

# BROWN CLEE MEDICAL PRACTICE

## PATIENT GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 7.00 pm

1. Present: Tina Ranson (Chair), Will Ranson, Sue Crichton, Joyce Richards, Helen Watson, Jill Perks, Kerry Godfrey, Louise Tyson, David Bleser, Stuart Wentworth, Dee McNeil, Andrew Jones, Colin Barton-Smith, Joan Millward, Marcus Arnold, Robin Greenwell, Marcia Owen, Esther Piper, Steve Sutcliffe, Ann Sutcliffe, Maureen Brookes, Dr Bassett

Apologies: John Williamson, Ann Williamson, Ann Wishart, Kathy Watson, Denise Ingram, Edwyna Bennett, Joanne Parker, Sarah Munn, Rona Markland, Mandy Brittain, Alan Place, Sarah Crawford-Thomas, Roy Harrison, Hazel Harrison, Jill Scurfield, Pauline Bache, Bill Bache.

NB additional information underlined is new and was not tabled at the meeting

### 2. Matters arising from the last meeting and 3. attending Partner report

- (a) The notes from the last meeting have been amended to indicate that the Surgery premises in Ditton Priors are NOT listed as a Community Asset.
- (b) Highley Medical Practice is going to close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, due to a poor CQC report and financial and staffing pressures. Dr Bassett commented that this is one of many Practices which are folding under similar pressures. The Shropshire CCG is doing 'extensive work to find a timely and sustainable solution to this situation ..... and will prioritise access to GP services and try to secure an option which remains in Highley. Local GP Practices will be asked to take on the patients from Highley, but there is no obligation to accept patients outside the Practice Designated Catchment Area.
- (c) Brown Clee Area is: Ditton Priors, Stottesdon, Chorley, Billingsley Road, Telegraph Lane, Morville, Corvedale Road to the Ludlow fork and then a straight line across the Titterstone Clee to Catherton Common and back to Stottesdon.
- (d) Brown Clee Surgery regrets that patients are now having to wait longer to see a GP.
- (e) Dr Railton will be retiring at Christmas 2023. She may return to work as a Locum GP, meaning she can work shorter days. Dr Jones has confirmed that he will continue to work 3 days a week for 3 years until he retires in 2025.
- (f) The retirement of Dr Railton who is a full Partner, means that Dr Bassett will have to buy out of her share of the premises. Until this process is completed

ie: the sale, and the renegotiation of a premises contract with Shropshire CCG; it is not possible to go forward with any plans to sell the premises. Dr Bassett is thus, focussing on completing the improvement works to get them ready to sell.

- (g) the whole of General Practice across the whole country is struggling under similar pressures: firstly financial (eg 2% uplift in income being offered to offset over 10% increase in costs); and secondly Recruitment – new Doctors do not want to have to work under the conditions which pertain in General Practice at the present time.
- (h) Dr Bassett confirmed that he was looking at graduates from the GP training schemes and hoping that being part of the local scheme will help. He speculated about the time this might take, as he knew of a local Practice that took 3 years to recruit.
- (i) In response to a question, Dr Bassett commented that Government must be considering how things can go forward as it is unsustainable in its current format. Primary Care may increasingly be delivered by Healthcare Professionals other than GPs. He did wonder, however, if the current model would prove to be the most cost effective option in the long term.
- (j) It was noted that Bridgnorth Medical Practice has ‘growth’ space, as the third floor is currently unused.
- (k) Dr Bassett assured the meeting that he would not sell the Practice to the organisation which had bought up a number of other local Practices.
- (l) Dr Bassett hopes that by relieving a potential new Partner of the burden of the buildings, and securing an ongoing contract for the Practice, this will help to attract a new Partner, who would be able to deliver a Medical Services contract for the next 15 years.

#### Update from the premises sale/leaseback working group

David Bleser gave a brief summary progress of the small working group looking at options for purchasing the Surgery buildings at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon. The group had secured a half day of professional advice from the Plunkett Foundation (which specialises in helping Community Initiatives), and that this might help to identify the right way forward for the project. The working group felt that the whole patient community needed to be consulted and involved in this. (there are currently about 4,000 patients registered with the Practice).

The benefits of Community Ownership are that the premises would be guaranteed to be available for Medical Services delivery, and in the event that they are no longer required for this purpose, the money raised from their sale could be used for other projects to benefit the various communities within the Brown Clee catchment area.

