

# **Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 August 2024**

**At the Brixworth Surgery**

**18:30 hrs to 19:45 hrs**

**Attending** Dr Julia Railson, Sarah Berry ( Practice Manager), Sarah Payne (Assistant Practice Manager) Sue Brady (Vice Chair), Michael Brady (Treasurer), Keith Dobell (Chair), Ann Gray, Maggie Goodwin, Barbara Hogg (Secretary), Sue Marshall, Michael Parsons, Barrie Sollars, Rosemary Ward, Marie Borrill, Dorothy Hill.

**Apologies** Sarah Farrell, Sarah Hart.

Ken Attwood has decided that he will be unable to attend future meetings due to hearing problems, but he will continue to support the group where he can.

## **Matters arising from the minutes**

SSPPG had a stall at the “Guilsborough Showcase” had been attended by “Pets as Therapy dogs’ although general public attendance was low. Still finding it difficult to recruit SSPPG members who lived in or around Guilsborough.

## **Practice News**

Sarah Berry said that Dr Susie Northover was retiring after a long illness and Dr Megan Harper was still absent due to long term illness. However pleased to announce that Dr Neil Richards is joining the Practice on July 1 and Melia Carter will join soon as a Practice Nurse. Sarah noted Ken Attwood’s decision and wanted to be known that the Practice was grateful for his contribution to the SSPPG.

The Patient Survey quality results have just been published and the Practice is pleased to be judged in fourth place within the County.

Vaccinations are now available for the 836 patients in the age category of 75/79 in helping to combat RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) more common in children although the age category has been identified as also being at risk. Vaccinations commence September 1. Influenza/Covid vaccinations for over 65s and for those identified as being vulnerable commence on October 3 until December 20. It was noted that generally there has been an initial rush at the start of these immunisation periods, although the most effective time could well be towards the end of November. (As immediately after treatment that affords the highest protection, tailing off in time, whereas the greatest risk to the NHS is usually around mid December into January). Invitations will be issued via the NHS app and the Practice urges as many people as possible to should book via that process. There will be NO post invitations. The Practice urges patients to ensure that they have informed the Practice of their mobile numbers.

The Northamptonshire Carers Monthly Meeting at Brixworth Community Centre continues to be well attended. The September 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting will be an outing to the Buddhist Centre at Thornby.

Dr Julia Boon's talk on the menopause is provisionally arranged at Guilsborough on Tuesday October 22 (to confirm) and is likely to be popular.

### **Local Services Centre**

This is likely to be considered at the Strategic Planning Committee of West Northamptonshire Council on November 15 at Towcester. The Parish Council and other local groupings remain strongly opposed although the developer's agent is canvassing for local support.

### **Well Brixworth Pharmacy**

Several complaints have come to be known regarding shortages of prescription drugs at Well Pharmacy in Brixworth and with the complications that can occur should them not having all the items listed on a prescription. Patients are entitled to ask for a TOKEN texted on their phone so that the missing materials can be dispensed at another

pharmacy. From the floor several comments supporting using the Guilsborough Pharmacy - especially through monthly deliveries of repeat prescriptions.

No progress had been made with discussion with the Well pharmacist regarding provision of free batteries for hearing aids. There is a scheme where this possible as Guilsborough already do so, Sarah will talk to the pharmacist there to see what is involved in registering to be able to offer batteries free of charge in Brixworth.

### **New Projects**

Some groups of patients find difficulty in absorbing the growth of IT and there are concerns that some groups are becoming digitally excluded. Elderly and housebound residents may not be digitally aware and have no way of receiving text messages or other digital information. A befriending scheme is being considered using existing channels, such as Neighbourhood Watch, to ensure that those people are informed of Practice initiatives. Councillors and other useful contacts have expressed a wish to assist in building the scheme.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The bank account now has a balance of £338.92, after paying £20.78 for lanyards and badges.

### **Any Other Business**

- Walking support still good with 25 to 32 regular walkers anticipated. Walks are 3rd Monday in each month, the September 16 walk is in Harlestone Firs. It was suggested a photo should be taken of the walking group should be included in a new poster for the surgeries.
- It was noted that the appointment of experienced paramedics to the practice has been successful with positive feedback from patients.
- A question regarding missed appointments revealed that although it still occurred, in general it is better than before Covid and the lockdowns.

- It was reported that cars leaving the Brixworth surgery had experienced “near misses” from speeding traffic travelling south as the entrance is partly obscured. It was suggested that “Street Doctor” should be informed.
- Friends of Brixworth Church are holding an open day and SSPPG are invited to have a stall. It was agreed to create a poster with information of flu clinics.

### **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

NOTE the earlier time:

Wednesday November 20 – Guilsborough Surgery at 5.30pm.