

LONG STRATTON MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP

Swan Lane Surgery, Swan Lane, Tharston, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 2UY

Email: lsmp.d82037@nhs.net

Tel: 01508 530781

Mrs Julie King
22 Henry Preston Road,
Tasburgh,
Norwich,
NR15 1NU

Date: 27.01.2022

Dear Mrs King

I am writing in response to your letter dated 25th January 2022 which talks about the recent market research programme undertaken by the Parish Council.

We totally understand the desire expressed by 23 respondents who wish to see the Newton Flotman Surgery open more / full time and, we actually share this desire with the respondents.

The issue that we are faced with is one of workforce shortage, and consistent funding cuts and restrictions that have taken place over recent years.

We have had a GP vacancy that we have been trying to fill now for the last 15 months to no avail, and we also have an Advanced Nurse Practitioner Vacancy that has been consistently out to advert for the last 9 months. We are having to use locums in both positions which is an expensive, but flexible way of plugging the gaps and trying to provide capacity at Long Stratton.

I am sure you are aware that GP Practices are primarily funded through the General Medical Services contract with the NHS whereby we receive circa £90 per patient per year to provide our core medical services.

Until the population starts to expand with the housing being promised – we will not see any significant increase in our core funding. The 31 houses being built at Newton will bring an additional 100 people into the village (roughly 3 per house) and at £90 per head it will give us an annual increase of £9000.



Drs Nelson, Prabhu, Loughridge, Saint & Douglass
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The cost of putting 1 receptionist and 1 dispenser into the Newton Practice for 2 x 10 hour days would cost the Practice:-

£10 / Hour x 10 hours x 2 days x 2 people x 52 weeks = £20,800 –

and this is only for the admin support without even thinking about the nursing / GP costs. The figures used are indicative just to give a rough estimate and do not include other “on costs” such as pension and NI contributions so the “real cost” to the Practice would be closer to £30,000

We are in negotiations as we speak with our landlords at Long Stratton, looking to expand the building here in line with the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Development Plan and, as the housing development starts to bring in new patients for us – we will then be looking at options such as expanding the service offer at Newton – because we will, by then, NEED to be operating for longer.

As I mentioned at the start of this response – the easy bit is physically building an extension, expanding the car parking, and opening Newton for longer. The hard bit is getting hold of the trained clinical staff to make effective use of the rooms that are then available for us – and this is the crux of the problem in the NHS at the moment.

Yes, there are a lot of trainee nurses and GP’s going through the system – but the NHS is “haemorrhaging” long serving, experienced staff that cannot be replaced!

I hope that you can see from this response – we are not averse to extending the Newton service, and we are always considering ways in which to improve capacity but, at this moment in time it is not economically nor physically possible to do so.

Please, if you wish to discuss this any further – don’t hesitate to get in touch

Yours sincerely

Keith Burnett
Practice Manager



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