Tina reported that several patients have already offered to invest some of their own money in helping to buy the Surgery premises through the creation of a limited company. This would be a relatively straightforward solution, provided sufficient

people were found to raise the money needed, and this might be a quicker and simpler way of relieving some of the pressure from the remaining Partner. The disadvantage of this methodology is that it is possible that investors may choose to realise their asset, for instance by selling the building at the end of the 15 year period, or if the Contract for Services is lost, thus endangering the provision of services.

#### Remaining funds from patient collection

It was agreed that this money should be used to provide an accessible armchair for the Stottesdon waiting room. There was a question about a replacement for the defibrillator which has been stolen, but it was confirmed that this will be replaced free of charge once a lockable cabinet is installed.

#### Update from the Care and Share Pantry working group

Kerry Godfrey and Sam Lacey have done lots of networking and made excellent connections with Oak Farm and the Bridgnorth Food Bank. The plan is to install a 'Pantry' box in the grounds of Oak Farm. Volunteers will unlock this box and ensure it is sufficiently stocked, 3 days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. On these days people can come and take from the box whatever they want to ... there will be no supervision or vetting. The box will also contain information about the Food Bank and encourage those who need a higher level of support, to register in Bridgnorth – which could mean they get enough food to last them a week, as well as access to a huge range of other support and services. It is hoped that this Pantry will be a first point of contact for some people.

People wishing to donate food items can take them to the Church in Ditton Priors on Sundays.

It is accepted that this is another 'experiment' and we will have to review how it is used at regular intervals. Everything can start once a suitable 'Pantry Box' is obtained, and local Facebook pages and notice boards will be used to notify people. There is a need for a suitable strong, waterproof box to be found and an appeal is being made to local people who may have something suitable which can be modified (please contact the PPG if you may be able to help..

Tina handed over £45 which had been donated by people who had enjoyed the 'Care and Share Lunches' in August this year .... This money will be spent on tins, bottles, and packages of food which can be put into the Pantry.

Any other business

- (i) A question about the lack of a female GP when Dr Railton is not on duty. The Advanced Nurse Practitioner may improve this situation as she is qualified to prescribe for certain conditions, and it was pointed out that a Chaperone will always be provided if requested.
- (ii) The new telephone system is difficult for people who are hard of hearing and there is a request that the messages be re-recorded at a higher volume. Either that, or see if more data is required to run the system.

Dates of meetings for 2023

Tuesdays                      7<sup>th</sup> February                      4<sup>th</sup> April                      4<sup>th</sup> July                      3<sup>rd</sup> October

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Also attached is a summary of the main points of the meeting, which you might like to print off and post on your local notice board, or pass on to other patients who may be interested.

- The Patient Group is for ALL patients.
- Only a relatively small number attend the 4 meetings a year, but we always put out plenty of chairs, and welcome anyone who turns up ..... just for one meeting, or maybe to attend regularly
- The Brown Clee Medical Practice – patient page on Facebook now has about 600 members ..... its easy to join if you already have a Facebook account.
- There is also an email group of about 70 people who receive details of the meetings as well as other information. To be added to this group, just message me:

[Tina.ranson@outlook.com](mailto:Tina.ranson@outlook.com)

Summary of main points of the meeting follow .... Please feel free to distribute these.

## BROWN CLEE PATIENT GROUP MEETING – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

- Highley Medical Practice is closing on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group is looking at options for providing access to Medical Services for the patients in Highley.
- Brown Clee Surgery is only able to offer services to patients living within its catchment area.
- Dr Railton will be retiring as a Partner at Christmas 2023, but it is hoped she will continue to work as a GP within the Surgery. Dr Jones will continue to work 3 days a week for another 3 years.
- Dr Bassett is working on a 5 year plan so that he too can retire. This will involve bringing the Practice buildings at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon up to a high standard, and then selling them, and arranging to lease them back. This will mean that any new Partner does not have to take on the burden of ownership of the premises.
- Dr Bassett will try to attract a new Partner, but recognises that General Practice is not a very attractive option to newly qualified Doctors these days, due to the extreme demands made upon them.
- Some patients are willing to buy shares in a limited company to purchase the buildings. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact the chair of the PPG.
- There is also some ongoing work to develop a Community Ownership model to purchase the surgery buildings. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact the chair of the PPG.
- An accessible armchair is to be provided for Stottesdon waiting room using the remaining funds from last year's patient collection.
- A Care and Share Pantry will open soon, where people who need basic foodstuffs can help themselves. It will be based in the grounds of Oak Farm.
- You can donate food items at Ditton Church on Sundays.

For more information on any of these items please contact Christine Ranson (Facebook), or email: [Tina.ranson@outlook.com](mailto:Tina.ranson@outlook.com)