

# Knebworth and Marymead Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

## Minutes of the Full Meeting 26th March 2019 At Knebworth Surgery 7.00 pm

**Leader:** David Wilkinson, **Minutes:** Graham Fothergill

- 1. Present:** Amanda Preedy, Graham Fothergill, Chryssie Cobbold, Ken Spooner, David Wilkinson, Jan Burt, Angela Dormer, Rosie Chisnell, Sharon Smith, Robert Sprigge, Ros Sherry, Penny Berry, Rita Grimes, Sally Elliot

**Apologies:** Joy Hall, John Townend, Tony Stowe, Anthony Dollimore, Brenda Davies, Wendy Abbott, Alison Howse, Kay Loveless, Mike Pye

**Introductions:** David welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.

- 3. Minutes and Matters Arising from Meeting held on 26th February:** Agreed.

There were no Matters Arising.

In the absence of Matt Hughes who was scheduled to give a presentation on the Herts Health Partnership, the meeting reverted to the next agenda item

- 4. Practice Update**

*New Knebworth Surgery:* Ken reported that all the legal documents have been signed and exchanged. Pre-planning agreements with NHDC are being put into operation and demolition of the library building is likely to start in May. Ken explained that if the planned completion date of late November 2019 is not achieved, the surgery move would not take place during the run up to Christmas because that it always a very busy period for appointments etc.

*Primary Care Network:* Ken explained that this concept is NHS England's latest idea to try to improve patient care and to provide more services within the GP environment whereby Practices within the Locality, with a combined total of 30,000 to 50,000 patients, join forces to share resources more efficiently. We are presently in the North Herts Locality but, since their funding is focussed mainly on Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock, Ken explained that we would be better served by leaving North Herts and joining the Stevenage Locality. We will be in the Stevenage South Network along with Bedwell, King George, Symonds Green and Shephall Practices. This arrangement is unlikely to become operational until 1st July 2019, particularly because it will necessitate considerable reconfiguration of computer systems. An additional advantage of this will be that our Extended Access surgery will be the Kingsway Centre in Stevenage rather than at Letchworth. NHS England will provide extra funding for this, but only at the level of £1.70 per patient per annum, this amounts to about £22,000 for our Practice which Ken estimates will pay for half an additional nurse!!

*Residents' Group and Health Days:* Ken reported that he and Graham had attended the recent Roebuck and Marymead Residents' Group Meeting. They appeared to be more interested in talking to us than previously and a joint working party will be set up to focus on the planning of the Health Days in the Marymead area.

*Opioids and Addiction:* Ken explained that, because of the reported high level of prescribing of opioid-type analgesics and concomitant addiction issues, the Practice will look closely at the problem with the intention of monitoring the provision of relevant prescriptions. This is a national rather than local problem.

*Controlled Drug (CD) Prescriptions:* Sharon reported that the majority of controlled drugs could now be prescribed electronically, but there were a few exceptions; as always, CDs can still only be prescribed for 28 days at a time. Sharon also mentioned that gabapentin and pregabalin have been rescheduled as controlled drugs.

*[The above two topics will be included on the Agenda for our next Pharmacists' Meeting on 3rd April.]*

## **5. Help Yourself to Health**

In the absence of Joy, Graham reported that the programme for the Meeting on 24th July was now nearly complete. The two main visiting speakers have been confirmed as Dr Julie Sharp from Cancer Research UK and Dr Mark Massyn from the Stroke Unit at the Lister Hospital. It was agreed that we should now begin to prioritise publicity for the Meeting. Graham mentioned that Joy had succeeded in getting our poster as the front cover for the July issue of the Knebworth Parish News.

## **6. Pharmacy Matters**

Graham reported that new pharmacist (Tobi Akindele) had started at Lloyds Pharmacy in Knebworth this week. Tobi has been seconded from the Letchworth branch where he has worked for more than four years. Nevertheless, as Graham explained, the Knebworth branch still had three vacancies (which amounted to a deficit of about 70 staff-hours), although an experienced pharmacy assistant may be relocating from the Letchworth branch in the near future. As a result of this, Graham suggested that we should not request a meeting with the Area Manager (Matt Bristow) until the new pharmacist has had chance to settle into the role but, at this stage, alert Matt to our concerns, by email, in a more conciliatory manner. This was agreed.

Graham explained that a leaflet entitled "always with your health in mind" was available in Lloyds' branches and this contained information on their complaints procedure.

## **7. PPG Activities**

On behalf of Joy, Angela reported that there had been 30 patients on the Health Walk that morning (including five new ones) and that some of them had tried out the new extended walk.

Mandy again asked for tombola prizes for this year's summer events; these can be left at the surgeries for her to collect and store. Several PPG members said that they would be able to provide some prizes. Jan said that she would be willing to organise a raffle at the HYTH Meeting when some of the tombola gifts might be used as prizes. This will be discussed at the next Officers' Meeting.

## **8. Parkrun Practice**

Ken reported that he had completed and returned the paperwork necessary for our application to become a recognised Parkrun Practice. The outcome is awaited.

## **10. Speakers for Forthcoming PPG Meeting (April 30th)**

Ken confirmed that he had asked Christine Allen, the deputy Practice Manager at Knebworth, to speak at the April Meeting. Therefore, it was agreed that Matt Hughes (Herts Health Partnership) should be asked to present at the May Meeting.

## **11. Any Other Business**

- a) Jan reported that the recent dinner-dance at Brocket Hall had raised approximately £5000 for Admiral Nurses, that her afternoon tea event had raised a further £270 and that she had received a donation of £200 from Welwyn Wailers. Although one of the Admiral Nurses had recently left the area, a replacement has already been found. There is now an establishment for nine Admiral Nurses, we have 7 in place and currently recruiting two extra ones for Hertfordshire. Jan read out a letter from Carers in Herts which outlined the imminent changes in the organisation of Hertfordshire dementia services.
- b) Robert asked if PSA screening could be routinely added to blood tests for male patients. Ken said that this would be discussed at the next Clinical Governance Meeting.
- c) Graham mentioned that Burgess Funeral Directors and Mather Marshall Estate Agents were collecting Easter eggs to take to the Children's Ward at the Lister Hospital.
- d) Robert agreed to write up an article for the next newsletter about the new NHS app.

The Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

**The next PPG Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30th April 2019 at Knebworth at 7.00 pm.  
All patients are welcome to attend.**