

**MINUTES OF THE MARDEN MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING 24th  
March 2022 7:00pm via ZOOM**

**PRESENT.** John Haddow, Lyn and Chris Childs, Judy and Carroll Taylor, Kate and Graham Tippen, Peter Kershaw, Jill Nichols, Annabelle Blackmore, Gill Tarry, Julie West, Eunice Doswell, Sian and Graham Burr, Dr Julie Morgan.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Jenny Jones, Valerie Hesketh, Claire Courtley, Anne Boswell.

**PRACTICE UPDATE.** Dr Morgan gave an update from the Practice – brief notes as follows:

- “Demand is still extremely high
- Expectation that GP will be business as usual from 1.4.2022
- We are hampered by staff Covid sickness and need to isolate staff who are contacts
- **High Covid infection levels.** We triage all positive results and if high risk can refer to the Clinical Decision Unit who decide if anti-viral or immunotherapy medication is required
- Still using the Hot Zone (cabin) for all coughs, colds and temps
- Still practising infection control procedures, **mask wearing**, hand hygiene and social distancing. Unclear what the guidelines will be from 1.4.22
- Additional paramedic practitioner on board
- New replacement nurse onboard
- Doing more F2F consultations: about 80:20 F2F vs phone. We hope to open appointments so that the reception team can book some F2F appointments direct without phone triage – subject to covid challenges
- Covid spring boosters will **not** be done from the surgery, a Weald PCN decision. The Practice are planning for autumn covid vaccinations to be offered at the Surgery. Eligible patients can book through the NHS National Booking site or call 119. Neighbouring PCNs will be offering appointments. Housebound patients will be vaccinated at home.
- Patient list size plateauing soon - around 7200
- A PCN Clinical Pharmacist will be helping with reviews”

**Questions:**

John Haddow asked if the local Covid infection levels would continue to increase? Dr Morgan said the GPs were concerned with rising infection levels. There had been a change in the way people are infected. No longer just a cold. As immunity wanes, it is unclear of the virus impact on patients. The hope was that the covid peak had passed but it was not clear if this was the case. With the change in the testing regime on 1<sup>st</sup> April’22 – guidelines may need to be updated. Covid has not gone away.

Patient list size. Kate Tippen on behalf MPC reminded the group that there was a small development underway at the end of Thorn Road of around 12/13 houses. The new local plan would be clearer at the end of 2022 for potentially around 100 or so new houses in the village in 2023+ – subject to any required approvals and planning permission.

Gill Tarry asked if lateral flow tests be available to be purchased? Dr Morgan noted they would be available for purchase as no longer free to all from 1.4.22.

Judy Taylor asked if PPG committee members might order lateral flow tests for the Surgery? Dr Morgan would be happy to take any lateral flow tests people would like to donate. Geoff Burr noted that the Rotarians had spare lateral flow tests that might be available to the Surgery. John Haddow

suggested that instead of any spare lateral flow tests being formally sent on-mass to the Surgery – members made any spare tests available – ‘if requested’ to friends, family & the Surgery.

Annabelle Blackmore asked about the cost of lateral flow tests? £2 per test was mentioned. Boots are retailing five lateral flow tests for approx. £20.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.** The group were asked to approve the 16<sup>th</sup> December ‘21 meeting minutes. Annabelle Blackmore noted the typo relating to the date of the new paramedic’s increased working days. Thank you for Annabelle for spotting the error. Now corrected. **Minutes Agreed.**

**PPG ACTIVITIES UPDATE.** John Haddow would like to thank those members who have continued to support committee meetings.

John Haddow gave a short update on PPG activities over the last 3 months:

- The Health and Wellbeing Key Contacts list was updated and distributed with the help of MPC and the MPC Newsletter that gets distributed to 2500+ households. Thanks to PPG members who helped distribute.
- Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) calls have been attended although the organisation will cease to exist from 1<sup>st</sup> April when the new Integrated care system (ICS) organisation comes into place.
- A monthly PPG News Update (rather than a bi-annual PPG Newsletter) is now being sent to PPG members with updates supplied by the Surgery. The March issue will be sent out shortly. Thanks to MPC for using their social media platform and website to share with non-Marden PPG residents.
- PPG meetings will be held face to face going forward subject to any government guidelines.

