it is noted that the objector already has the benefit of an off-street parking space within the curtilage of his house on his drive.
- (iv) Highways has confirmed that the Highway Code would not be contravened by this proposal.
- (v) With reference to a residents parking scheme and the problems with the existing traffic calming measures, as residents already have off-street spaces, King Street would not meet the criteria to introduce a resident parking scheme. In this location it appears that while some residents have rear parking courts, some choose to park on the adopted highway. As regards the speed humps, a Street Scene Inspector will visit the site and the findings will be reported back to your Committee verbally.
- (vi) Highways has raised no objections to the location of the drives associated with the new dwellings and their

- relationship with existing dwelling on the opposite side of King Street. Residential trip rates are low and therefore the conflict between vehicles is not appreciably high.
- (vii) The number of dwellings has been reduced from 6 to 5.
- (viii) Sufficient parking is provided for the proposed dwellings (2 off-street spaces per property) in accordance with the adopted Residential Design Guide.
- (ix) A condition can be imposed relating to a method of working statement and construction hours limitations. Should these be exceeded then the local planning authority can take appropriate enforcement action.
- (x) It is agreed that the proposed development should contain sufficient parking within its curtilage and within the adjacent Leisure Centre car park to ensure that there is no overspill parking on King Street. Appropriate planning conditions seek to achieve this aim.

Planning Policy and Other Material Considerations

The principle of establishing a health centre on this site has been supported for a number of years with outline planning consent being granted in 2012. The proposal now presented for a dual use of the site is generally supported by adopted development plan policies as outlined above. It is not considered that the health centre would have an appreciable detrimental impact on the new dwellings that would sit alongside it, nor on nearby dwellings in King Street. However, this is assuming that there is sufficient car parking and parking management (via the appropriate use of the Travel Plan), to accommodate numbers of staff employed and patients from combining the two health centres. It is anticipated that there would be significant vehicle movements associated with the health centre and this activity must be controlled given the narrowness and residential nature of King Street. The conditions suggested in the recommendation to this report should mitigate any highway safety issues raised by the objector and by the Head of Highways.

Conclusion

The design and external appearance of the proposed development is considered acceptable and complementary to the area. Overall the proposal will bring this vacant site into beneficial use. The health centre will undoubtedly be a busy practice, but any perceived parking issues can be mitigated against.

My main issue with the proposal is the extended opening hours until 22.00 hours every day. I am concerned about the impact this will have on residential amenity of residents in King Street as well as the occupants of the new dwellings that form part of this development. In my opinion the originally proposed opening hours until 20.00 hours Mondays to Fridays and 16.30 on Saturdays were both reasonable and appropriate given the proximity of residential property and should not be extended further. If the development were to be accessed wholly off the Leisure Centre (High Bullen) and the residential element completely disconnected from the proposal then the request for extended opening hours could be considered but it is not. I therefore recommend that the originally proposed opening hours be conditioned.

3. Relevant History

DC/08/49638	Demolition of 2 storey residential	Prior
	home for elderly.	Approval
		granted
		21.07.08

DC/12/54180 Outline application with all Outline matters reserved for proposed Consent health centre to contain facilities granted for GP services, consult, 3.4.12 treatment rooms, pharmacy, minor treatment, out-patient care,

community services, x-ray, physio and community services with support admin facilities.

4. Central Government Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable development.

5. <u>Development Plan Policy</u>

BCCS (p20) Sustainable Communities Vision - seeking a range of quality community services that reduce the need to travel by car.

SAD H2 - Housing Windfalls

BCCS - ENV3: Design Quality

SADD - EOS9: Urban Design Principles ENV5 - Flood Risk, Sustainable Drainage Systems and Urban Heat Island ENV8 – Air Quality. HOU5 - Education and Health Care Facilities

