

The quarterly patients' general meeting was held on 30th November with the main agenda item being a question and answer session regarding future plans for the practice. Dr Nally was extremely forthcoming about her and Dr Takhar's thinking on what might be the right way to take the practice forward – there are several options under consideration - staying within the Peterborough and surrounding area network, joining the super practice now operating at Lakeside Corby, or for the moment remaining as they are until the best outcome becomes clearer. There were obviously concerns expressed about how and where primary care would be delivered, but she was adamant that patients would not be affected by any future changes and would continue to access secondary care at both Peterborough and Stamford hospitals. She also stressed the possible advantages which could evolve from the practice joining forces with other organisations. It would appear that no firm decision will be made until the middle of next year but in the meantime Drs Takhar and Nally greatly value patient feedback and would welcome any comments and views you may have.

Other matters discussed included the voluntary transport scheme which unfortunately has now come to the 'end of the road'. Lack of drivers, the necessity for DBS checks, the organisational workload placed on surgery reception staff, as well as burdening the small number of available drivers with numerous requests, has prompted this decision. After many years operation it is a sad but inevitable course of action. However it is hoped that patients will benefit from extended surgery opening hours and the ability to have appointments at other practices at times when they can organise transport with family or friends.

The PPG have agreed to fund the purchase of an INR machine for use both in the surgery but mainly for district nurses to take out to housebound patients to monitor their blood levels in respect of administering warfarin medication.

The next general patients' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 1.0pm – at Wansford Surgery – in line with our usual winter programme we are holding this meeting during the daytime to allow older patients to attend who may not like to venture out at night. We hope to organise a guest speaker – details will be announced at a later date.

There is no social group coffee morning in January – these will commence again in February. The group will be holding their post-Xmas lunch on Friday 13th January at Yarwell Village Hall – places have already been booked but if you require further information please contact Clare Wagstaffe 01780 470437 / superfoguk@aol.com

Wendy Spencer

(441 words)