

## **Note of the Halling Riverside PPG Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 @18:30**

**Present:** Philip Badman, Joy Oliver, Nikki King, Terry Dolby, Alison Dyer, Nigel Dyer, Barry Barnes, Maggie Punt, Gill Morton, Kim Stoner, Mathew Dale, Dr Malladi

**Apologies:** Jim and Margaret Sutherland, Judith Northwood Boorman, Maria Cook

Dr Malladi reported to the meeting.

The surgery has been progressing with business as usual whilst being open for Covid booster vaccinations on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The surgery was able to offer vaccinations having gained NHS approval for this. It was enabled by the fact that the Pfizer vaccination now is delivered in phials of 90 doses that can now be kept in a normal fridge. It is possible to use the waiting room for the required 15 minute post-vaccination wait time required by the NHS.

The village has appreciated the fact that people do not have to travel to get their booster vaccination – especially the older patients (85% of whom have been boosted).

All the staff running the vaccination centre and injecting were external staff – the surgery did not suffer a staff shortage.

Now the government has requested that the vaccination centres increase the numbers being vaccinated, it is the intention that Riverside open for vaccinations on the afternoons of Tuesdays through Fridays. The NHS take this new variant, Omicron, very seriously so much so that Chris Whitty himself, along with the top two NHS executives, presented a live webinar to GPs earlier today. The message put across was that more jabs are required to be administered per day.

When the booster vaccination centre is operational on a Tuesday and a Thursday, patients with other ailments will be triaged via a phone consultation and not actually invited to attend in person at the surgery at that time. This means that the surgery should not be impacted and should be able to continue as it has been doing. It is an NHS directive that phone consultations and triaging continues.

Dr Malladi will be at the vaccination centre in the surgery this coming Sunday when the vaccination centre will be opening. Currently the 40 to 50 year old cohort of patients are being injected and it is expected that many of these, being quite mobile, may use vaccination centres elsewhere taking some of the pressure off of Riverside.

The waiting room extension plan has been approved and builders will start work there in early January. It has been necessary to arrange that an archaeological survey is done as the digging of the foundations progress. If any artifacts are discovered this could shelve the waiting room extension for a long period.

It was suggested that the window from the reception to the front is used to dispense prescribed medicines to help the queue length outside the surgery where patients with appointments are often held up by those collecting medicines. Dr Malladi will investigate if this is a possibility.

It was asked what the best way is to prove that one has been fully vaccinated. Kim replied saying best to call NHS on 119. They will post a proof of vaccination document. It was thought that there is no officially certified way of proving a lateral flow test result.

Philip noted that there are no PPG representatives from Cuxton. It is not for want of trying but no one there seems to want to be involved. Philip suggested that we ask for a note to be put in the Cuxton Parish Council Newsletter asking for interested people to join us. Mathew will follow this up.

Philip also drew attention to the fact that it is very difficult to log out of the Patient Access app. He has opened a query with the app's helpdesk to see how the app can be safely closed down,

The surgery greatly appreciates all the help volunteered by patients to help with the booster vaccination centre.