**Barnt Green Surgery Open Evening**

Dr Andrew Peacock introduced himself and thanked everyone for coming. He explained that we were somewhat overwhelmed by the response and hence the move to hold the meeting at the cricket club. Approximately 75 patients attended and apologies were given that we could not accommodate more

**Introduction**

 The aim of the meeting was relatively simple. We wanted to introduce ourselves and hopefully reassure you that the service at Barnt Green Surgery will continue unchanged for the most part.

Clearly the noticeable changes have been in personnel. Dr Taylor and Dr Jones leaving has been a significant step for the surgery and I’m sure for all their patients. They were both excellent doctors and leaders of our team. However the transition has been planned to the finest detail and we are very lucky in the current climate to have recruited what I feel to be an excellent, young and dynamic partnership. We should remember that at one stage both Dr Taylor and Dr Jones were no older than we three are while working at Barnt Green. As young as I might look I can promise you that I do have my GCSE’s and am a fully qualified GP.

**Partnership introduction**

Having been at the surgery for 3 years it falls on me to introduce the rest of the team. The partnership consists of myself, Dr Sarah King and Dr Jeremy Clarkson. Dr Jane Robertson remains as a salaried Dr and Dr Karen Baker has returned from maternity leave as a salaried Dr.

Each partner then gave a brief resume of their career to date and this will be posted on the practice website shortly.

Both nationally and locally recruitment for GP surgeries has been very difficult. Many qualified Gp’s are choosing to avoid the commitment of partnership and long term contracts in favour of locuming. This has left many practices unable to fill posts. Fortunately for us, Barnt Green’s reputation has given us plenty of applicants to choose from and we are happy we have not only the best Doctors but also the right fit for Barnt Green.

So the final handover to the three of us took place at the end of September. Prior to this date I had been a partner with Dr Taylor for 2 years and Dr King joined the partnership in May 2016 having worked as a salaried Dr before that. Dr Taylor had in fact dropped to part time in the 3 months prior to retiring to take a back seat so to speak. All of which has led to us feeling appropriately prepared for our current roles.

**The Practice going forward**

Fundamentally we hope to change as little as possible at the surgery for our employees and most importantly our patients. We can all appreciate the excellent work that has been done before us and the outside feedback we get is that Barnt Green is an excellent surgery.

As a team we have some core aims for the surgery that remain unchanged. We hope to provide a timely and convenient service for patients. We hear too often patients elsewhere in the country having to wait 3-4 weeks for a routine appointment and whilst our waits might vary with supply and demand we will strive to keep them as short as possible. Secondly we hope to continue to provide an excellent clinical service. This relies on having great staff working in a content, friendly and supportive environment.

Some things, however, are changing. We cannot escape the fact that the NHS is in crisis. Our funding as a practice is in the midst of being cut by £40k year on year for 5 years. The funding for the NHS as a proportion of GDP is being cut and the Health and Care teams that are essential support to the work we do are having their funding slashed too. So all in all things are pretty tight.

The upshot is that we are being encouraged to work differently. As a partnership we already feel the surgery is run well to provide an efficient and effective spend of tax payers’ money. However, we are increasingly being “encouraged” to work in collaboration with other surgeries. As a team we are open to new ways of working as long as we feel it will add to our patients’ care and experience not detract from it. You will see some flyers around the room that give a good summary of the state of play regarding primary care. (Attached)

Having said all that, it’s not all doom and gloom in the NHS. We are keen to develop the practice over the coming years. We have recently become a research practice affiliated with the Midlands Research institute and hope in the coming years to become a teaching practice.

As a surgery we are at capacity for the building with around 7000 patients and have no room for more doctors or nurses. Therefore, at some point in the next few years a new site will be needed. Planning for this will be detailed and inclusive as we hope to create a primary care centre for Barnt Green that will go above and beyond what would be expected of a normal good GP surgery.

We’d like to welcome any questions specifically regarding the surgery’s future rather than personal matters and will be around to talk for a while if people would rather. There is also a suggestions box if people would like to leave some feedback on the night and the surgery’s future.