

ECCLESFIELD PRACTICE PATIENTS' GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2011 AT MARGESTSON

Members Present:- Doris Stow, Tricia Mallin, Andrew Stafford, Simon Kirby and Michelle Payling.

Apologies:- Joyce Ford.

Doris opened the meeting wishing all a Happy New Year. The minutes of the meeting held 18 November 2010 were approved as read.

Matters Arising

Coffee Morning- A report was given by Doris, who said that it was poorly attended due to the bad weather and unfortunately did not attract any new group members. It was felt that another coffee morning could be held at Ecclesfield. This was discussed and it was decided that the refreshments were perhaps not necessary or practical to administer.

Doris reported that she had attended flu clinics at Ecclesfield surgery distributing advertising leaflets but so far no-one had stepped forward to join our group.

She also reported that there is to be a meeting 31 January 2011 of North Sheffield Group which she will attend and report upon at our next EPPG meeting. There are eight people representing their own surgeries wishing to join the overall group.

She has displayed some posters regarding activities at Fox Hill on our notice boards. Anyone wishing to do the classes or join clubs would be welcomed by Fox Hill Patient Group.

Simon informed us that there had been no progress on updating disabled access at Margestson. He also mentioned that both car parks needed to be repainted defining parking parameters. He is to pursue these issues.

Due to the absence of Joyce, a treasurer's report was not available. However, Simon stated that the current balance was £521.33. It was felt that perhaps no-one had emptied the card/book sales cash box so no other banking had been made since the last Bank statement.

Andrew asked again what we could spend funds raised and that this problem had been going on for a length of time. Simon and Michelle said they would investigate a possible purchase.

The recruiting of new members was discussed with several ideas mooted. Overall it was decided that as the running of the practice was undergoing changes in accordance with the Government's White Paper on Health Matters, there would be information leaflets distributed explaining the new regime. These will include asking patients to join our group in order to give more patients a chance of inputting their own views.

It was further reported by Simon, that GPs hoped that one large consortium should be formed in the North Sheffield area rather than four smaller ones. It was felt by them that by being a united group they would have more buying power of services. Also each GP will be able to vote on any issues arising. There are eight practices wishing to join the North Sheffield Practice Group.

Any Other Business

Comments/Suggestions – It was felt that the current format did not allow the practice to reply to anyone using these slips. It was felt by Michelle that a tear-off reply section including name and contact details be incorporated in the wording.

Doctors appointments availability, and lack of staff to answer phones/reception at especially busy periods i.e. 8.30 a.m. - Michelle said that the doctors were not all full time and availability was dictated by hours worked and home visits that the doctors do. However, she felt that there were sufficient appointments available. She also informed us that two new members of reception staff had been appointed but obviously busy periods would always arise. Michelle went onto extol the virtues of the on-line system and would point patients in that direction at such busy times.

Disabled Toilets:- It was suggested by a patient that these were not signed up and that the toilet seat in the Mill Road toilet was too low. Simon promised to look into these matters to see what needed to be done to alleviate these concerns.

Andrew described the “ASDA formulae” of report/complaint received, action taken, may be a good form of answering such comments from patients. These could be displayed in a book or on a notice board. We have to be mindful that notice board space is limited.

It was noted that Tracey could up-date the website and include the minutes of the last few meetings.

Andrew asked, please could a public meeting be held with Richard Oliver attending? Simon said he put this idea forward.

Tricia suggested that we hold meetings every six to eight weeks. It was decided that every six weeks would be sufficient.

Doris closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending.

The next meeting will be held at 12.45 Monday 14 March 2011 at Ecclesfield Surgery.