



## SPECIAL EDITION

### The Future of Emsworth Surgery

You may or may not be aware that the surgery has been looking to locate to a different site for many years. You also may have been hearing locally that the Practice is considering its options.

We are continually forward planning to try to both further improve services for our 13,000 patients and to build for a long-term sustainable future at a time of great uncertainty for many GP Practices nationwide.

It is well known that we have spent considerable time exploring the potential of the Practice moving to Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital, a vacant site very close to ours near the town centre which would require extensive renovation.

However, we would like to share with you that we have recently also been exploring an alternative new option – building a new Practice on available land at Redlands Grange in Emsworth.

This offers hugely exciting potential for us to develop a surgery, services and new facilities which can better meet the demands and expectations that our patients rightfully demand and expect.

A major factor in our thinking is all the new homes planned for the area north of Emsworth and the many new patients we will need to plan for in the future.

We are currently talking to both Havant Borough Council and the site developer about this option but there are a number of steps we would need to take before we can ever get close to submitting a business case to NHS South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group for approval.

We are also committed to seeking the views of our existing patients, particularly with regard to what aspects of the existing building and services they most want retained and what else they would like to see in a new surgery, wherever that might be.

Enclosed are some frequently asked questions and answers for your information which we will continue to update. We will be producing a survey shortly to seek your views but if you have any suggestions or comments in the meantime then please put these in writing and drop into the Suggestions Box on reception or email us on [sehccg.emsworthsurgery@nhs.net](mailto:sehccg.emsworthsurgery@nhs.net) We may not be able to respond to every comment but all comments will be taken into consideration.

Many thanks.

Dr Andrew Slingsby, Senior Partner

# Emsworth Surgery – we’re seeking a new ‘home’

Emsworth Surgery is looking to relocate to a different site to ensure that we can provide modern, fit-for-purpose health facilities in the heart of the community we serve and can offer you, our patients, the best possible services.

You are probably aware that for some time now we have been exploring the possibility of making the short move to the site of the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital but we are now looking at an alternative and preferred option – on land available at Redlands Grange.

We know that some of you may have questions about this so we have tried to answer what we think may be the most frequently asked questions below. We hope you find this useful.

## 1) Why are you looking to relocate the Surgery?

We have 13,000 patients and are fast out-growing the site which allows us no room to expand our services or little scope to improve them within the existing constraints of a building which was not designed for 21<sup>st</sup> century health provision.

## 2) Why can't you stay on the existing site?

As you are no doubt aware, there has never been greater pressure on Primary Care services and we strongly feel that we need a new site to ensure the long-term sustainability of maintaining our services to you. We need a new larger site to help achieve this and a site that would allow us to develop the kind of services that we know you want from us.

## 3) What are the current options?

Leaving aside the option of ‘doing nothing’ which we don’t see as an option at all, the only two options currently on the table are the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site or our new preferred option of moving to new land at Redlands Grange, which is 1.2 miles away.

## 4) Why are you moving away from the idea of moving to the Victoria Cottage Hospital site?

The hospital would require extensive and expensive renovation. A new site would give us much more scope to plan, develop and expand our Primary Care services. It would also hopefully help us attract in future other health clinicians to come to Emsworth at a time when doctor and nurse recruitment has never been tougher. It may cost more for a new build than for a refurbishment but surely this is a price worth paying to improve our services to you.

## 5) What are the advantages of Redlands Grange when the site is 1.5 miles away?

This site will provide the Surgery with the flexibility we need to meet the demands of Emsworth’s growing population over the medium to longer term in ways which the Victoria Cottage Hospital site could never accommodate.

## 6) What will you provide on a new site that you don't/can't do here?

We will build a purpose built 900sq/m brand new modern health centre, almost tripling our space and have room to deliver increased appointments and improve capacity.

## 7) Has the final decision already been taken? If it has, when will this happen?

No final decision has been made. These are early days but we wanted to inform you about what was happening behind the scenes. We are still in talks with both Havant Borough Council and the site developer. Even if agreement can be reached in principle we would then have to put a Business Case forward for consideration to NHS South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

### **8) If a final decision hasn't been taken, what can we do, as your patients, to have our voices heard?**

We are planning a survey of existing patients to seek your view on what a new Surgery could look like and the kind of facilities you would like to see included. This would include features about our existing services that you would like to see retained AND the opportunity for you to tell us about services you want that we don't currently provide. We are very excited about involving you all in our future plans and getting your views.

### **9) Won't it be extremely difficult for some patients, especially the frail and elderly who live near the current site, to get to Redlands Grange?**

We do understand and appreciate that relocation away from the town centre will make life more difficult for some patients, especially vulnerable patients. Equally, there will be some patients whose travelling times will be reduced. The new site will also provide us with the much needed ability to provide on-site car parking spaces for patients and 'dropping-off' facilities too.

### **10) Why are you putting the needs of potential new patients in new homes ahead of the concerns of existing patients who would prefer you to stay in this area?**

We are not seeking to disadvantage any patients but we know a move will inconvenience some of you and we sincerely apologise for this. But we have to plan ahead for the expansion in numbers of people in the area resulting from the new residential developments. A move to Redlands Grange will put us at the heart of the new community whilst still being able to serve our current population now. We see this scheme as a 'long term gain' for Emsworth but we do acknowledge that it may come as a 'short-term cost' for some of you.

It should be noted that we have carefully reviewed where our existing 13,000 patients live and approximately 8,500 of our current patients live North of the railway line or as far to the West as Hambrook and as far to the East as Havant and are not within walking distance of the existing Emsworth Surgery. We actually have many patients living beyond our current Practice boundary as far North as Compton and Stoughton. Out of these 8,500 patients, 14% are aged 75+ and 86 live in care homes.

