

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT BENTLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 21st June 2018
AT 6.30PM IN THE MITCHELL ROOM, GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Chaired by Melvyn Cox
Present: Barry Spake Communications Officer
 Charles Brown, Vice Chair/Treasurer
 Kathy Chilvers, Secretary
 Surgery Guest Dr F Bhatti
 Guest Speaker Dr Shane Gordon
 + 13 Members

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were new visitors to the meeting and the Chairman introduced the committee to these visitors.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:

No points were raised and approval for the minutes of 17th May 2018 was given.

3. Guest : Dr Shane Gordon

Dr Gordon gave a presentation about the merger of Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals. He is visiting other PPG's as well to inform them about what is happening about this. The actual merger takes place in exactly 10 days from the date of this meeting on the 1st July 2018.

He said that the merger is happening to make services better and more sustainable for the future. He gave all the members at the meeting a printout of his presentation. A copy of this is sent with these minutes for your information. He expanded on the information in the slides giving some more detail and examples and these minutes contain brief notes on what was covered.

Slide 2 The new organisation will aim to see people at the right time, attract and retain the best staff and provide the latest treatments locally. Colchester and Ipswich hospitals will continue to offer full A&E and maternity services and 24/7 emergency admissions.

Slide 3 There are national guidance for the number of specialist staff needed to treat many things and by having a larger team of staff (which the merger will enable) will help to reach the numbers required. At present people from our area have to go to Cambridge or London and those in Suffolk also have to travel to another larger hospital for specialist treatment for a range of different health issues.

He spoke about the fact that they don't currently provide cardiac MRIs because they see too few cases per year although the equipment is available. Covering a larger population may mean that there would be enough cases for this specialist service to be available at Colchester or Ipswich rather than patients have to be sent to Basildon hospital (usually by ambulance).

Slide 4 There should be financial advantages but NOT in the front line. These would be in the back office and the examples given were Human Resources, IT and Accounts where less staff would be needed in one larger organisation rather than two separate ones.

Slide 5 There will be some capital coming in with the merger of the hospitals and improvements can be made such as investing in wi-fi in all the community hospitals.

He said that they wanted to make the new organisation have the approach that time matters. For example IT systems will be looked into to enable them to be more joined up. This will take time but half the IT staff will be working on this whilst the other half deal with keeping the present IT systems running. The further slides in the presentation give details on what else is aimed for and a range of examples.

Dr Gordon gave reassurance that they would be looking at making improvements but this would take time and if it meant moving facilities from one site to another there would be consultation with stakeholders and

for some things there would have to be full public consultation.

There were a range of questions asked by members at the meeting such as:

Question: Transport between hospitals as may cause difficulties for many people without access to a car.

Answer: They would be looking into that for the future if any facilities were to be moved from one site to another. It is as present difficult to be able to say what might be available.

Question: One member had been sent to the wrong place because the information about where to go was not correct.

Answer: It is hoped that improving the systems may help to minimise such errors.

Question: Why did Colchester join with Suffolk and not Chelmsford area.

Answer: It was thought by those higher up in the NHS that Ipswich was the best fit and Ipswich had already been working with Colchester Hospital because of Colchester's previous difficulties

Question: Will you still get the option to choose where for treatment if it is offered in different places.

Answer: Yes



**Great Bentley PPG
Meeting 21.06.2011**

4. Hollies Surgery News

The meeting with the CCG has taken place regarding the future of the surgery and it has now been agreed that Great Bentley will stay as Great Bentley surgery and be independent. The CCG had previously wanted Great Bentley to look at working with Great Oakley and Thorpe. This means Great Bentley will be able to move on with looking at a new build and talk to the developer about this. The new build will not be owned by the doctors (as the present surgery is) but will be leased by the NHS.

5. NHS News:

This was not discussed due to lack of time.

6. Any Other Business:

Melvyn thanked the speaker for his contribution to the meeting. He also announced that, with regret and due to personal circumstances, he would not be offering himself for re-election after retiring as Chairman at the November AGM. He wished to let the membership know of this now, to give time for people to consider taking on this role.

The committee would like to thank the Surgery for their payment of £300 into the PPG account.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday 19th July 2018

The meeting closed at 19:50 hours.

Kathy Chilvers

Secretary