

Woodhill Surgery Patient Reference Group Meeting

Wednesday 11 December 2024 via Zoom

Present:

Andrew Cornell (ATC)
Gill Williams (G Will)
Lucy Jervis (LJ)
Brian O'Connor (BO)
Shirley Holland (SH)
Gill Weavers (GW)
Jeanette Hore (JH)

Apologies:

Welcome: ATC welcomed those in attendance to the meeting

Matters arising from previous minutes: Covered off in practice update.

Practice Update:

Staffing:

- Our Practice Nurse, Laura Ozcan, will be absent due to sickness for a few weeks from the end of January. Locum cover is currently being planned and some non-essential services may have to be postponed or transferred to Ashdown Forest Health Centre.
- Dr Cannon will now work all day on a Tuesday and drop a Thursday morning, which will be covered by Dr Fletcher. This is on a temporary basis initially.
- There is currently a part-time vacancy on Reception.
- Blood tests: The Partners have noticed an increasing number of requests for blood tests to be taken on behalf of hospital doctors and have decided this additional workload is not sustainable. Therefore the decision has been made to only carry out bloods tests for requests that have been raised by the practice. Hospital blood tests at the request of a Consultant will not be carried out at the surgery and patients are being asked to have this taken in the phlebotomy department at the hospital that gave the form. Further information for patients has been published on our website.
- Unfortunately our flu clinics haven't been well attended this year, partly because patients are attending vaccination centres where they are having covid and flu together or pharmacies are vaccinating our patients. It looks like we will incur a significant financial loss as the surgery has to buy the vaccines months in advance and we will have a lot of unused flu vaccines that we are unable to return. As a result ongoing flu clinics will be re-evaluated for next year. LJ stated that some people who had booked patient transport with Mayfacs cancelled due to the fact that the clinic was being held at Five Ashes and suggested that we look at holding future clinics in the Mayfield village such as Coggins Mill Church.
- RSV vaccinations are now available and are being rolled out to eligible patients (aged 75 – 80) by invitation only.
- Our current patient registrations is 3749, an increase of approximately 2,500 since the previous meeting. ATC stated that this may have to be reviewed due to the planned closure of Ticehurst and the fact that we expect an influx of patients from the Wadhurst area.

New Development:

ATC attended a meeting on 10 December and advised that Wealden District Council are now waiting to submit final plans for sign-off but there remains a funding issue as the costs have escalated from the planned £4.2M to around £6M. The local MP advised she is still being contacted by the 'Save Court Meadow' group and has to reply to them. GW further updated to advise that those opposing the plans have requested a further meeting. Wealden District Council were meeting this week to agree the shortfall in the surgery funding and plans would be resubmitted this month with a view to being signed off in March.

Mayfacs Update:

Andrew confirmed noticeboard space is now available at the surgery and a page dedicated to Mayfacs is on the surgery website.

Monthly hearing aid maintenance sessions are on month 3 now and seems to be going well. Volunteers need more training but proving to be a very useful service

In the New Year they will be holding "dementia friends" sessions, designed for friends, carers etc. on learning how to support those living with dementia. Sessions will be held at The Middle House on 21 Jan, 4 & 18 February.

Two new groups starting:

1. Funding for 6 sessions of "Moving Sounds" – this is a music and movement session for anyone with a physical issue or dementia patients and is designed at helping those with mobility issues.
2. Men on the Move – hosted by a personal trainer with weekly sessions designed to get together to walk and chat for exercise based on ability.

AOB:

JH asked if we could do a newsletter item on Prostate Cancer awareness, ATC advised this is generally covered by national campaigns and not something we would generally do.

ATC advised next meeting to be arranged when we know what is happening with development and try to make next one face to face.