

## PPG Chairman's Report

The PPG Year started on 12 May 2016 with a completely new team of Officers, the three previous incumbents having resigned.

On commencement, the Practice responded positively to our request for allocating more web space to the PPG and provided our own page within the Greensands Website.

Our first major task, apart from gelling as a team was the Walk and Talk Awareness week on the 11<sup>th</sup> June at the Eco Hub in Gamlingay. With invited guests having a guided walk around Millbridge Brook Meadows, finishing with tea and cakes, prepared by PPG members, combined with a friendly chat. Earlier in the week, members met with patients in both surgeries and engaged with them for feedback on views of the Surgery and its performance. A detailed three page report was submitted to the Practice in respect of items raised, being both numerous and variable in content.

Our next major assignment was in support of the annual flu clinic supporting the nurses and throughput control of patients. Added to this was the gathering of Patient data for Practice records.

Lessons were learned from this experience, which demonstrated for the future, a much needed earlier lead in time for publicising the clinics. Greater use of technology is a must for this year, as well as support by press and local magazines.

There have been six PPG meetings during the year and the published minutes on our website page show the wide range of covered topics. The number of active committee members has remained constant and attendance has averaged 80% of active members.

There has been input on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan relating to the inception of a closer relationship in health and care in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK). This involves 12 NHS organisations and four local Councils working together. Up to date information can be found on [www.blmkstp.co.uk](http://www.blmkstp.co.uk).

The blmk area covers almost 1 million people and Primary Care is delivered through 110 GP Practices. 65% of all clinical staff is employed in the three hospitals.

The challenge faced is the imbalance in the way the current healthcare system is set up. I suspect this means change over the next 2/3 years for some rural GP Surgeries.

Members of the PPG have been very active investigating in depth, car schemes that operate in The Practice's area; with a view of making it easier for patients to get to medical appointments at both surgeries and also local hospitals. All this endeavour will result in the publication of a comprehensive Pamphlet and will be made available by the end of the month.

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The PPG also engaged with the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan, by way of submitting on the 23 August 2016 a three page response, in tandem with, but separate from, that of the Gamlingay Surgery.

Finally I would like to thank all members for their ongoing enthusiastic support throughout the year and also my two fellow Officers for their unadulterated and undiluted effort throughout the same period.

Ken White,  
Chair, Greensands PPG  
May 2017