

Fairfield Surgery - Patient Participation Group

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at THE BEAR on THURSDAY, 12TH MARCH 2015 at 8pm

AGENDA

1. The Chairman welcomed PPG members from Burwash, Burwash Common, Etchingam and Broad Oak – 25-30 attendees including Dr Thomas and Julie Watson, Practice Manager
2. Apologies for absence – Penny Chennell, Sue Ballon
3. Chairman's report for 2014 – detailing the activities of the last 15 months. Available to read on the Fairfield surgery website.
4. Financial Statement - £150 from the surgery for expenses.
Expenditure - £35 Information Commissioner's Office
£40 National Association for Patient Participation
5. Present Committee Members standing for election – 3 vacancies to be filled.
John Barnes (Chair), Claudette Neville (Vice Chair), Peter Castle, Sue Ballon, Lesley Elmslie, Lorraine Lea, Jill Westwood, Penny Chennell, Frank Smith.
Chairman invited members to elect the existing committee and proposed that Committee Officers should be elected by committee. Also asked for applications for the 3 vacancies, particularly someone with IT skills. No volunteers.
Committee elected unanimously with agreement they elect the Officers.
6. Future events and plans for the PPG
 - The dispensary survey to be repeated in November 2015
 - Publicising specific health Promotion issues starting with Abdominal Aortic Aneurism Screening for men over 65 yrs.
 - Piloting new website appointment system
 - Assisting with new electronic booking in system (funded by Friends of Burwash Surgery)
7. AOB from the floor
 - What is the exact remit of the PPG? **JB** read out our Terms of Reference which can be found on the PPG board in the Surgery or on Fairfield website.
 - Why can't we have a pharmacy in the village as the Dispensary is only open during office hours? **JB** said we would take up this issue and look at it in detail before feeding back to the group.

The meeting closed to be followed by a talk about Healthwatch and Qs and As with Dr Thomas.

Healthwatch

Elizabeth Mackie – Volunteer and Liaison Manager for Healthwatch, East Sussex explained their role and some of their work .

Healthwatch

- is a consumer champion for Health and Social care giving a voice to patients.
- is a sub-committee of the Care Quality Commission but accountable to Service Users.
- HW volunteers visit and report on services from hospitals through to GP practices and ambulance services. They give recommendations to which the providers must respond
- carries out surveys e.g. discharge planning, particularly for patients discharged from out-of-area hospitals. The Chairman confirmed the value of this report.
A&E patients – reasons for using A&E rather than calling 111 or walk-in centres.
- Is now surveying mental health care in the area with the focus on young people.
- Complaints are now under Healthwatch who direct the complainant to the advocacy service.

From 1st April 2015 all GP practices must have a PPG and Healthwatch will fund their NAPP membership.

Q&A session with Dr Mathew Thomas

- **Dr Thomas** opened by thanking the Friends of Fairfield Surgery and the Patient Participation Group.
- He reassured the meeting that though Dr Woodgate and Dr Grosvenor are leaving at the end of the month Dr Clare Lewis will be joining the Practice on the 1st April for 4 sessions a week increasing to 6 sessions in August.
- Dr Merritt is an Associate GP and Dr Patel is joining as a medium term locum plus the other regular locums.
- There was discussion regarding the increasing patient population as a result of the new housing developments
- He described the opportunities and threats to GP services in the future. He assured the meeting that Fairfield surgery GPs would aim to provide the same professional and personal care to their patients in spite of future changes.