

Patient Participation Group

Minutes of the Full Meeting on 19th January 2021 Meeting held by Zoom at 7.00 pm

Leader: Joy Hall, **Minutes:** Graham Fothergill

- 1. Present:** Amanda Preedy, Rosie Chisnell, Graham Fothergill, Joy Hall, David Wilkinson, Ken Spooner, Barry Hall, Angela Dormer, Brenda Davies, Robert Sprigge, Sally Elliott, Ros Sherry, Penny Berry, Tony Dollimore, Kay Loveless, Janet Bell, John Bell, Mike Pye, Pam Hill, Grahame Hill, John Stead, Lynne Drake, Sheila Stowe, Tony Stowe, Renata Crome, Steve Crome, Tony Burkitt, Marilyn Rogers, Geoff Rogers, Gill Bartlett, Dave Bartlett, Jacqui Horbury, Patricia Fidoe, Jane Walker.

Apologies: Sharon Smith, Chrissy Cobbold, Jan Burt

- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.

- 3. Minutes and Matters Arising from Meeting held on 15th December**

Minutes: Dave requested two amendments to the Minutes; to include his name in the list of Attendees and for the first sentence of Item 4, Paragraph 4 to read “Dave reported that he had been refused a vaccination at the Lister because of his previous history of an allergic reaction to a penicillin injection with no reactions to 10 ‘flu, nor 5 other vaccinations.” *{Graham will amend the file copy of the Minutes as requested}*

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising that would not be covered by today’s Agenda

- 4. Covid-19 Vaccination Programme**

Ken reported that 74% of our patients in the 80+ age group and 60% of Care Home staff and frontline workers had now received at least one dose of the Covid Pfizer vaccine. The remainder of the 80+ patients will receive their first dose of the Oxford-AZ vaccine later this week at the Roebuck surgery and the vaccination of all Care Home staff will be completed by the end of the month. The vaccination of housebound patients is ongoing. There are 1200 doses of the Oxford-AZ vaccine available for use at the Roebuck surgery this week, some of which will also be available to start on the next cohort, the 75 - 79 age group. It was noted that, unless they had a history of allergic reactions, patients would not be required to remain at the surgery for fifteen minutes after their vaccination. Ken said that it had been hoped that vaccinations could be given at the individual surgeries in the PCN but NHS England and the CCG would not give approval for this.

Within the next week, the PCN is expecting to receive a further batch of each of the two vaccines. Because of storage limitations, there will be sessions at the Roebuck surgery for the administration of the Pfizer vaccine from 29th to 31st January. *{Subsequent note: the Pfizer vaccine administrations will be full day sessions at the Roebuck surgery on 29th and 30th January.}*

Because the PCN receives very short notice of the delivery of batches of vaccine, Ken explained that this caused problems in the surgeries as clinics and other appointments have to be rescheduled when staff, nurses in particular, need to be switched to work in the vaccination centre. Fortunately, he had managed to obtain the services of two locum nurses for the clinics but this did not completely solve the problem.

In response to a question from Brenda, Ken said that patients in the 75 - 79 age group were not being prioritised for vaccinations according to their risk status.

Ken pointed out that if patients received an NHS letter inviting them to make an appointment for vaccination at Robertson House, this did not preclude them preferring to wait for an appointment from the Practice instead. However, at this stage, the Practice is not being informed by the NHS which of its patients have appointments at Robertson House. It is understood that the Lister has now postponed all three-week follow up vaccinations (replaced by a 12-week follow-up) but otherwise Ken felt that the Lister were not being very communicative with local Practices.

In response to a question from Renata, Ken explained that health professional volunteers approved by the NHS would be helping out at vaccination hubs such as Robertson House rather than at GP Surgeries.

Dave reported that the Herts Communities had issued the first invitation for Covid volunteers in their newsletter. Details can be found in this link; <https://www.communities1st.org.uk/covid-19-community-signup>.

