

Minutes of the Great Bentley Patient Participation Group

Thursday 15th May 2014

Chaired by - Melvyn Cox

Present :

Charles Brown - Vice Chairman/Treasurer

Sharon Batson - Secretary

Richard Miller – Practice Manager

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies received from Dr Bhatti, Mr Balbirnie, Sue Jiggins, Alan and Judy Bishop

2. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed subject to two changes in the Outreach report – Health Forum

3. Planning Application – Restaurant 43

All objections were ignored and the planning application has been approved, they have 3 years to implement the changes and the dwelling next to the restaurant will be a Bed and Breakfast and one of the conditions of planning is that the B and B facility cannot open until the parking at the rear of the property has been put in place and all guests must use this parking facility.

It was indicated that the objections regarding noise, smells etc should have been put forward when the original plans for the restaurant were submitted.

4. Planning Application – 32 New Homes, Sturrick Lane update report

The time for objections has passed for this application but there have been numerous objections , main concern is over road access. This will be going before the committee and when this happens an action group will have the opportunity to meet with the committee for discussions.

This is part of the Emerging local plan, which originally was for 20 houses and not 32 as currently being proposed. There are queries being raised over the bridle path, and the highways dept have been advised regarding lack of drainage and footpaths in Sturrick Lane.

There are also complaints from residents of De Vere Estate relating to off road parking.

All complaints must be material as it appears that some form of new housing will be built.

5. Outreach Report – “In Your Shoes” Wednesday 23 April 2014

Unfortunately Judy Bishop was unable to attend meeting but she kindly sent a report from her meeting:-

The above meeting could be summarised in six words:- communication ...and the lack of it! It is quite apparent that this continues to be the root of many of the problems resulting in bad experiences leading to complaints that could so easily have been avoided. CHUFT are well aware of this failing as we tell them at every opportunity we can along with many other people, but still it goes on. Sadly this is not unique to Colchester hospital, one only has to have seen or heard the findings released today of research into the end of life care of cancer patients in hospitals around the country where lack of communication to patients and especially their relatives shows that it leaves much to be desired. Although it may be very difficult at the time people have to voice their concerns because if not nothing will ever change. How many more surveys or enquiries have to be carried out, telling many of us what we already knew, before we can see positive changes in the NHS which bring about a stop to the NHS being in the news so often for all the wrong reasons.

6. Information Collection – Joanne Sutherland

Unfortunately Joanne Sutherland was unable to attend meeting

7. Hollies Surgery News

Richard reported that no further forward on the application for disabled parking bays at the front of the surgery.

General discussion again about parking on "The Green" and who can and cant ie cricket/football clubs, carnival as these are limited use but parking for surgery would be all day every day.

It just needs to be accepted that parking on "The Green" is not an option.

Also advised that the surgery was aware of the current situation regarding lack of routine appointments, running into 3 weeks wait, he advised this was an unusual situation and had been carrying out some analysis regarding the increase and it had identified some issues that when rectified will hopefully improve the situation. The DNA rate for appointments is very low, last statistics approx. 2 years ago were less than 1%. Saturday morning surgeries have now stopped due to the end of the funding, however they were very successful and if further funding becomes available they will commence again.

Dr Chumbley has now finished her training to become a new GP trainer and this means that as from 3 June Dr Vine will be rejoining the surgery as trainee GP

8. Any Other Business

Linda McWilliams advised that if anyone had heard rumours that Harwich and Clacton hospitals were due to close this was not the case. There are changes being put in place to help the residents of the Tendring area by changing their way of working. There are planned refurbishments due to take place and will be in place by 1 August 2014.

GP's can no longer refer patients to hospital for blood tests, they must be carried out in the local doctors surgery. If however you are referred by a consultant they will still be able to use hospital facilities.

Gt Bentley's blood clinic is every day between 8am – 11.30am, if a convenient appointment can be made within 5 days then surgery has obligation to arrange an alternative appointment at another surgery. If patients are housebound then a home visit will be arranged.

Tendring are helping Colchester Maternity unit by providing midwifery cover. There will be a meeting on 12 June to discuss the future of the maternity units in Clacton and Harwich. There will not be a GP presence at these units, will be encouraged to midwife led or homebirth.

9. Date and Time of next meeting

Thursday 19 June 2014 6.30pm Great Bentley Village Hall - Michael Wright Room

Apologies give – Charles Brown, Sharon Batson