

PANGBOURNE MEDICAL PRACTICE

PPG Meeting Minutes

Held on 11 March 2021 at 6.15 pm

Virtually

Present: Sarah Dixon (Chair), Dr C Keast, Rosie Barker, Jane Hodgson, Doreen Hawkins, Barry Ashdown, Joan Bott, Lee Carter, Kim Hiscutt, Linda Price, Kit Marriott, Louisa Nicoll, Diana Smith and Gill Reid.

Apologies: Jean Hyland.

The committee members expressed their thanks to Jane Hodgson who has stepped down from being our secretary.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Approved.

2. COVID-19 Update/Vaccines

Acknowledgement and thanks were given to Rosie in her military style of managing the COVID-19 Clinics. Members were informed that to date The Boathouse Surgery has now given 9,400 vaccinations of which 4,165 of those were for Pangbourne patients. The second doses of vaccinations are being administered this week and the Boathouse Surgery will become even busier working at great speed as we continue the Cohort 6 (age range 16-64, at risk).

Current Cohorts 1-4. Of which the Surgery has successfully vaccinated 97-98% of people. The remaining figures are due to other circumstances. Cohort 6 is currently not complete.

Moving forward the Oxford AstraZenca vaccine is being sent for first dosage and Pfizer only for those that need second dose. Currently trials are taking place re the use of mixed vaccines. Initially the advice we were given was that the second vaccine would be given at 12 weeks, however this has now been updated and current advice is now 11 weeks. Patient will be contacted directly re their second dose of the vaccine. The Boathouse website and Facebook will be updated accordingly. We are still sending texts too; NHS texts are additional for mass sites only.

Covid-19 cases were discussed in general and at Christmas time there were 20-30 cases a day, we are now down to zero cases. With Schools going back there is a slight risk of a rise. Royal Berks Hospital saw an increase in cases. Nevertheless they never reached full capacity, although very close to it. The vaccine has had a dramatic effect on lowering cases. Some patients have had reactions to the vaccine due to other medical conditions which is not vaccine related.

Flu cases have dropped dramatically. Encouragingly we are much quieter and infection rates are down. Good hygiene methods, hand washing, hand gel, face masks and PPE have made a huge difference in infection rates.

It was noted that the Government acted quickly with the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination programme and that in future years there is a likelihood of 2 vaccines being available in the future. Flu and Covid-19.

3. Cancer Screening

The Royal Berks Hospital currently has long backlogs in many specialities. However, we are not behind with our screening for example smears, mammography, and bowel kits. Please spread the word to the public that this type of screening is still going ahead.

Time was provided for members to discuss items that were not on the Agenda.

Other Surgery news:

Holter Monitor. This is a type of portable electrocardiogram (ECG). Which has been purchased and used very successfully through donations/gifts. This piece of equipment will save 52 cardiology appointments a year thus with a saving of £10,000. The Holter Monitor is solely for Boathouse Surgery use.

Telephone calls – Invites for patients on the day for telephone consultation are going well. The Surgery is likely to continue to offer telephone consultations/video links as well as face to face appointments in the future.

Staff Member Notice board - It was noted that this was out of date and needs updating.

Sarah (Chair) gave thanks to Rosie for Covid-19 updates for the various magazines and newsletter. Offers of help were forthcoming from PPG Members to support the Covid-19 vaccination programme if required. Fortunately the surgery has a very good group of volunteers at this time.

It was suggested that perhaps the PPG could hold another fundraising event for another project in the future. That would be held at The Art Café in Whitchurch village. Members were keen to support this.

Jane PPG Secretary has decided to step down after 4 years and Sarah (Chair) suggested that PPG members may wish to take it in turns doing the Agenda and Minutes going forward.

Date of next Meeting Thursday 13 May 2021 at 6.15 pm.