

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Cllr Andrew Leadbetter
Devon Health and Wellbeing Board
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QD

Dear Cllr Leadbetter

I am writing on behalf of Braunton Parish Council and understand you are the chair of the relevant body to contact regarding our extreme concern at the loss of the Lloyds Pharmacy in Caen Street Braunton.

Braunton is not the first community to face the consequences of losing its pharmacy. Many pharmacies across the country have closed for various reasons, including government cuts introduced in 2016. Whilst the Council understands that Lloyds is an independent pharmacy and its decision to close is beyond the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board's control, members would like to request what plans the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board have in place to meet the ever-growing demand for health care in our community.

The closure of local pharmacies is happening at a time when pharmacies are being encouraged to broaden their role in delivering NHS services in their local areas. And at a time when populations within communities are growing due to large scale developments being built such as those in and around Braunton.

The Parish Council and local residents feel strongly that the closure of the Lloyds Pharmacy on Caen Street has seriously impacted the people who are reliant on the service with important prescriptions not being ready even after giving notice. As far as the Council is aware there are no plans at present to close the Lloyds Pharmacy adjacent to the Caen Medical Centre but there are concerns that it does not have the capacity to replace the service. Long waiting times and long queues of customers in a small area are now commonplace. This service now covers many surrounding villages and hamlets.

The Council would be grateful for any information that you are able to provide regarding future plans to ensure that a pharmacy service will continue to meet the needs of the local community.

Yours sincerely