

KINGS CORNER SURGERY Patients' Participation Group

Minutes of the meeting Monday 15th October 2012

Present: Sally Hanson (Chair, apologies for late arrival), Christine Weightman (Secretary), Pat Morris (Minutes), Peter Bateson, Spike Humphrey, Jacek Olejniczak, Harry Ruprah, Philip Shelley, Peter Standley

Dr Whitfield and Clare McAteer represented the surgery.

Apologies: Russ Howell, Daphne Luff.

1. Arising from the previous meeting:

(a) The Fuel Allotments Trust had rejected our application for funds to support an initial mailing of the PPG Newsletter to all patients.

Space in the Parish Magazine had been offered, but would be insufficient for a full newsletter and might be seen by other local Practices as an unethical form of "advertising for business".

There is a possibility of funding from the "Community Chest" and Christine would pursue this. **Action Christine**

(b) Clare reported that the EMIS system was now improved and operating, but needed more of us to test its functionality as part of the refinement process before going fully operational. PPG members were urged to contact Clare to pursue this by accessing their records online. **Action PPG & Clare**

(c) Dr Whitfield had been asked to write a letter regarding the way that Patient's were being notified of changes to their prescriptions. He explained that there were many complications in the process of notifying patients. It was agreed that the PPG should have sight of future draft letters before they were personalised and sent out, and that a previous letter from Dawn Best would be circulated to PPG members for subsequent discussion. **Action Clare**

2. Newsletter

Peter B. had not received anything yet.

Dr Hamid would be asked to flesh out his self-description and supply a larger photograph. **Action Clare**

There should be a brief explanation of how the cost of drug prescriptions is being managed. (Consult Jackie McGlyn?) **Action Clare**

A paragraph on 'mechanisms of referral' (to hospitals) would be helpful. Peter S. would write regarding his experience and create a joint explanatory text with Dr. Whitfield. **Action Peter S.**

A section of the newsletter should invite readers to offer to receive it by email (and this option would be included on the revamped Practice website). There should also be an invitation to readers asking what they would like to see in the Newsletter and any changes or additions to the service given by the Practice. **Action Editor (Peter B.)**

A supply of newsletters should always be available in the waiting room, even if they were outdated. **Action Clare**

3. Heatherwood

The future of Heatherwood concerns us all. Spike was thanked for attending open meetings and for providing a helpful written summary of the current situation.

Sale of the land is apparently a key consideration for the PCT, although there are many difficulties involved. A public consultation on three options begins today, ending in January. The PPG attempted to reach an agreed position on all three, which would be circulated to PPG members for comment before being submitted by Christine as our joint view.

(a) Move Minor Injuries Unit to Bracknell.

Closure of Heatherwood would mean that people would be more likely to go to a local hospital rather than Bracknell, especially if they were unaware of the Brant's Bridge facility.

(b) Closure of Ward 8 (stroke and medical rehabilitation unit)

We wish for support to rehabilitated patients to remain available locally at Heatherwood. Closure will simply add to pressure on other places, leading to deterioration in services.

(c) Closure of Maternity Services

Maternity services were discontinued some time ago. We do not have a strong case to re-open this facility. Experience suggests that patients are happy to go to Frimley Park, where the service is likely to be better than anything recreated at Heatherwood.

These appeared to be the general view. Perhaps we should also re-iterate that we do not consider Wexham Park to be an adequate provider of services. There is no public transport link from Ascot and access by car is time consuming and without parking on arrival. Christine will write again to Carruthers and to the Shaping The Future team. **Action Christine**

Spike offered to send the necessary website link so that we could all respond individually to the Shaping The Future questionnaire as well as through this group letter. **Action Spike**

4. Chairman

Sally has served the PPG as its Chair for at least 3 years and now wishes to stand down due to pressure of other work. Christine proposed Peter Bateson as the new Chairman, seconded by Sally and accepted with acclaim by the PPG. Peter B. accepted the nomination on condition that Pat agreed to remain as Minutes Secretary, which he will (for the present).

5. AoB

An updated list of PPG Members and their contact addresses would be helpful please. **Action Clare**

6. Next Meetings.

November 12th 6.30 at KCS.

December 13th Christine kindly offered to host this meeting at her home. Pat will be unable to attend (lecturing in London), so a substitute Minutes Secretary will be needed if this date is confirmed.