

BCMP ITEM AT JULY 2023 PPG MEETING

Following the events of last summer a small group was formed at the September PPG to look at what options might be available to the the members of the community to facilitate the purchase of the surgeries.

The preliminary work identified a number of possible routes open to the community and an enlarged group was formed in March of this year to look at those options in more detail. This group, called the BCMP Community Group, comprises patients who it was felt brought skills and experience relevant to the project. (those committee members present can introduce themselves at this point. Please note that Louise will not be present as her mother has developed pneumonia in hospital. If her mother's condition starts to cause concern I shall join her at short notice)

Since March the group has been working tirelessly to identify the scope of the project. We have had the support of the Plunkett Foundation who exist to support community owned enterprises. The group has also had numerous discussions with the NHS Integrated Care Board to identify what would be expected of the surgery in the medium to long term.

Discussions with the NHS/ICB have identified that primary care services provided by the Ditton Priors/Stottesden surgeries are key to health care delivery in the area and the expectation is that this will expand in the future. Some of you may be aware that the practice has recently installed a portable building as a first step to increasing those services. Dr Bassett's commitment to the next five years removes any immediate threat to local primary services, though the recruitment of new GP's remains a priority.

The work already done has identified that the current surgery at Ditton Priors needs to be extended in the next few years to provide additional permanent consulting rooms and we are consulting with Dr Bassett as to the future requirements. What this means for the community is that not only does it need to generate the funds required to purchase the current buildings but also to fund an extension to the building in Ditton Priors. Neither of these goals is something that will be achieved in the short term and it is expected that this project would extend beyond the two or three years while also involving considerable sums of money. The group is already identifying various sources of funding and these will explained at the presentations being offered over the coming weeks.

The group believes that subject to approval of the NHS/ICB and funding sources the best possible course that meets the needs of the patients as well as complying with Dr Bassett's wishes of a community held investment is the formation of a Community Benefit Society. This organisation would be an incorporated entity which is legally permitted to enter into contracts and own property while ensuring no one has personal liability. The structure is very flexible and it enables every member of the community to be involved at some level should they so wish by becoming a member. It also allows investment from outside the community. For those that are familiar with the The Pheasant Inn in Neenton this is the legal structure residents utilised for the purchase and development of that project. The group would initially be formed from a combination of current members of the group as well as others from the catchment who can bring their expertise to the project. There is not the time tonight to provide the details of how this might all be achieved however in the coming weeks the group will be arranging three presentations across the catchment area (Ditton Priors, Diddlebury, Chorley) to allow patients and residents to come and familiarise themselves and ask any questions they may have.

We trust that this information helps you all to understand where the group has got to and although we are not able to take numerous questions here tonight if any of you do have something to ask then we will do our best.