

North Ferriby Parish Council

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North Ferriby Playing Field Trustees – Charity No. 523280
North Ferriby Village Hall Custodian Trustee – Charity No. 223908

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sent by email to: keith.paterson1@nhs.net

16 August 2021

Re: B81010 North Ferriby Consultation - Branch Closure

Dear Mr Paterson,

With reference to the proposal to close the surgery at North Ferriby and in particular to the application dated 25th June from the Hessle Grange Medical Practice and its appendices, North Ferriby Parish Council makes the following observations:-

Consultation

The Hessle Grange Medical Practice consulted with all patients in North Ferriby affected by this change by letter and SMS messages only upon the insistence of better consultation by local councillors. However the Parish Council is disappointed that less than two weeks was given for consultation responses to be returned during a period of national lockdown.

No information has been given in the application of 25th June as to what information was included in that letter or what questions were asked. No details are known in respect of the range of the population surveyed or the percentage of that range that responded. From the information provided in the appendices there appear to have been 28 written responses by letter. No information has been provided regarding the number and content of the SMS messages sent and received. The Parish Council does not know the number of patients surveyed but it is reasonable to speculate that the responses are only a small percentage of the overall patient number. If that is correct then the return is too small to draw a meaningful conclusion. Even so out of the 28 letter responses 18 patients were not in favour of closure.

The Parish Council is also disappointed that, in spite of your having received the application for closure in June, you have chosen not to consult with stakeholders until the start of the main holiday period and with responses required by 20th August.

Patient Participation Group

The Practice consulted with its Patient Participation Group which is in favour of closure. We request- a copy of the minutes of the relevant meeting that dealt with this matter. The Parish Council notes that no minutes of Patient Participation Group meetings are available on the practice website after the January 2021 AGM.

Doctor Holmes Survey

The survey concluded that between 10.02.2020 and 10.02.2021, 71% of patients living within one mile of the North Ferriby surgery attended the Hessle surgery. This raises the issue of the remaining 29% of patients and how they coped. The concern is that they have not had the access they require with the consequences that treatment has been delayed resulting ultimately in an increase in demand on NHS

resources as well as an effect on their health. It is also suspected that if asked, the majority of the 71% of patients who did attend the Hessle surgery would have preferred to have been seen at North Ferriby.

Doctor Holmes suspects (no supporting evidence submitted) that patients are aware that a GP is now a part of a clinical team and does not operate in isolation. Whilst he employs a nurse and a receptionist, Dr Mitchell at North Ferriby has operated a successful practice in isolation for many years, which rather rebuts this point and the similar point made in the letter of the 25th June.

It is a probability that the needs of the majority of patients visiting a GP with minor ailments are dealt with completely by a visit to the surgery. It is recognised that the GP acts as a gateway to the whole range of NHS services and it is accepted that for conditions requiring further exploration it would be necessary to attend a more specialist provision. The location of the initial consultation is irrelevant in terms of the service provided but it is highly relevant to the patient.

Patient Attendance Numbers

The response contained in the letter of 25th June highlights the low number of patients seen at the surgery since 2015. This is a consequence of the lack of resources applied to the practice. It has been apparent to the Parish Council that, since its inception there has been a lack of support from the Hessle practice for the surgery at North Ferriby. If the availability is reduced then demand will fall as a natural consequence. A self-fulfilling prophecy.

Lease with North Ferriby Village Hall

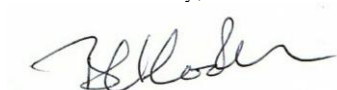
The letter states that the lease expired in September 2020. However, the Parish Council understands that the practice has not given notice of its intention to vacate the premises and that the Village Hall Management Committee has not asked the practice to leave. The Parish Council also understands that the practice continues to pay the rent and that it is still using the premises for administration purposes. The issue of the term of the lease or of the willingness of the Village Hall to extend it beyond the original ten year period is not therefore relevant to the discussion and should not be seen as a blockage to the practice remaining at the Hall.

New Development in North Ferriby

Demand for a local G.P. service is due to increase in North Ferriby with the building of approximately 140 new houses in the village in accordance with the revised ERYC Local Plan.

In conclusion, North Ferriby Parish Council considers that the evidence to support the closure of the surgery at North Ferriby is inconclusive, does not address the ability of elderly and frail to get to Hessle, and therefore requests that the surgery remains in operation.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Belinda Hookem
Chairman of North Ferriby Parish Council
For and on behalf of North Ferriby Parish Council

cc: John Skidmore
Cllr V Walker
Cllr J Abraham