

Members of Werrington Neighbourhood Council attended the 'Open Evening' on Wednesday night, 16th October, at the Church Street Surgery to hear the representatives from Boroughbury Medical along with the Werrington Skaters Way Practice present their case for relocating the Skaters Way surgery to Church Street and facilities available at Church street. There was a turn out from some of the Werrington Skaters Way patients etc, and some good questions raised.

In short there is appears to be little opportunity to save the Skaters Way GP side of the surgery as the building is life expired and needs substantial work to be undertaken on it to enable it to pass future inspections in regard to health and possible bacterial cross contamination, this being in addition to the poor state of the building fabric. They have previously approached the NHS, who we understand own the building, from whom the GPS lease their side, in order to get money spent on it to repair and improve and NHS have clearly said they do not have the money. We gained the feeling that had the improvements been made available then it is possible that we would not be having the same discussion, although there is strong desire to use the 6 vacant consulting rooms at Church street and we also understand that the rooms they rented at Skaters way were expensive.

They accept the fact that closing the GP side of the surgery leaves the North Werrington area with limited health care facilities which will inconvenience the patients etc and that road access to Church Street is far from ideal. Their ultimate goal would be to create a state of the art medical facility at some location servicing the area to the north of the A47 similar to that created by Boroughbury in Craig Street or the new facility in Hampton but that with the current NHS funding crisis this is unlikely to happen for the foreseeable funding, Craig Street took 12 years to get the go ahead.

We should all be lobbying our MP the raise this with the NHS and Government or perhaps suggesting that a new facility should be built on the previously proposed site of the Care facility.

In regard to specifics:

- The GP's currently rent or lease their side of Skaters Way surgery from the NHS
- Only the GP side of the Skaters Way Surgery will be relocating to Church Street i.e. the GP's and medical assistances etc. (the main Corridor as you go in)
- There will be no reduction in the number of GP's or medical team following the relocation and same service will be available.
- All of the other services which currently operate from Skaters Way, will as far as they know still remain there, but as they don't come under their control they could not say for certain.

- People will have the choice of attending either Church Street, Paston or Craig Street if the appointment location does not suit.
- Availability of home visits will not be changed.
- Currently they have 6 additional rooms available at Church Street to the 4 currently used, which are to be fitted out should the ICB give the go ahead to the relocation.
- Further alterations will be carried out to reception etc. at Church Street to accommodate the additional numbers
- The current lease for Church Street GPS side has circa 10 years more to run. Apparently the building is owned and managed by the Pharmacy not Boroughbury.
- On a separate matter, the Paston Surgery is also approaching the same state and will need to be looked at in the near future.
- The use of the pharmacy in Werrington Centre will still be down to Patients choice as they have no say in this matter, although a question from one of the attendees seemed to raise some confusion as if they had been consulted on it, they stated that the Practice Manager had advised them of the future plans. May be with potential falling user numbers the viability of the Pharmacy might be in doubt but with the increase in additional services offered and no GP surgery outside may be it might get more use.
- The question of parking was raised and it was stated that the existing Car park is to be replanned to increase the number of spaces to 60.
- Also raised was the issue of what happens if you're there for more than 1 hour, as you have to enter your registration number to secure 1 hour free parking once inside the centre. Assurance was given that if you are there for more than 1 hour, reception would override the control to increase the duration but needs to be agreed with the pharmacy would control that area as part of the overall Building ownership.
- The question was raised in regard to access for those with difficulties, who could currently get to Werrington centre but may find it challenging to get to Church street, apparently this was raised at the meeting with the councillors, who have said that they will look into if any changes could be made to the bus route.
- There currently isn't any indication of being able to undertake additional services i.e. minor surgery / treatments with the move to Church Street although having had a previous conversation with one of the Medical team, this is an aspiration but suspect will only occur at Craig Street

In regard to time scale they have stated that the likely date for transfer to Church Street, subject to ICB approval is likely to be April 2025, if by some chance the ICB say No then a new plan will have to be looked into of which they don't currently have a plan B. They also said that they don't have any plans to acquire or bring into the Boroughbury Medical group any further surgeries as this they consider would bring to many issues and make it unmanageable, they cited the failure of the Octagon Group a while back as being an example.