

KNEBWORTH AND MARYMEAD MEDICAL PRACTICE

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWSLETTER

June 2020

The New Knebworth Surgery

Initial feedback from the staff at the new Knebworth Surgery on St Martin's Road suggests that they have settled in well and are very pleased with their new working environment. They find the light and airy offices and consulting rooms - with air conditioning - an enormous improvement over the Station Road premises.

Unfortunately, because of the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 situation, relatively few patients have, so far, been able to have experience of the new building but hopefully that will change in the not too distant future.

Meanwhile, what of the old Station Road surgery? Mr Bullock, the owner, seems to have wasted no time in getting into there to begin to convert the building into flats. The site is now surrounded by a high almost-impenetrable fence and it's been a hive of activity on-site in the past couple of weeks.

Social Prescribing

The Practice now has a share, with the three other Practices in our Primary Care Network, in the services of a Social Prescriber - sometimes called a Link Worker. His name is Kevin Pike; he worked previously for HertsHelp and so he is experienced in contacting people. He is presently working from home and we are aware that he has phoned some of our patients to see how they are getting on with "shielding". Kevin has asked, when we can again have our monthly PPG Meetings, if he can talk to the group about his role, and we have pencilled him in for the first Meeting.

"Cancel Out Cancer" (COC)

Mandy and Rosie, two of our PPG Officers, have been working closely with the Cancel Out Cancer (COC) Patient Group to develop a presentation on Zoom. The COC team are hoping that this will be available early in August and intend that, upon the lifting the restrictions, both the existing face-to-face and the Zoom presentations will be available for patients and organisations.

Mandy and Rosie would be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to receive either COC presentation in the future.

CCG News

The three area Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), East and North Herts CCG, Herts Valleys CCG and West Essex CCG, have appointed Dr Jane Halpin as the joint 'accountable officer' or Chief Executive. Dr Halpin is a qualified Public Health doctor with over 25 years' experience in the NHS in the area, including roles as a Medical Director, Primary Care Trust Chief Executive and NHS England Area Director.

Forthcoming PPG Meetings

As you will be aware, as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, and for everyone's safety, we have still not been able to hold one of our monthly PPG Meetings. However, the Officers are looking at ways in which they can meet together with Ken, the Practice Manager - probably by one of the newer on-line facilities - in order to plan for possible future PPG Meetings.

Unfortunately, it has also been necessary to cancel our annual "Help Yourself to Health" evening which was scheduled for Wednesday, 22nd July. At their Meeting, the Officers will discuss whether we might be able to hold such a meeting later in the year or if we should perhaps look towards holding it in the early part of next year.

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