

**Culverhay Surgery
Patient Participation Group**

Meeting - Tuesday 16th June 2015

Attendance from the Practice: Caroline Pearmain (Practice Manager)

Patient Group: Dave Johnson, Diane French, Ruth Kirkup, Michael Sykes, June Kent, Alastair Kendall

Visitors: Christine Sweet, Village Agent for Wotton; and Amanda Pearson, Living Well Group

Apologies: Sarah Hale, Graham Cook,

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting (held on Tuesday 19th May)

Minutes from the previous meeting are not yet available. 2 sets of minutes will be distributed before the July meeting.

2. Christine Sweet and Amanda Pearson

(MS) welcomed Christine and Amanda to the group. Christine and Amanda discussed their roles and their aims for a Living Well group in Wotton for people with dementia and their carers.

Christine is employed as a Village Agent for Wotton by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council <http://grcc.org.uk/> Her work started as a pilot project some years ago in North Nibley. The aim was for her to be a point of contact for people over 50yrs who needed signposting to different organisations depending on their need. The pilot was so successful it was rolled out to the rest of Gloucestershire, and there are now 39 Village Agents working in the County. Christine works 10 hours per week. She has helped people gain access to cleaning/gardening services, befriending groups, benefits, bereavement groups, other social groups, information re obtaining an allotment. Christine regularly attends libraries, community centres, WI groups and other community groups to promote her role and meet as many residents as possible. Christine also links in with Health Watch which is an advocacy group for patients. They aim to gather people's views and experiences of health care organisations.

Amanda Pearson has a background working in care homes and for people with dementia. She lives in Charfield. She set up the dementia café in Charfield 18 months ago, which runs on the third Wednesday of the month. All carers are welcome to the group. There are no Village Agents in South Gloucestershire so this group is also used to signpost people to other organisations. Amanda has also invited Age Concern and Age UK in to talk to people and their carers.

Chris and Amanda have been in discussions about setting up a memory café in Wotton. This would be for people with dementia and memory loss, and their carers. Their aim is to pool

their experience, provide information, offer activities (music, dance, art and crafts, walks etc.) and improve the overall quality of life for people and their carers. Amanda and Christine have a bank of volunteers and are currently applying for various pots of money to get this set up, hopefully from October this year.

The feedback from the group was overwhelmingly positive. It was agreed that a group like this in Wotton would be hugely valuable for patients with dementia and their families /carers.

Christine and Amanda to keep the patient group and the practice informed of their progress.

Christine kindly agreed to attend the practice flu clinics in early October to promote her work and the support that she can offer to patients. (CP) to inform Christine of dates when agreed.

(MS) thanked them for giving up their time to attend the meeting.

3. Road Safety Outside the Surgery

(MS) talked us through the report he had written, after meeting with Graham Cook on 22nd May. (MS) will ask (SHs) to email members a copy of the report. The main conclusion points to a double set of mirrors on a pole for cars exiting the surgery car park. This should give clear sight to the throughput of traffic along Culverhay. (CP) to send the report to Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, with a covering letter of support from the practice. Agreed to await expert advice from the Road Safety Partnership.

4. Dr Green's Retirement 'Do'

Dr Green's retirement 'do' is on Wednesday 1st July from 1 – 3pm. (CP) will organise some light refreshments for the afternoon. (MS) will organise the flowers on behalf of the PPG to present to Dr Green on 1st July. (CP) to clarify with (SHs) regarding invitation flyers for the practice to hand out. (RK) kindly brought in some bunting to decorate the waiting room – thank you Ruth.

It was agreed that the flowers would be from members of the PPG only. Any patients wanting to contribute can hand their contributions in at reception, for the practice to purchase some gardening vouchers for Dr Green on their behalf.

5. AOB

No any other business

(MS) closed the meeting and as always thanked everyone for their input and support.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 21st July 2015

NB. (SH) refers to Sue Hope and (SHs) refers to Sarah Hale, Secretary