

## **Future of General Practice in Hawkhurst**

### **Frequently Asked Questions – Premises Development**

#### **1. Who is responsible for funding the new surgery?**

As GP contractors we are responsible for securing premises to deliver our services from – whether that's a building that we own or one we lease space in. We are therefore responsible for identifying the finance (capital funding) needed for the new surgery - this could be through a third party developer or by raising the funding ourselves via a loan. Where S106 contributions are available, they can contribute to the capital costs of the build.

The NHS underwrites the capital cost by providing a rent re-imbusement for the space used to deliver general medical services.

#### **2. Why do you need approval from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)?**

General Practice premises developments, whether providing additional capacity from an existing facility or through a new facility, will mean increased costs and therefore funding must be identified and agreed.

The CCG has a responsibility for securing provision of primary medical services for patients and must ensure that all plans meet the strategic needs of West Kent. It is therefore important that our plans are reviewed in line with the CCG's General Practice Premises Development Policy and processes in order to ensure that we obtain the required approval, which will include confirmation of re-imbusement of rent and rates.

#### **3. What other sites did you consider and why didn't you think they were suitable?**

We considered the golf course site (included in the Draft Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Local Plan (Reg 18)) and the Hawkhurst Community Hospital site. Location and access were the two key considerations when looking at options and it was our view that neither of these sites offered the most central location or best access for patients, with more limited public transport available.

**4. The golf club site has submitted a planning application and it includes space for community uses, which could include a doctor's surgery. Were you aware of this?**

Yes, we are aware that the planning application has been submitted recently and that it includes space for a community use.

The CCG has provided a response to the planning application consultation noting regarding a S106 financial contribution.

**5. Can you provide us with more details in relation to your discussions regarding Fowlers Park?**

We have identified Fowlers Park as our preferred site and our discussions will continue as we look to develop our more detailed plans.

We are unable to provide any specific details at this stage but will share relevant information as our discussions progress.

**6. Are you already working closer together as practices?**

The partners of the practices are having regular meetings and discussions, and are already looking at workforce when vacancies arise in terms of job sharing options etc.

We already work closely with other practices in the weald area to provide improved access to appointments in the evening and on a Saturday. As a group of practices, we have also employed a physiotherapist to support practices as a first point of contact for patients with musculoskeletal-related problems.

In response to the NHS Long Term Plan, we have formed a Weald Primary Care Network with other local practices. This will enable us to provide a wider range of services over time and receive funding to support some new roles, the first of which are a social prescribing link worker and clinical pharmacist this year.

**7. How many GPs are there at each practice?**

There are currently:

- 2 (2 FTE) GP Partners and 1 (0.125 FTE) regular GP at North Ridge Medical Practice. Also supported by 1 (0.25 FTE) Advanced Nurse Practitioner.
- 4 GP Partners and 2 salaried GPs at Wish Valley Surgery equating to 2.88 FTE GPs

In addition to GPs we have a wider clinical team including practice nurses, and Health Care assistants.

**8. Will there still be a dispensary?**

Both practices are currently dispensing practices and due to our rural geography, it is our intention that we continue to provide this service to patients who live remotely to a community pharmacist.

**9. Will the surgery opening hours increase?**

As a minimum we will open in line with the core hours of our contract 8.00am – 6.30pm. As our plans develop, we will explore longer opening hours for specific clinics or for providing services as part of the Weald Primary Care Network.

**10. Will there be enough parking?**

The Draft Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Local Plan (Reg 18) details that there will be sufficient public parking for use of the medical centre/ community facilities at our preferred site 'Land at Fowlers Park' (Policy AL/HA 4). We don't yet have detailed plans drawn up.

We would always encourage patients and staff to travel to the surgery in a more environmentally friendly way wherever possible.

**11. Will the new premises have air-conditioning?**

We understand that new healthcare buildings should have ventilation and cooling systems that conform to the required healthcare technical standards. As we develop the plans, our professional technical advisers will ensure that the building meets required standards.

**12. There isn't currently a bus stop near to the preferred site, is this something that will be looked into?**

Yes, this is something that can be explored with the bus company and highways.

**13. Who will the developers be?**

We are not yet at this stage of the project.

#### **14. Has the green spaces and preservation been considered?**

The Draft Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Local Plan (Reg 18) sets out the proposed strategies and policies for Hawkhurst and is subject to consultation between 20 September 2019 and 1 November 2019.

#### **15. How can patients registered with the practice comment on these proposals?**

We will be holding public meetings on the following dates:

- Tuesday 27 August 2019, 7.30pm – 9.00pm , The Royal British Legion, Unit Hall, High Street, Hawkhurst, TN18 4AG
- Monday 16 September, 7.30pm – 9.00pm, St Laurence Church, The Moor, Hawkhurst, TN18 4NT

A survey will be available for people to complete and will also be available on the North Ridge Medical Practice website if you wish to complete an online survey.