

The Chair opened the Meeting at 4.30 pm. She welcomed all to the meeting.

**The invited speaker, Fenglin, who is a Studies Officer with the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) spoke to the Group. HH**

Fenglin explained that the NIHR promotes research studies in primary care and conducts research into finding cures, new medications etc, and relies on as many members of the public helping with this research as possible. Without the public’s help it would be much more difficult to find cures and improve health etc. She is responsible for assimilating all the information. Fenglin handed out leaflets concerning a new research study into Dementia, and also about the work of the NIHR, and how to register interest. If Harborough Field Surgery is interested in a particular area of research they are able to register, and to let the relevant patients know.

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**The Speaker left and the Meeting continued.**

**MINUTES OF THE PPG MEETING 23 JUNE 2025**

There were 14 members attending and 5 apologies noted on the attendance sheet.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting on 28 April 2025 were accepted.

**Matters arising**

There were none.

**Chair’ Report**

Eileen reported that the PPG ran a plant stall and tombola on 21 May in conjunction with the COVID clinic.
This was a very successful event.  I want to give special thanks to Jason for his very generous donation of plants.  I know that he has put a lot of time and effort into producing them.
I also want to thank Cathy for all her hard work in setting up the event and Lynne, Annie and Delia for helping.  It was a very enjoyable event, and the patients were very generous.
We should definitely do more of these fundraising activities, and Eileen reiterated that it would be helpful if we had more volunteers to spread the workload.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Eileen reported on behalf of Bob:

Cash B/F                                               £552.77

Tombola & plant Sale (21.05.25).         £239.45

                   Total Available Cash.   £792.22

The Fund-Raising Event on 21 May was a great success and I suggest going forward that similar arrangements be made to coincide with Surgery Vaccinations (or similar).

I suggest I obtain a ‘thermometer’ style indicator to display, near the books, so that it can be seen how our fundraising is going.

Depending on what we are raising funds for, a picture of the item at the top of the thermometer would be a good idea.

Eileen added that the PPG should promote itself more at events, eg a banner or leaflets to explain who we are and what we are raising funds for.

Ishbel offered to look after the Book Box for the time being and an update will be given at the next meeting. It has been suggested that the Book Box is moved to make it more accessible.

Sophie will be asking at an upcoming Clinical Meeting for suggestions as to what the Surgery needs regarding equipment and whether Wheelchair Scales are still needed - Cathy is still in contact with the Rotary Club regarding this.

**ENPA Report**

The two major issues ENPA is currently dealing with are a) the ongoing attempts to get the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to reinstate some form of a Patients Congress, which was operational until the Clinical Care Groups (CCG’s) were dissolved when the ICB was established; and b) concerns relating to Rushden Medical Centre (RMC).

Relevant to (a) above, the ICB created a Community forum. This forum met on the 29 April in Northampton, but this was far from the “patients’ voice” that ENPA has been seeking. The ENPA members who attended this meeting were in agreement that ENPA’s aims for this group were not being met. The ENPA Chair has since written to the Chair of the Forum, who is the ICB Chief Medical Officer, and enclosed a letter from the ICB CEO outlining the purposes for which the group was to be created. The ENPA Chair was also going to write to the ICB Chair to request a meeting to discuss the purpose of the forum.

At the Community Forum, the ENPA Chair also raised the concerns about Rushden Medical Centre. It was reported that the ICB had made enquiries and were satisfied that there were no financial concerns relating to RMC, and that they had not received any patient complaints. The ENPA chair also wrote to the BBC journalist behind the story that appeared on the BBC website, and a subsequent online meeting was held with the journalist and two ENPA members. The journalist said that he would contact patients with whom he had been in touch to see if they would talk with ENPA. A few of them have agreed to attend the ENPA meeting on the 12 June (outcome of this will be reported at the PPG meeting). The ENPA Chair was also writing to Gen Kitchen, MP, to express our concerns.

Other matters:

New Northamptonshire Mortuary – disappointment was expressed about the lack of stakeholder involvement.

PCN Physiotherapy – there were instances of patient discontent with the service provided.

Stanwick “Little Treasures” – two ENPA members attended on the 15May to talk with parents about their patient experiences.

I will report further at the PPG meeting as ENPA meets next on 12 June.

Report of ENPA Meeting - 12 June 2025

The Chair opened the meeting by introducing two guests from the Rushden Medical Centre. They were attending as guests as the RMC does not currently have a PPG and so could not attend as members of ENPA.

They explained the current situation in the RMC and said that they have had a first meeting with the Practice Manager and were informed that the Practice would allow eight patients to meet. ENPA has been asking for a meeting with the RMC Practice Manager for some time, with no success. The two guests reported that the Practice is owned by a London based company eHarley Street and have 24 Practices nationally. Two practices in Wales have been taken over by the Welsh Government, which can be done in Wales.

In brief, there seems to be a lack of GPs in the RMC, replaced with an Advanced Practitioner, who cannot issue prescriptions. There does not appear to be Nurse Practitioners.

Patients appear not to be able to obtain future appointments or prescriptions requested from Hospitals.