### **11) What happens next?**

See the answer to question 7. There is still much talking to be done and agreement in principle to be reached with the local authority, the local community, other stakeholders and the local NHS (the CCG) and we would need to draw up a viable Business Case and any proposed development would need Planning Permission.

### **12) How will we find out about future developments?**

We promise to keep you informed. We will do this via the Patient Participation Group, the News section of our website and our quarterly Practice Newsletters. We will also update this QA which will also be available on our website.

### **13) What will happen to the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital?**

Future plans for EVCH are a matter for the owners, NHS Property Services, as well as South Eastern Hampshire CCG and Havant Borough Council. The doctors of Emsworth Surgery have no influence on the future of the hospital but would support its use as a community asset consistent with its historic use.

### **14) What will happen to the Westbourne Branch Surgery?**

If the Practice moves to the Redlands Grange site, because of the close proximity – there is just 0.4 miles between the sites - the Westbourne branch surgery would close. You will be aware that we don't have registered patients at Westbourne; it is an alternative site to offer choice to patients.

There will obviously be many advantages to us as a practice in providing services from one site only – benefits which would be directly felt by you as our patients too. Having all our staff and administration in one place will mean that we would not have to cover two sites and it would save us costs on maintaining and running two old buildings. This will again give us greater sustainability moving forward for our long-term future and commitment to Emsworth and give us even more flexibility in terms of the services we might be able to offer you at Redlands.

### 15) Will staff be affected by the Westbourne closure?

No. Our staffing levels won't change, as both healthcare professionals and administrative staff worked at Westbourne on a rota system.

Thank you.

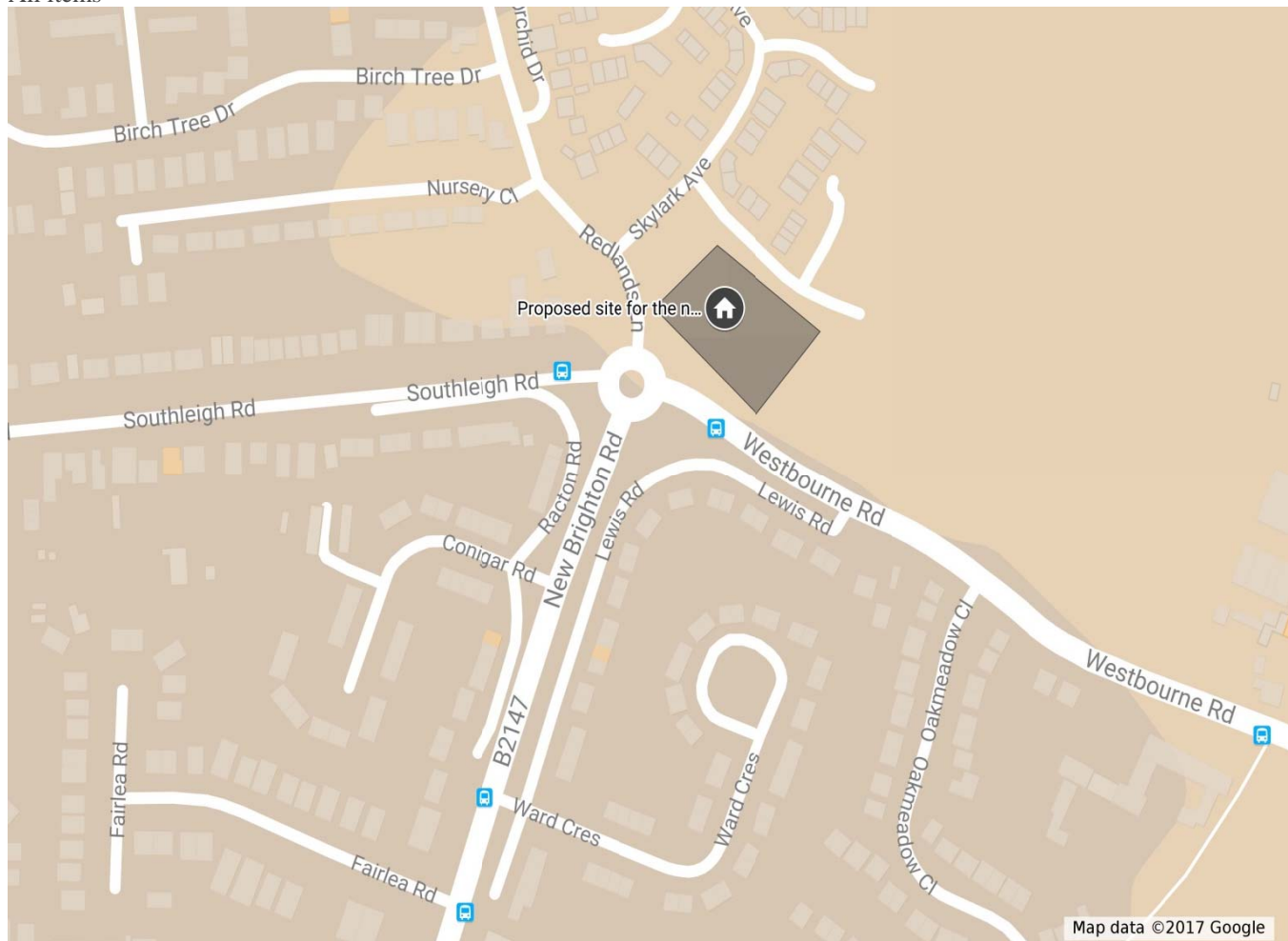
**Dr Abu Chinwala, GP Partner, Emsworth Surgery**

### Proposed site for the new Surgery

Redlands Grange site



All items



Please find attached an updated Quack and FAQs regarding the future of Emsworth

Many thanks.

Emsworth Surgery

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