**Additional Questions/comments:**

Chris Childs asked about the potential of transport being made available for patients who are unable to get to spring booster covid vaccination sites? Dr Morgan stated that as in the past – the first covid booster campaign – no formal transport options were being made available. The issue was raised before however was more a perceived issue rather than an actual issue. Most patients were able to make their way to clinics themselves or with the help of friends and family or a taxi. Flimwell was still open and a pop-up site may happen @ Staplehurst. The hope is that vaccine sites will be offered closer to Marden. Genuinely housebound patients will be vaccinated at home.

John Haddow stated that whilst the PPG ‘could’ consider offering a volunteer service to patients who needed it – the service would have to be registered with the council, appropriate insurance provided and all drivers DBS checked. For a small voluntary organisation – these rules and regulations were too onerous. If members wanted to offer patients, friends or family, transport support – this would have to be done informally. (Subsequent to the meeting Stephanie Guthridge from Involve kindly provided an update of useful local community transport options. I added the Royal Voluntary Service to the list. I have added the community transport contacts list at the end of the minutes).

Graham Tippen noted the generous Marden community Ukraine Donations Appeal efforts - 2 van loads of supplies had already been donated & sent. Collections are still ongoing. The efforts of the Marden residents had been very welcome and gratefully received.

John Haddow mentioned that the Surgery staff (and others) had an ongoing fund raising effort for the Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide Ukraine Appeal (SAWW) to provide portable anaesthesia devices for Ukraine. SAWW is a Marden based charity. See [www.justgiving.com/Julie-Morgan20](http://www.justgiving.com/Julie-Morgan20).

Dr Morgan commented that the Marden Community Forum calls for community leaders were an example of the PPG's positive contribution. The call has continued every 6 weeks and has been useful in bringing various community groups in the village together – to explore if they needed to work closer together. Julie West and John Haddow attend from the PPG.

**AOB.** John Haddow noted that Anthony Sampson has decided to step down from the committee after 10 years. John Haddow expressed his thanks for Anthony's tremendous support over the years. Anthony plans to remain a PPG member.

John Haddow advised the attendees that the chair and all the committee members will need to be re-elected at the upcoming AGM meeting in June. Any committee member who does not wish to seek re-election should let John Haddow know before 23<sup>rd</sup> June. John Haddow intends to seek chair re-election for another year, subject to the committee's approval.

The PPG will be attending the Marden Platinum Jubilee event on 4<sup>th</sup> June. The original plan was to cohabit on the Involve (Social Prescribers) stand – after the call, it was agreed with Involve that the PPG should have a separate standalone stand. John Haddow will be seeking PPG member volunteer support on the day. OneYou Kent will be providing public health information and materials.

This concluded the meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING & AGM THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2022 at 7:00pm AT THE VESTRY HALL.**

05.04.22

#### **Marden Community Transport Services - Contacts**

- **Involve** - Maidstone 03000 810005 then ext number 1 to book. Patients will need about 2 weeks' notice, most of the volunteer drivers are Maidstone-based, customers will need to pay the mileage for the driver to come out to Marden. - <https://www.involvekent.org.uk/community-transport>
- **Imago/Dial2Drive** - Tonbridge 0300 777 1200 - <https://www.imago.community/Adult-Support/Dial2Drive>
- **Volunteer Centre** – Ashford 01233 665535 - <https://ashfordvc.org.uk/contact-us>
- **Community Car Service** - Tunbridge Wells and East Sussex 01892 511 627 - [Community Car Service](#)
- **The Royal Voluntary Service** - Call 0808 196 3646 or <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/>