In response to a question, Ken said that the vaccines were likely to give 90-95% immunity after the second dose but warned that vaccination did not necessarily prevent Covid but would be expected to significantly reduce the serious symptoms of the virus. At this stage, there are no data on the transmission rate after vaccination.

Ken reported that the next cohort for vaccination, the 70 - 74 age group, would also include patients over the age of 50 years who were shielding. In addition, the PCN are using their discretion in providing the vaccine for a small number of patients of any age who, because of their serious clinical condition, should be allowed to receive it.

In response to a question from John Stead, Ken reported that he could envisage capacity problems when it came to providing the second vaccination at the same time as other patients were still being given their first dose; he felt that there would be similar problems at Robertson House as well as in General Practice clinics.

5. Practice Update

Ken reiterated that patients with serious or potentially serious medical problems must still make surgery appointments (telephone and/or face-to-face). He emphasized that all General Practices are "still open for business".

6. Cancel Out Cancer (COC)

Rosie and Mandy reported that, so far, they had conducted three COC sessions, all of which had gone well. Bookings were being taken for the next three sessions and there were only a few places left for the first of these on Tuesday, 26th January. The sessions will continue to be advertised and Rosie noted their appreciation to the Practice for sending out details by text. She hoped that they will eventually be able to hold face-to-face sessions and they were keeping a list of patients for whom these would be of value because they were unable to use Zoom. Rosie also reported that Carers in Herts have asked for four COC sessions, one for each of four carer groups in various parts of Hertfordshire.

7. Practice Website

Ken explained that David had taken over responsibilities for parts of the Practice website but, because of pressure of work, they hadn't been able to meet yet to discuss the procedures. Ken acknowledged Robert's contribution of ideas to improve the website.

8. PPG Quiz

Graham reported that the first attempt to run a PPG Quiz had resulted in a poor response; this was thought possibly due to the timing (between Christmas and the New Year). It was agreed to try again for Saturday, 6th February at 7.30 pm. Graham will send out an email to this effect and possibly include members of the other PPGs in the PCN.

9. Speakers for Future PPG Meetings

Joy asked that if PPG members had any ideas for speakers at future meetings, they should forward details to any of the Officers.

10. Help Yourself to Health (HYTH)

The HYTH Meeting had been planned for Wednesday, 2nd June, but it was agreed that this would not now be possible because of Covid restrictions which are still likely to be in force to some extent. After a brief discussion, it was felt that this should be postponed until the summer of 2022 with the intention of then putting on a larger than usual event. HYTH by Zoom or MS Teams was not felt to be a viable option.

11. Knebworth Defibrillator

Ken reported that discussions were still ongoing with a contractor to come to Knebworth surgery to reinstall the defibrillator; also he would have to seek approval from the landlord before any work could start. David questioned whether the defibrillator might be installed outside one of the shops in the village; this will be discussed at the next Officers Meeting.

12. Any Other Business

Robert felt that as a consequence of the current situation with the pandemic, we all need to be aware of the impact on our mental health. He said that in its attempts to persuade people to follow the rules and minimise social contact, BBC TV news was even more depressing than usual in an episode last week. He suggested, for our wellness diet, we reduce our intake of TV news covering the pandemic. It may be safest not to exceed one dose per day. Ken reported that he was aware of an increase in low and mid-level depression and anxiety among health workers in hospitals and in General Practice, and that they were not getting the help that they needed. Tony Stowe felt that there was currently a lot of negative news media reporting which was not helping mental illness. He agreed to forward for the newsletter some information from a Carers in Herts initiative called "Keep in Touch".

Following an enquiry from Brenda, Graham agreed to ask Lisa (Clinical Pharmacist) if there are any plans for a Pharmacists Meeting in the near future.

In the context of some people being reluctant to have the Covid vaccination, Joy rounded off the Meeting by playing the YouTube version of the song "Have the New Jab" by the Marsh family. It has been reported that some vaccination centres are playing this while people wait to have their jab!

The Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

The next PPG Meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th February at 7.00 pm.