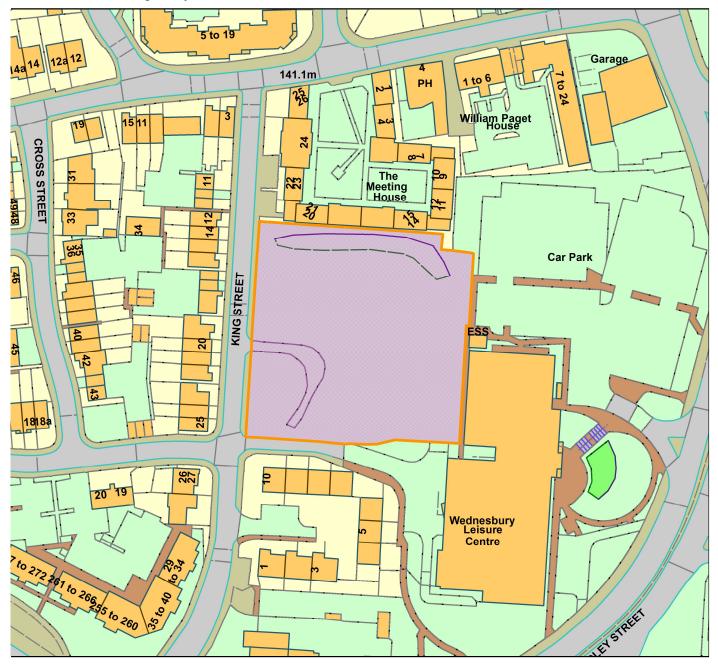
6. Contact Officer

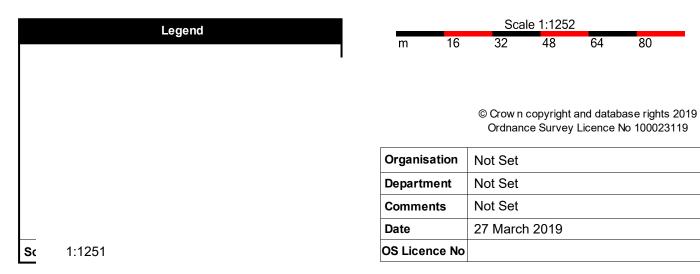
Mrs Christine Phillips 0121 569 4040 christine_phillips@sandwell.gov.uk

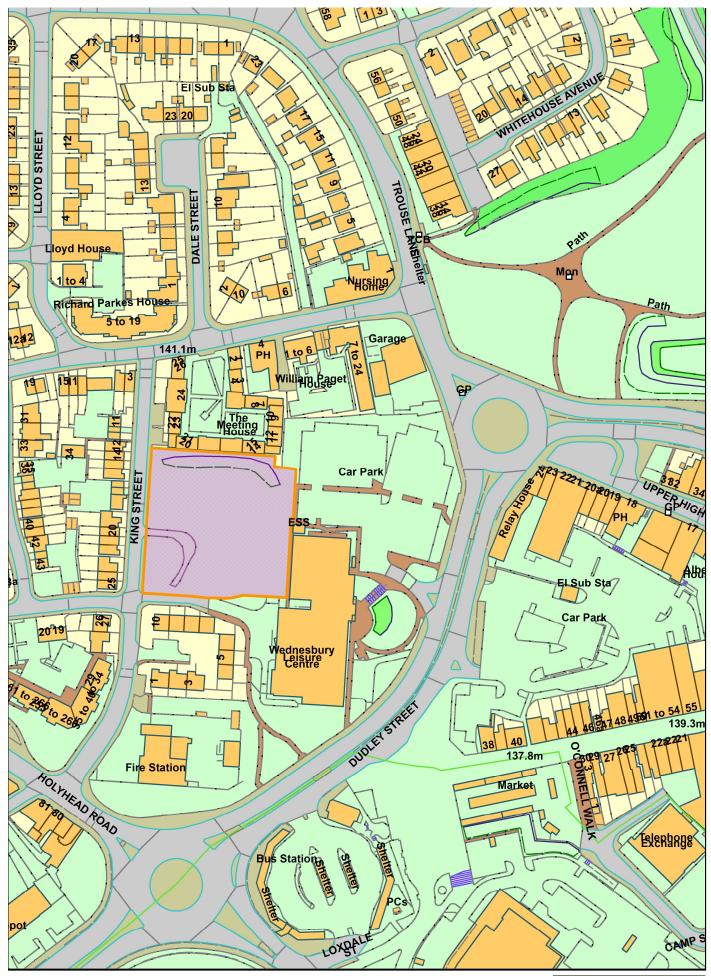


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DC/18/62165 Site of Former Kingsbury House and Resource Centre







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East Side (From Leisure Centre) Elevation



Pront Elevation
1:100

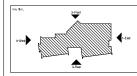


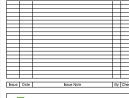
Rear Elevation



West Side (Facing King Street) Elevation









Wednesbury Health Centre King Street, Wednesbury

GA Proposed (Coloured) Elevations

 $\begin{array}{c|cccc} \text{Street benefite} \\ \hline XX & XX & A-P(05) & 20 & S2 \\ \hline \end{array}$

Q17004





Tel: 0121 569 4541

Issue Date By Check Issue Note Metropolitan Borough Council Project Title
Wednesbury Health Centre King Street, Wednesbury Sheet Title
GA Proposed Plan Status Planning Q17004 Urban Design & Building Services Sandwell Council House Freeth Street, Oldbury. B69 3DE

The Contractor will be responsible for setting out the work. All Dimensions must be obtained or checked on the site. Figured dimensions to be used in preference to scale.

