

BILLINGSHURST SURGERY UPDATE

30 March 2016

Dear Patients

An update on progress (or rather the lack of it) with our building works:

As you will have seen from the details in the waiting room and on our website, we have had plans in place to refurbish the practice and increase our clinical space by 40% for over three years now. After a great deal of negotiation with the PCT then NHS England, these plans were given 'agreement in principle' by the latter in March 2015 with the full support of our Clinical Commissioning Group, Coastal West Sussex. We are therefore at a loss, and it appears so are the powers that be, as to why a year later we are no further forward. Indeed, with responsibility for premises now having been delegated to our CCG, we are back to square one and have had to resubmit a revised funding bid against new criteria. Despite previous agreement, we have no idea whether this bid, with the goal posts having been moved considerably, will be successful.

We are very much aware of the frustrations of both our patients and staff in coping with the current demand for appointments. So the BIG question is how do we cope with ever increasing patient numbers and patient demand with 500+ new homes still to be built? Unfortunately, in the absence of approval for expanding the practice, we may need to look at closing our patient list and/or shrinking our catchment area, potentially asking those patients that fall outside of this to register with another surgery. However, this goes completely against our intention to expand the practice and the primary care services available to our patients in their locality. We are therefore asking for your support in lobbying both our CCG and NHS England to honour their year old commitment to these plans and the development of primary care for Billingshurst.

Please write, email or phone your support to:

Coastal West Sussex CCG, 1 The Causeway, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6BT

Email: contactus.coastal@nhs.net

Tel: 01903 708400

NHS England South East, York House, 18-20 Massetts Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 7DE

Email: england.southeast@nhs.net

Tel: 0300 311 2233