

PPG MEETING NOTES
10 June 2022 at the Community Church at 2.30pm

Present; Sandie Phipps; Mollie Jackson; Sheila McClachlan; John Davies; Sue Edmonds; Annie Clifton Holt; Ellie Newman; Alison Cordon Dilley

Apologies: Janet Edwards

Next meeting: Thursday 7 July 2pm

The meeting commenced by welcoming Damien Collins MP and introductions were made.

Sandie started by asking what had happened to the STP funds that had previously been allocated for consultation fees and the previously identified land for the HUB in New Romney. Damien advised that communication would appear to have broken down between NHS England and Edward Argar MP so he would look into further.

Sheila expressed concern re the building currently going on in the area and the lack of infrastructure. She also asked where are the 106 monies? She feels that New Romney is not getting support from the District Councillor whose energies appear to concentrate on Folkestone.

Damien assured that Edward Argar MP is protecting those funds. He also agreed that new Super centres need to be built before housing instead of building a few houses here and there.

Mollie mentioned her concern that there are lots of medical school opportunities in the area but we still cannot attract any GP's.

Damien said he felt one of the reasons is that people are attracted by the London 'weighting allowance' so are happy to travel from here. Also he said that we have a good academy of trained drs but they seem to be less attracted to local surgeries or buy into practices committing to 30 plus years. He said that ministers often meet to discuss the issues which seem to be more of a problem in coastal towns. Charlotte asked why there couldn't be a weighting for the area but Ellie said that doesn't really help as GP's pay 45% tax.

John voiced his concern re the fact that some local planning requests get turned down and then is often approved by Folkestone.....Damien advised that there are always legal implications which local councils cannot implement. He also advised that developers often do not build affordable housing which is needed in the area.

John is also concerned at the lack of transportation particularly for pensioners..... Damien advised that Stagecoach advise that the services are well used and it would be up to them to make any changes.

Sheila asked Damien whether he thought Boris' rent to buy is a good idea. Damien said he thought it was a good idea providing stocks were replenished. He also thought it was a good

idea that people could use their housing benefit to apply for a mortgage.....Ellie thought that was unfair to people that have worked/paid mortgages.

Ellie said there are four practices covering the whole of the Marsh and that Oak Hall have a heavy weighted list of 7500 patients. She has had an advert for a single partner plus salaried incentives of £20000 incentives running for two years with no success.

There is no more room in Oak Hall to support any more GP's or PCN's. They are doing the best they can with the facilities available. Patients are still not generally being seen face to face but are triaged to the correct primary care for there needs. They are constantly having additional pressures put on them by NHS but feels there does not seem to be any communication to the general public which means they do not understand when things are changed.

Ellie advised that the proposal went forward to the CQC four years ago but nothing has ever been actioned.

Everyone agreed that Super Centres prevent people from resorting to services of hospitals, therefore, reducing the pressure on A & E.

Ellie advised that there are plans for a new Hub/Surgery which Damien had seen and was for a modular build but the monies originally assigned is no longer adequate.

Damien said he wants to move forward and agrees that a new centre is what we need and is happy to take up Ellie's proposals of the requirements for the new purpose built surgery. Damien did express surprise that Oak Hall no longer had no hub facility at the Day Centre.

Finally Annie advised that we as a group have a very clear vision of the health needs of the area which is why we are asking the support of Damien.

The discussion ended at 4.00pm.

