

# Brailsford & Hulland Medical Practice

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A list of Partners, GPs and the Practice Manager can be found at

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The Brailsford GP Practice welcomes and supports the Consultation Draft Neighbourhood Plan, and also acknowledges and thanks those who have evidently committed a lot of time and professionalism to its production.

Before giving our views we would like to point out a terminology correction requirement in the plan. Page 13, Village Amenities refers to the village having a GP surgery and pharmacy. We have in fact a 'dispensary' within our GP surgery. We employ a number of dispensers, not a pharmacist, so we are unable to sell any medical or other retail products (avoiding risk of competition with the local shops, and keeping all our building within the core use of NHS services).

Our views and thoughts on the proposed plan represent the partnership's view, not any individuals employed by the practice, many of whom live in the area and may wish to contribute in their own right.

As a rural General Practice we are committed to maintain, and provide excellent, local primary care services for all registered patients within our practice area, which includes the entirety of the Brailsford and Ednaston local area plan.

Whilst declaring our obvious interest, the Practice wonders whether Priority 8 (p 31) might make a specific reference to our medical centre as a village service? Threats to General Practice can be varied and hard to predict, but maintaining a local practice in the Brailsford locality is an absolute priority for ourselves as recently appointed Partners in Brailsford and Hulland Ward Medical Practice. We value the support offered to us by many members of the local community both as employees, patients, Patient Participation Group members and inclusion in village communications.

Reference to the medical services as a specific village service would help to confirm the ongoing support and commitment to having a practice within the village boundary. It would seem consistent with the following paragraph's inclusion of NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in taking forward the Plan's various stated priorities.

Bullet points in the paragraph after that (still on page 31) supports the principle of *ensuring a healthy society*. Plainly, and rightly, this is intended in the wider sense of facilitating healthy living but having primary health care available in the heart of the village is an important component.

The Policy Area 2: Traffic Management and Accessibility includes a Parish Concern (page 37) regarding vehicular traffic and overspill car parking associated with the surgery. Pausing only to make the obvious observation that the central location does obviate the need for patients to travel longer distances, and indeed enables some to arrive on foot, nonetheless the concern has to be acknowledged.

Policy Area 5: *Community Wellbeing – Provision of Local Facilities and Amenities*, returns to this issue:

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## GP Surgery

The GP surgery and Pharmacy\* is also well used and was considered to be one of the top NPV17119 59 three assets in the Parish. As it serves a wide rural area with limited public transport, many patients arrive by car. While in the public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan the Practice indicated that it could accept additional patients, and has made some operational changes in the premises which help to increase capacity, it has limited room for further expansion on its current site and for parking. The lack of parking leads to on street parking on The Green creating a traffic safety hazard, blocking house entrances, and causing congestion and reduced visibility at the junction with A52. Some monies for improvement have been made available from earlier development at Luke Lane and advice has been sought from the Southern Derbyshire CCG on their model for funding to enable services to be provided to new developments.

\*as advised in our 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph we politely request this reference to pharmacy is corrected to dispensary prior to final publication.

I can confirm that the Practice has, as indicated, taken steps to increase our capacity to serve additional patients (in line with housing growth) but the location and physical limitations of our site severely constrains any steps to improve vehicular access and parking.

We would support increasing access to community parking provision such as that well utilised at the Brailsford Institute. We note there is an off road footpath which links the Institute's car park and the end of The Green near our practice.

We encourage our staff to park at the Institute and walk to work when able, but during the autumn and winter months the footpath is across muddy inaccessible fields, so limits the practical implementation of this policy. Walking along the A52 pavement between the institute and our practice, a member of our team had a (fortunately) minor injury sustained when a car ran over her foot. We note the pavement is narrow in several places which must limit access to wheelchair users and for pushchairs.

In the short to medium term, if a tarmac surface could be provided along the off road footpath which runs nearly parallel to the A52, this would improve pedestrian access to the practice for our staff and patients, with subsequent reduction in vehicles parking near or on the Green.

Looking at the longer term, we are a young and growing partnership who are fully committed to providing excellent healthcare for the local population both now and in the future.

We would be willing to consider suitable proposals for relocation to a new build, multipurpose medical centre with better allocated internal space and well planned pedestrian and public transport access, whilst maintaining a village location. We would be willing to discuss with local stakeholders and developers moving into a more multipurpose building to meet the local population health needs (not just medical care) – such as incorporating indoor exercise gym, library, a children's play facility and community hub. These would provide much needed local employment opportunities especially for younger members of our community, and help confirm Brailsford Medical Centre's role as being at the 'heart of the village life'.