



CRANLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

1894-2006

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27th September 2006

Dear Mrs Clements

Thank you for your letter dated 25th September 2006 concerning the leaflet recently issued by Cranleigh Village Hospital Trust.

Following the agreement reached last year between Cranleigh Village Hospital Trust and the Guildford & Waverley Primary Care Trust that the community beds in the Village Hospital would be kept open during the winter providing the cost of doing so was funded locally, the Parish Council worked in partnership with CVHT and the League of Friends of the hospital to achieve this. Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council has powers to spend up to £5.44 per elector annually on anything that it considers worthwhile for the community, and in this case allocated up to £20,000. The Council's initial contribution of £10,000 was transferred to CVHT in February 2006 as part of a substantially larger sum subsequently paid by CVHT to the PCT. I understand that CVHT are involved in lengthy discussions with the PCT as to whether it is legally permitted to pay for the retention, temporarily or otherwise, of the community beds and to the best of my knowledge, no further payments have been made. Pending the outcome of these discussions, the Parish Council has retained the remainder of its allocated funds.

As regards the CVHT leaflet, I can confirm that the land which the Parish Council has provisionally agreed to exchange remains the property of the Council at this time, and will only be exchanged for the building of a new village hospital with at least 14 community beds and the day hospital.

Yours sincerely

Pauline Whitehead
Clerk to the Council