Floor Plan
1:100



1 Front View from King Street Site Access



2 Rear View from Leisure Centre Service Yard



Rear View from King Street /Leisure Centre Service Road



Front View from Carpark



5 Front Elevation





View Showing Main Entrance



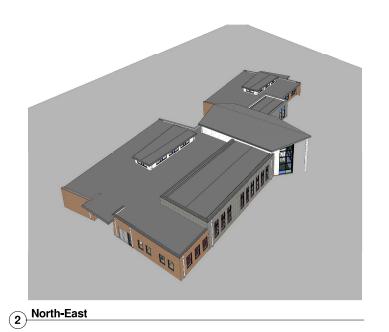
View from Carpark Area

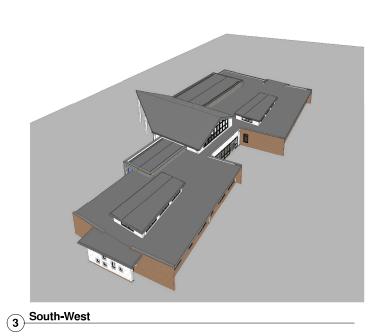


3 View Showing Secure Staff Entrance Points

Wednesbury Health Centre King Street, Wednesbury Building 3D External Views Q17004

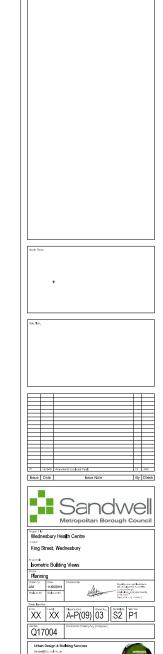




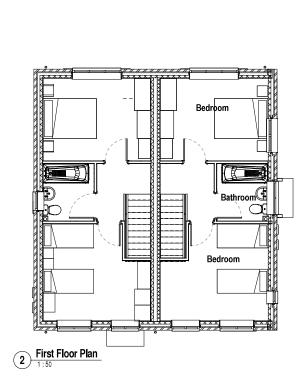




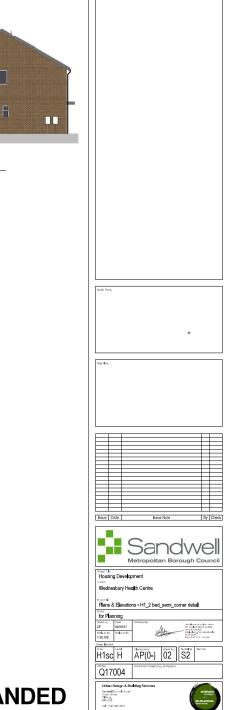
4 South-East







S Rear Elevation
1:100





Lobby (a)

Living

Room (a)

Cloaks (a)

Kitchen (a)

Living

Room

Lobby

Kitcher [

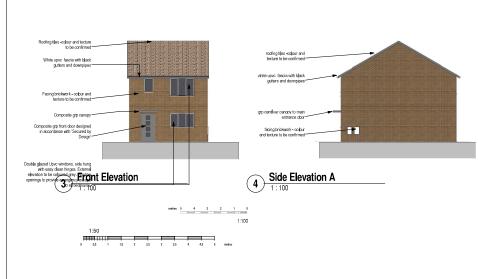
NOTE: Refer to Landscape GA drawing & Drainage Engineers details for exact number & position of rain water down pipes. roofing tiles -colour and texture to be confirmed --

white upvc fascia with black

facing brickwork -colour and texture to be confirme

6 Side Elevation B

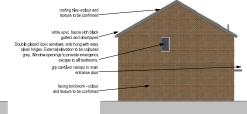




NOTE: Refer to Landscape GA drawing & Drainage Engineers details for exact number & position of rain water down pipes.



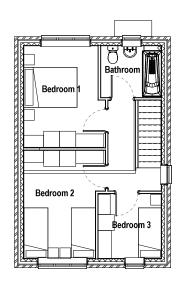




Side Elevation B

Cloaks
Living
Room

Ground Floor Plan
1:50



Pirst Floor Plan
1:50

Koy Plan. Issue Date By Check Sandwell

Metropolitan Borough Council Project 1 for Housing Development Wednesbury Health Centre Plans & Elevations - H2_3 Bed for Planning H2d ZZ AP(0-) 03 S2 Q17004 Urban Design & Building Ser Sendred Countil House Head: 19 test, Officery, 589 20E Tel: 1121 592 4541



Elevated View from Pedestrian Link





5 Elevated View from Top of King Street



Elevated View from King Street



Elevated View from King Street/Service Rd Corner

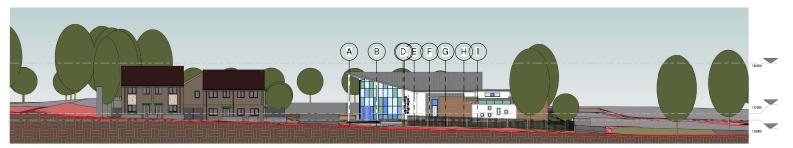


Elevated View from Leisure Centre Service Area





Site Section through South of Site



Site Section through King Street

1:200



Site Section through the Site looking South



Site Section through Site looking North

1:200

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Q17004

Issue Date

Medicabury Health Centre
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Proposed Site Sections
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