



**CHAWTON PARK SURGERY  
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

**Short Meeting following the AGM on  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

Present: Ian Saunders, Alan Matthews, Anthony, Allison, Patricia, Charles, Nicky, John, Pam, Barbara, Sandie, Jane.

Apologies: Cathy, Susan, Jacqui, Karen.

**Update on Alton's Neighbourhood Plan**

CK explained some of the background to the Neighbourhood Planning process. The Neighbourhood Plan forms part of planning guidance to Hampshire County Council (HCC) although does not carry as much weight as the guidance from East Hampshire District Council (EHDC). The process, which is headed up by Mike Heelis, covers a wide range of subjects relevant to the local population. CK is leading on the subject of health within the context of the Plan.

The current plan (which can be found on Alton Town Council's website under Neighbourhood Plan) has two policies relating to health –

1. Supporting the expansion of health facilities across the area.
2. Safeguarding and ensuring full use of Alton Community Hospital.

Currently information and opinions regarding local issues are being collected along with the many national policies and directives that need to be taken into account. CK advised that any contributions from the PPG would be welcomed.

There had been two 'Kick Off Engagement Sessions' last weekend and the information gathered was currently being pulled together.

AM asked that as the population of Alton had increased by 20% since the last Plan and there had been no increase in health facilities – who was listening? Also, was it possible to identify examples of where development had been reduced to the presence of the Plan?

CK advised that the Plan was an important part of clear evidence and opinion to put together a campaign to apply pressure. There were instances where development had been reduced. If no Plan is in place, the town is vulnerable to additional development. It

was also important to note that completion of the Plan entitles the Town to an increased allocation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money.

JJ enquired whether there was a Government approved ratio of GPs to head of population. All agreed that they did not believe that any figures relating to this were available. NW also made the point that GPs were very hard to recruit due to the lack of availability nationally.

PJ also mentioned that the provision of a plan allowed for appropriate brown field sites to be put forward as preferred areas for development.

SS asked who was being lobbied? CK advised that the main push was toward those who held the purse strings (eg the Integrated Care Board (ICB)).

It was noted that there is a current issue relating to the National Park area and the fact that areas in and around Petersfield are not taking their fair share of development and additional requirements are being pushed towards Alton and surrounding area.

IS suggested that it might be helpful to have a meeting of representatives from all three PPGs to put forward ideas. CK felt that it would be helpful to await the outcome of a meeting which was already arranged before taking this idea forward.

CK will continue to feedback to the group as and when appropriate.

### **PPG Photographs in the CP Surgery Waiting Area**

IS asked whether all members of the PPG would be happy to have their photographs on display in the reception area of the surgery. If so, would everyone please email IS a passport-sized photograph for IS to include.

It was noted that the following do not wish their photographs to be published: CK, PS, CS and JW. Their names will be included with an outline image.

The meeting concluded.