

Three options for the future of Emsworth Surgery

The number of options being considered for the future of Emsworth Surgery has been whittled down from nine to three, following a workshop attended by community representatives.

GPs at Emsworth want to relocate to a new site to provide the best possible services for their patients, ensure the long-term sustainability of their practice and to help meet the health needs of a growing population.

Following a period of public engagement over a long list of nine ideas, and a workshop earlier this week, three options now remain in the running. They are:

- 1) Relocating the surgery a stone's throw away to a refurbished Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site and possibly retaining a branch practice at Westbourne, subject to affordability
- 2) Moving the surgery to a new replacement building on the site of the Victoria Cottage Hospital. The existing buildings would be demolished. The Westbourne site may possibly be retained, subject to affordability
- 3) Relocating to a new building at Redlands Grange. The existing Emsworth and Westbourne surgeries would be sold.

Residents are again going to be asked their views on the remaining options.

More than 400 people attended public drop-in sessions at Westbourne and Emsworth earlier this month and more than 550 people completed a survey asking which of the long list of nine options were best for them and their families.

Feedback from the survey was presented to an 'options workshop' attended last Monday at the Baptist church in Emsworth by a range of community representatives and interested groups.

Dr Abu Chinwala, a GP at Emsworth, said: "We really appreciate all the feedback we have received from patients and residents to date. We fed back results from the recent survey to the workshop, so that people's views and concerns could be taken into consideration in helping us reduce the list of potential options from nine to three."

Sara Tiller, Managing Director of NHS South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We would like to thank everyone who attended the two drop-in events and took part in our survey.

"The survey findings are now available for people to see on our website.

"We know this is such an important issue for local people, so we are now giving them a further chance to make their views known in another survey. We feel it right to have a new survey, as the situation has now changed as a result of the options appraisals workshop, which was attended by community representatives.

"We are inviting people to comment through a new survey by so that this latest feedback can help inform the decision-making process.

“The three preferred options now need to be fully costed and financially appraised, which we will do through a further workshop with community representatives. The report on Emsworth Surgery’s preferred option must be submitted to NHS England by December 21 to release the necessary capital funding, so the timescales remain tight.”

Feedback from the previous survey is now available on the NHS South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group website

<https://www.southeasternhampshireccg.nhs.uk/Emsworth%20Engagement%20Report%20November%202018.pdf>

People can access the new survey online by visiting

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EmsworthGPOptions> or the CCG website

www.southeasternhampshireccg.nhs.uk or the Emsworth Surgery website

www.emsworthsurgery.co.uk.

Hard copies will be available at both Emsworth Surgery and its Westbourne branch from noon on Friday November 23.

The hard copies must be completed and handed back to either surgery by no later than 5pm on Wednesday December 5, but the deadline for the online version is midnight on Sunday December 9. The earlier deadline for the hard copies is to give CCG staff enough time to input and collate the information.

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