ENPA suggested to the RMC guests that they report these problems in writing to the Practice Manager and keep hard copies of emails, etc. to establish a paper trail. The representatives of the RMC left the meeting after agreeing to extend an invitation from ENPA for further meetings. (A meeting on 16 June at 8.00 pm has subsequently been arranged).

The full business meeting convened agreeing that a meeting with the ICB should be sought, but proof of complaints is required. It was notified that the Chair of the ICB is standing down at the end of June. It was anticipated that the Offices of the Chairs of Leics ICB and Northants will be combined, as the CEOs have probably been combined.

The Chair of ENPA is writing to the NNC requesting that two Councillors be invited to attend ENPA meetings.

The forthcoming Community Forum has been requested to place items for discussion on the agenda, but these are being blocked by James Gillespie-Allen, who wants, personally, to vet all items for the agenda. ENPA does not feel that he can do this.

Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) and Place Based Partnerships (PBPs) were briefly discussed, and it was hoped that the LAP would include clinical issues in their meeting.

The shortened business meeting closed with some agenda items being postponed due to the time.

Report of Extraordinary Meeting Monday 16 June.

The Chair welcomed the delegates from the RMC and asked for an update of the situation.

Patients have had two meetings with the RMC Practice, 9 April, 21 May, and a third meeting is planned on 9 July. The Practice was represented by eHarley Street, the owners, and the Practice Manager.

It was felt that the first meeting was too emotional by the patients’ representatives and so was not productive. The second was better with the patients better organised. It became apparent that bills were not being paid as a patient had to privately purchase a drug prescribed by the hospital through the practice as the practice held on to the hospital documentation.

The owners emailed patients requesting that they sign a non-disclosure agreement, which the patients refused to do. They were asked then not to talk to the press regarding the Practice. Some patients agreed to this.

The representatives believe that a meeting between the Practice and the ICB is planned, but they do not have any dates.

Complaints have been made to the local MP Gen Kitchen, but they do not know if these have been passed on to the ICB.

ENPA requested that the patients pass on any emails or letters to the ENPA Chair in order that a paper trail be established. ENPA will correlate all correspondence and paperwork for the patients, as well as provide a templated complaints form for individual patients to submit to RMC.

The meeting closed with all parties to keep in touch and supply agreed documentation.

Tom and Hector gave more information on the reports of the two meetings regarding RMC: ENPA are trying to help with the complaints procedure and raised the matter at the ICB Community Quorum but it due to barriers in connection with confidentiality etc things are just going round in circles. Sophie said that it is challenging for Harborough Field as a large number of patients are being taken on from RMC weekly. There is a backlog, and registration can take two months, which in turn is causing complaints about HFS. Parklands are having similar issues. Gen Kitchen has been contacted, and we are waiting for a reply.

Tom reported that there were two ongoing issues – patients voice with the ICB and how the situation at RMC is impacting other surgeries.

There is also disappointment about stakeholder involvement regarding the new Mortuary to serve NGH and KGH at Riverside – there was no consultation. Very few at the meeting today were aware of the new Mortuary, and it was suggested that this is reported back.

There is patient discontent at the Physio Service available. Sophie mentioned that patients are being referred to the Physio Service before seeing a GP, and some patients are not happy with this. Anna noted that there is a long waiting list. Complaints are to be reviewed.

**Secretaries Report**

We spent a very enjoyable morning at the Plant Sale/Tombola Fund Raiser.

**Practice Managers Report**

Sophie’s reported that we are waiting for the ICB to put local service in place in connection with Mounjaro. GPs will be able to prescribe this weight loss drug, but we are waiting for further details so that the Surgery can go ahead. The Surgery has been inundated with queries from patients, and an information notice will be posted so that all patients are aware of what is happening.

Sophie also informed the Group that a bid has been submitted to the ICB for funding to refurbish a storeroom for phlebotomy and use as a treatment room too. Sophie will update us at the next meeting.

There has been a patient survey concerning Anima and the results will be circulated to the Group after the meeting. Our feedback was good. 1318 patients responded from a total of 9951. The results have been reported back to Anima who will be making changes so that the system is more patient friendly. Anima now syncs with the NHS App.

The Group was also pleased to hear that Harborough Field have been voted as the eighth best Surgery in the County.

**Care Coordinators Report**

There was no report.

**Fund Raising Working Party**

This has been covered regarding the Plant Sale/Tombola and there is nothing further to report. It was generally agreed that a Christmas Fund Raiser should be held again this year, along the lines of last year’s event. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

**Wheelchair Scales**

This has been covered in a previous point.

**Any other business**

Annie suggested someone to speak at the next meeting and will contact the lady to arrange.

Annie also had a large supply of Flu stickers which she gave to Sophie.

Sophie said that Dr Khan is leaving to get married and will be moving to Manchester.

Hector had information on a Health and Wellbeing event to be held in Duston concerning living with MND, this is being run along with the PPG there. He passed this on to Sophie.

An issue has been raised by some parents concerning parking space size for parents with children. The Landlords are due to remark the parking spaces, and it was agreed that a letter would be drafted concerning this.

**Conclusion**

The Chair thanked the members for attending and indicated that the next meeting would be on **Monday 18 August 2025 at 4.30pm**.

The Meeting closed at 5.35pm