

**Notes of the May Lane Surgery PPG Zoom meeting,  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 11 am**

**Present:**

Sonja Dobrijevic  
Dr Opher  
John Hobson  
Shirley Hill  
Rosalind Cameron-Mowat  
Marcia Heaven  
Ken Hitchings  
Geoff Sims  
Rachel Sleigh

**Apologies**

Karla Howes

Shirley raised the issue that she had not been able to contact Michael Baker or his partner Sally. They had attended the last Zoom meeting and were keen to be involved. If the surgery had a telephone number, perhaps they would be able to make contact and check their emails so that they could be invited to the next meeting.

**Action:** John Hobson

Dr Opher was delayed but Sonja Dobrijevic introduced herself as the new Practice Manager. All welcomed her to the PPG.

**1 Surgery Survival**

Dr Opher reported that the situation at the surgery with regard to demand had been unprecedented (a tsunami) over the last 4 weeks. Patients were obviously more confident in visiting the surgery. Alongside this, vaccinations had been continuing at the same rate.

Staff hoped this would begin to settle down as the situation had been caused by some patients delaying contact with the surgery.

**Changes to practices at the Surgery**

Due to the fact that local rates of Covid are non-existent, from 17 May the waiting room will be open with social distancing and the screen will be used for check-in.

Rachel Sleigh asked why the windows were not open and Dr Opher replied that some patients had found it too cold but doors would be left open for air to circulate.

Ken Hitchings asked if there were any examples of good practice that had emerged from the changes brought about by Covid-19

Dr Opher responded that:

- Patients would still be triaged and a GP telephone call may follow
- E-consult can be used at any time and a GP will respond. It may not be your own GP.
- Sick notes will continue to be e-mailed as appropriate

Geoff Sims requested that a GP telephone consultation should not become the norm. Dr Opher responded that he would certainly rather see patients than be at the end of a telephone line.

Ken Hitchings stated that organisation at the surgery and management of the vaccination centre at The Vale had been exemplary in what has been an unprecedented situation. This was endorsed by others and Dr Opher thanked the group and requested that Sonja relay this to all surgery staff.

**Action:** Sonja Dobrijevic

## **2 Surgery Changes**

### **Staffing Acorn Practice**

Dr Tom Yerburgh  
Dr Michelle Doidge  
Dr Julie Burton  
Dr Harriet Tucker  
Dr Sian Barford-Turner

Dr Milsom has left the Practice

### **Staffing Walnut Tree Practice**

Dr Simon Opher  
Dr Silvana Romero Brown  
Dr Tom Sutherland  
Dr David Allcock

Dr Fiona Imrie has just retired

**Practice Manager:** Sonja Dobrijevic      email: [sonja.dobrijevic@nhs.net](mailto:sonja.dobrijevic@nhs.net)  
Tel: 01453 540546

A Full time Pharmacist, Jessica Ko is due to start at May Lane next week. (She was previously a senior pharmacist at Boots)

## **3 The current situation with Covid-19 and vaccinations**

Local rates of Covid-19 are now non-existent and the chances of infection are incredibly low.

Vaccination is continuing at The Vale as before and all over 40's should contact the surgery if they had not heard.

For the Stroud District, they are now working on 38 and 39 year olds, who are being contacted by their surgeries. All under 40's are to have the Pfizer vaccine.

Approximately 1000 vaccinations are being completed per day at The Vale. Patients can also book on the National booking sites.

Rachel Sleigh added to those comments of praise already made on the Vaccine roll-out at The Vale on behalf of the following groups.

- Berkeley & surrounding area Covid-19 Community Support Group
- Stroud Coronavirus Community Response

Dr Opher said that there had been 3000 hours of volunteer time assisting with vaccination at The Vale and the system could not be run as efficiently without their help. He wished it to be noted how much their help has been appreciated.

Marcia Heaven reported that she was one of the volunteers and although not called for her 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination had received this as a volunteer.

A booster vaccination will be offered in the autumn, probably Pfizer.

**Stroud Well-being Project** This project involved all aspects of health, including mental health, which for some patients has deteriorated during the pandemic.

**Get out** working with pulse and the walking for health groups  
**Be creative** art projects are beneficial to people's health and well-being  
**Cooking** working with local chefs to plan a healthy diet. Many people have put on weight during the pandemic and these healthy diet suggestions and recipes will assist people to lose weight.

The PCN's (Primary Care Networks) had put money into this.

An application had been made to Captain Tom's fund, which accepted health related projects.

Rachel Sleigh requested that Berkeley and Sharpness should not be left out of this project. Dr Opher said that he would also be involving the Wotton practices.

**Other services:** all services such as physio, podiatry, etc. should be back to normal,

Please let Dr Opher know if some services are not.

**Action: all**

#### **4 Nomination of Chair**

There was some discussion as to whether the former chair, George Way, had actually stood down and whether he should be contacted prior to formalising the situation with regard to an Acting Chair. Shirley Hill and John Hobson stated that they had been sending all emails to him, but with no response.

Geoff Simms stated Election of Chair was on the Agenda and as such it should be put to the group. Shirley Hill proposed John Hobson as Chair, Geoff Simms seconded and a vote accepting John Hobson as Chair was recorded by a show of hands.

*(Since the meeting Shirley Hill and John Hobson had received a copy of an email stating why George Way would not be attending future meetings with a proviso as to his return. Neither Shirley Hill nor John Hobson had seen this email before and agreed that if it was a resignation wish, it should have been sent to the whole group. As many PPG members had not seen this email, the proviso could not be considered as a legal requirement for his returning as Chair should the situation change.)*

## 5 Position of Secretary for the May Lane Surgery PPG Group

Shirley Hill made it clear that she only took on this position to enable David Thould to step down due to his health and she did not have the time to do it properly. There had been no nominations and nobody came forward at the meeting to take on the role.

Shirley Hill suggested that she hoped that a volunteer would come forward at each meeting to do the minutes. Ken Hitchings suggested that these should be brief with action points and he would like them sent out promptly rather than being left until the next meeting when many members will not remember what was discussed. Shirley Hill agreed to send them out as soon as possible but with time constraints this may not be very prompt.

Sonja suggested that on Zoom the meeting could be recorded.

Geoff Simms thought his wife may help and he would talk to her and let John Hobson know. It was agreed that if she is able to take on the post, she should be asked to join the group.

**Action:** Geoff Simms

## 6 Meetings

It was agreed that these should be quarterly. Discussion arose as to whether these should be face to face or online. Online was easier for many members and the stairs to the meeting room at May Lane were difficult for some members. Dr Opher suggested that he found online easier but maybe one meeting per year could be face to face.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 11 am**

**Any other business (this was not included as an Agenda item due to time constraints) but time permitted it on this occasion. It may not be added as a regular Agenda item.**

**Making future appointments:** Rachel Sleigh raised an Acorn surgery issue in making regular appointments, which had proved difficult for her, because the appointment book was not made up. This caused an issue when leaving it in that many of the appointments had gone by the time she contacted the surgery again. Others had not experienced this difficulty.

Dr Opher explained that the appointments book was only made up for 6 weeks as that was the notice required for staff to book a holiday. He agreed to take this issue back to his partners.

**Action:** Dr Opher

**Poster in the waiting room:** Rachel Sleigh stated that the poster in the waiting room asking patients to join their PPG was out of date, too small and was not clear due to issues with ink running out. It also needed printing A3 size. She agreed to redesign it and email it to the Practice Manager.

**Action:** Rachel Sleigh and Sonja Dobrijevic