**QUANTOCK MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

# MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT NETHER STOWEY LIBRARY

# Wednesday 8th March 2017

## PRESENT

Helen Stacey (Practice Manager & Chair), Bruce Roper, Janet Russ, Terry Binding, Louise Darwent, Maggie Harlow, Eric Coates, Kate Hope, Mary Reece, Alison Hoare (Village Agent), Ian Faris (Minutes)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Diane Faris.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (December 2016)

Read and accepted.

## MATTERS ARISING

Discussed under separate headings.

## UPDATE FROM QUANTOCK MEDICAL CENTRE

Feedback re Dr.Klein has been OK so far.

Helen will put something in the Quantock Messenger about the open nature of the PPG meetings in the library i.e. all welcome to join in.

Bruce suggested putting a notice in the surgery regarding the cost of missed appointments and Helen will put a note in the Quantock Messenger regarding that as well.

Bruce noted the disparity between pharmacies regarding dispensing and the cost differentials between products sold with and without prescription.

## DIABETES AWARENESS EVENT

No report. Patients on meters with expensive strips were being invited to the practice to an education session and an opportunity to change their meter to one with less expensive strips to save NHS prescribing Budget.

## VILLAGE RESUS TRAINING

The event was well attended (30+) but did not attract the young. Bruce found it helpful and considered it worth repeating annually. Helen outlined the places it was advertised.

## ST.MARGARETS HOSPICE

Helen outlined some of the services provided by St Margaret’s Hospice, includingin patient beds, community team to offer support with symptom control, breathlessness, practical concerns, financial concerns, sign posting to other services, spiritual care, therapies, Social work & Occupational therapy, Sunflower Centre, Bereavement Support , Support Groups, Sunflower Friends, Caring for Carers etc etc. It was also noted that respite care is provided primarily for the carers.

## IMPROVED ACCESS

Helen has met with Bridgwater practices regarding how to deal with the requirement for 0800-2000 7-day surgery provision. Currently Saturdays alone are not financially viable so it would all be dependent on funding which would appear to be coming from the withdrawal of funding to certain practices with a different contract, and the withdrawal of all Extended Hours money, which is now being recycled as improved access from just 30 minutes per 1000 population to covering from 8 0 8pm 7 days a week! The new funds will be available to all Bridgwater area practices who will, therefore, need to work together to provide a more financially viable option to cover these additional hours. So this will be an area-wide rather than local service. For patients this will involve another telephone number plus possible further travel. Helen will continue working with the other Bridgwater area practices to try to secure the best outcome for Nether Stowey. Implementation is supposed to start next month i.e. April 2017. It was agreed from Patient Feedback that Saturday morning opening was helpful for residents in Nether Stowey and Helen will fight to retain his as part of the surgeries allocation.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Bruce reported on developments and the number of reports that will emanate from the village survey. He is currently working on the business report. He outlined some of the issues that arose from the survey e.g. most jobs in the area are low paid and often temporary and/or zero hours.

Any proposals arising have to be vetted independently before being returned to the parish for an implementation referendum. The original intention was for the plan to be published before planning permission for the Cricketer Farm development was granted but this is now unlikely to happen.

The transport report is in progress but the bio-diversity report has not yet been started. BT have advised Bruce that they currently have no plans to expand broadband services in the area.

Nether Stowey is currently designated as a Tier 2 settlement. How long this will remain is unclear.

Maggie noted the traffic problems: the survey indicated that approximately 900 vehicles of all sorts are owned/operated by 640 households.

**VILLAGE AGENT**

Alison reported that funding for the village agent is due to end next March, this is a great concern as the role is extremely helpful to the community and supports people in so many ways to resolve problems and sign post to other support available. The Practice is able to refer patients’ to the Village Agent for additional support where it is not a health issue and this has been really useful.

## HEALTH WALKS

Helen went to a training session but discovered how much else she needs (paper work, risk assessments, more forms to complete for anyone taking part etc etc) to do to be able to put the concept into practice, but she will persevere and hopes to have something in place by May/June. Alison will provide information on the availability of all-terrain mobility vehicles at the next meeting. Eric noted that the U.S. space programme included isotonic exercises for astronauts as their movement is severely restricted and wondered if similar was now available to all with severely restricted mobility.

## FALLS AWARENESS

There’s a falls awareness event on 8 May at Somerset CCG, Wynford House, Yeovil.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7th June 2017 at Nether Stowey Library, followed by 6th September and 6th December.