

# Appendix B: Draft Letter of Support

23 January 2024

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Our Ref: PNA-2023-11-01  
Your Ref: CAS-246897-K9Z7F5  
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Dear Ms Asif,

**Re: Application offering Unforeseen benefits at Kingsland Centre, The Broadway, Thatcham RG19 3HN by LP SD One Hundred Seven Limited**

Thank you for consulting the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the above application. The Board wishes to make written representations as set out below.

When the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) was undertaken in 2022, there were four pharmacies in Thatcham. By the time the PNA was approved in October 2022, the Lloyds pharmacy in the Kingsland Centre had closed. Also, the Boots pharmacy at Thatcham Health Centre is due to close on 17 February 2024. These closures will result in a 50% reduction in the number of pharmacies serving the Thatcham area.

When the Health and Wellbeing Board considered the above closures, it did not consider that they had created a significant gap in the provision of pharmaceutical services in the Thatcham area sufficient to justify a review of the PNA or publication of a Supplementary Statement. This was because there were no additional households placed outside a 1 mile / 20 minute travel time to their nearest pharmacy as a result of the closures, and because the Local Pharmaceutical Committee had provided reassurance that there would be sufficient capacity at the remaining pharmacies to be able to process the displaced activity.

Notwithstanding this decision, the Board would welcome an additional pharmacy within Thatcham town centre as means of helping to increase capacity and choice for patients and to improve the overall resilience of the pharmacy sector within West Berkshire. This would also help to support the Pharmacy First Service, which will see greater numbers of referrals to pharmacies for a variety of conditions and minor illnesses.

The proposed pharmacy would enhance accessibility for patients, since the Kingsland Centre is well served by local walking, cycling and public bus networks. The pharmacy would also be close to the Thatcham Kingsland Centre Car Park and on-street parking within the town centre, with level, step-free access from both directions.

The proposed pharmacy would be the only one in Thatcham to open seven days a week, which is welcomed, since patients currently have to travel to Newbury to access a pharmacy that is open on Sundays. The application also indicates that the pharmacy will offer free home delivery, which will deliver significant benefits for patients who are less mobile and / or on low incomes.

In summary, the Board is supportive of the application and believes that it will deliver significant additional benefits for patients. The Board does not foresee any significant negative effects as a result of the proposal.

Please let us know if you have any queries in relation to the above comments.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Alan Macro**

Chairman of West Berkshire Health & Wellbeing Board