

Eight in 10 'want new health centre'

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Health Reporter

NEARLY eight out of 10 people want a new £7m health centre and library in south Liverpool to be built.

Results from a consultation on the proposal for Childwall Fiveways have been released by Liverpool PCT.

However a petition has been drawn up by some residents who are against the move.

Concerns include access and transport issues for patients, the potential loss of the Udani Chemist on Queens Drive and the effect on other local business.

Consultation into
Childwall plan is
now completed

Some patients from Oak Vale Medical Centre, in Old Swan, say plans to move their surgery to the new premises will make visiting their doctor a longer and harder journey.

The consultation revealed that 66% of patients at the surgery are for the move, and 27.8% are against.

At Childwall Valley Road, the other

practice affected, 83.4% were in favour. Overall, 78% of people asked-including patients and other interested parties- wanted the centre to be built.

But many respondents from both practices said that they would only support the move if they could continue to see their current GP.

The centre could be built at Childwall Fiveways where the existing library stands.

It would also incorporate land from Childwall Sports College, housing extra classrooms for the school.

Yvonne Nugent, Head of Stakeholder Engagement for the PCT, said: "The independent analysis from the completed consultation documents and

face to face interviews indicate support for the proposals for the Childwall development.

She said: "Three in every five respondents felt the Neighbourhood Health Centre would be beneficial to their health.

"There are however a number of issues that will need to be understood and addressed in the next phase."

Building work could start next summer. Jella Kang, who runs Udani Chemist said: "If this goes ahead, the worst-case scenario is we will be forced out of business.

"Our customers who are patients at Oak Vale say they do not want to travel an extra mile to the centre."