

Briefing to Council from the Patient Participation Group (PPG) Meeting on 10th January. (Approved by NHS ICB representatives and the Burnham Surgery)

Cllr Munford attended a useful PPG meeting with Burnham Surgery, and representatives of the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (Local NHS) Kate Butcher and Michelle Phillips.

The main points were:

The Save our Surgery (SOS) campaign group representatives have been invited to meet with the ICB at the end of January. Cllr Stanbury is attending too as a representative of the Council's Health and Well-being Working Group.

HealthWatch is continuing its public consultation on the future of Burnham Surgery which includes conversations with patient groups and individuals as well as the analysis of the questionnaire responses. The consultation remains open until the 1st February 2024. Residents of Burnham are encouraged to take the time to give their feedback to Healthwatch before the closing date. They can do this in all sorts of ways, by emailing, phoning, writing to HealthWatch, as well as answering the questionnaire.

It will take HealthWatch a few weeks to analyse the data and put together a final report including all the feedback received. Healthwatch and the surgery are keen to consult with a wide range of groups e.g. young mums, to understand their views.

The ICB team encourage that engagement takes place with as many people as possible, although note that this is a practice led piece of work and the ICB are not involved in the delivery (it lies within the practice's remit to lead public engagement on their estate and services). The ICB are happy to receive future invitations to meet with Town Councillors, although, note at the current time the position has not changed since the recent meeting. The PPG Chair, Ben Wilson would be pleased to meet with Councillors too.

Patients have challenged the validity of the survey but the surgery Business Manager, Sharon Stubbs, explained that the reason questions were set out in a certain way was to try to help patients understand that the lack of space in the existing surgery means that non-GMS contract services (i.e. non-core GP services) such as phlebotomy, physio, midwifery services may not be able to run from the existing surgery due to lack of suitable consulting rooms.

The current GP surgery is 466m². For the current population size of the surgery (approx. 9661 patients) the surgery needs to be 663m² (a 33.6% increase). To meet future population growth, it's anticipated that a surgery of approximately 775m² is needed, a 66.3% increase.

A new surgery needs to accommodate at least 2 more GPs to reduce waiting times to see a doctor. Plus, the GPs would like to provide more physio, telemedicine, retinal screening, ultrasound, and secondary care consultations by video link to save people having to attend hospital clinics miles away in Broomfield, Basildon or Southend. The current surgery doesn't even have a sluice room (clean and dirty utility), which is non compliant with current standards.

With regard to Burnham Waters specifically, the ICB confirm having previously met the developer to explain NHS processes. There have been no subsequent meetings and no formal proposal submitted since this time. Once a surgery submits an estates proposal to the ICB, this must be approved through ICB governance routes and NHS England. There is no formal proposal submitted to the ICB from Burnham Surgery.

The ICB are working with the surgery to consider all options and are liaising with Maldon District Council (MDC) and with Essex County Council (ECC) but there don't seem to be any other realistic options available in terms of new development sites. The ICB are not averse to the idea of Burnham Surgery having a branch site elsewhere in the area; many surgeries adopt this approach. Obviously one of those options that could be explored by the surgery for a surgery 'branch' site is Burnham Waters.

The NHS doesn't have capital to build a GP surgery, the NHS relies on developers to build surgeries and lease them back to the NHS. Neither does the NHS have the capital funding to knock down an old building and rebuild a surgery e.g. knock down and rebuild on the Burnham Clinic site or the existing surgery site (even if the foundations allowed it). So, funding the build is always the issue.

Who could fund such a solution?

A question. Are there any rich benefactors around in Burnham who want to build a surgery or a satellite? Should our community set up a 'Go fund me page'?

The NHS constantly has to balance the value for money (VFM) vs longevity of buildings. A building usually needs to have at least 20 years use in them to be viable.

Endeavour Way site (David Wilson development) has been suggested by members of the public as a possible site. There has not been any discussion with the developer regarding including a Health centre in the development and no planning Approval for the development to our knowledge.

At this stage nothing is being pursued with regard to either site.

The Burnham Surgery lease with their current landlords has ended. The landlords may not agree to invest much in improving the building as no lease is in place and the future of the building uncertain.

Meanwhile, the landlords have appointed a caretaker to do minor repairs to help keep things going.

The general feeling from all sides at the moment is of being 'stuck'. The ICB are unable to move anything forward until there is a formal proposal received from the Surgery but the Surgery are unable to consider this until after their public engagement work, Burnham Waters appear to be not progressing to phase 2 of their developments until the Surgery position is clear, and the campaign group meeting with the ICB is also in the pipeline.

The Surgery's Position Statement has been called scaremongering. However, it is setting out the facts about what health services will be lost if larger premises aren't available to accommodate more GPs and the different professionals, support staff, technology, cabling and equipment required to run a modern GP practice and provide good primary care to Burnham's expanding population.

Additional questions included: - had the top end of the field at Ormiston Rivers school been considered? The surgery's option appraisal had looked at all realistic, potential sites in Burnham.

Bus services would only be reinstated both ways along the Maldon Rd, they would not feed down Endeavour Way. Sharon Stubbs, Business Manager for the practice clarified a few figures that were being banded around on social media: - A new build would cost an

estimated £1.3m - Upgrade 1.1m - Upgrade of Burnham Clinic 1.4m - Starting afresh, buying a piece of land, building a surgery, plus all the infrastructure would cost circa £5m

The NHS (ICB) would pay the annual lease and the Burnham surgery would be responsible for putting in place all the surgery equipment which the surgery estimates as costing c. £200k.

For noting, if in the event a new surgery in Burnham Waters was the agreed way forward, this would not be ready for 3 to 5 years, so a lot of 'making do' would be required for a long time.

It was noted that an application for planning permission for a new Southminster surgery has been approved by MDC. It will only accommodate Southminster surgery and perhaps a part of the Dengie Partnership practice. There is no room for the Burnham Surgery as well.

End.