

## **DODDINGTON PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

### **Report of the Committee Meeting held 5 March 2009 At the Doddington Medical Centre**

There still being no new Chairman, former Chairman Tony Ostermeyer again chaired the meeting as Acting Chair and circulated an agenda.

Those present were nine committee members, seven patient members, Dr Hambling, Dr Nagadev, and Practice Manager Mrs Lib Welcher. No apologies. The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed with no matters arising except for those on the following agenda. As there were no chairman or secretary there were no reports.

**Treasurer's report:** A statement of the accounts, which showed we had an overall total of £4,220 held in the Current and Savings Bank Accounts, and petty cash, was presented to the meeting.

**Replacement Chair and Secretary.** An appeal around those present to stand for these offices again proved negative. After some discussion, Tony Ostermeyer agreed to resume the appointment as Chairman for the year, for which the voting was unanimous. Tony said it is vital for the continuing success of the PPG that a Secretary is found in the near future; he asked that everyone do all they can to help find a suitable person for the position of secretary. If anyone is interested in helping in this, or any other way, please telephone 01354 741585.

**Dr Hambling** spoke of negotiations still in progress with the Cambridgeshire PCT towards agreement on the proposed two-year GP-led practice at Doddington Medical Centre. He also reported that the PCT are still to begin with the previously agreed much needed refurbishment work to the premises. A return of a Health Visitor for the practice is due to start on 9 March.

**Doddington Hospital:** Tony brought to the attention of the meeting the recent articles in the local papers regarding the status of the Icen Ward, extended facilities at the Hospital, and the sudden closure of the Russet Day Hospital. He had written a supporting letter on behalf of the PPG to the Fenland *Citizen* campaign, and he urged everyone to write individual letters to MPs, press, and the PCT, to bring pressure to bear on achieving the improvements already recommended in the Professor Alberti report of the public discussion meetings held last autumn.

**Fundraising: Quiz Night 2 May.** Following the decision at the last meeting Angela Whittaker and Tony Ostermeyer had investigated the Methodist Chapel Hall and the Village Hall. The Chapel was considered too small, and Tony said he had negotiated hiring the Doddington Village Hall for charity rate. The hall is licensed to hold up to 240 people. However, there are a total of 42 tables so we could have 168 persons in teams of 4 per table. A ticket price of £6 per person had been agreed at the last meeting.

Easter Draw. Doreen Lenton is going ahead with arrangements for an Easter Draw for each surgery.

**PRO:** Newsletter. Information leaflets printed on bright yellow paper had been produced and were available in the surgery. They had been well received and were going well. Members took copies away for further circulation and placing in shops etc. Tony circulated copies of draft ideas he had been working on as the PRO for an official Newsletter. He will work on costing, and a simple but attractive design.

**Any Other Business:** Tony read out a list of equipment required by the surgery he had received from the Practice Manager since the last meeting. The list had been circulated already to committee members via email. The total cost of approximately £2,130 including VAT was agreed. The practice will purchase the items, hopefully at discounted prices, and these will be funded by the PPG. Dr Hambling said he thought the items should remain the property of the PPG and labels for them to this effect would be required.

A Water Cooler for the waiting areas was suggested but this had already been turned down in 2007 due to high servicing cost involved. It was thought to be too big a drain on our cash resources.

Tony had received a suggestion from a patient that we consider applying for Charity Status to assist us with our fundraising effort. The founding committee had discussed this when planning the PPG prior to its establishment in October 2007; it was decided at that time to defer such action due to the uncertainties for the future. It was agreed that now might be a good time to review this and Tony set up a working sub committee of himself, together with Vice Chair Alan Mayern and Danny Morrissey to handle the matter.

**The date for the next meeting was set for Thursday 7 May 2009.**