

## **BALHAM PARK SURGERY PATIENTS LIAISON GROUP (BPSPLG)**

### **CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO WANDSWORTH PRIMARY CARE TRUST ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HEALTH SERVICES IN BATTERSEA AND NORTH WANDSWORTH**

Fourteen people (13 patients and 1 practice team member) were present at the special meeting held on 9 April 2008 to review and respond to the PCT's consultation document.

[www.wandsworth-pct.nhs.uk/about/batterseanorthwandsworth/default.asp](http://www.wandsworth-pct.nhs.uk/about/batterseanorthwandsworth/default.asp)

The draft note of the discussion was circulated and the version below incorporates amendments received.

The Group had not read the document before coming to the meeting and some people found it confusing to move between the slide presentation, the full document and also the summary, especially as the health geography of the northern part of Wandsworth is not a very familiar subject to a practice in the middle of Wandsworth. But the points about deprived wards and major causes of ill health did come over clearly and our group found that aspect very interesting.

See points 13 and 14 for the Group's continuing wish to be consulted about developments in the Bolingbroke site.

#### **Extract from the Minutes of the 66th Meeting of the Balham Park Surgery Patient Liaison Group held on 9 April 2008**

##### **66.1 Wandsworth Primary Care Trust consultation on *Improving health services in Battersea and North Wandsworth.***

A presentation was made by Andrew Craig, a member of the BPSPLG but in his capacity as the Lay Member of the WPCT's Professional Executive Committee. Copies of the full consultation document and the summary were available at the meeting and it was noted that Barbara had been provided with an audio tape version of the document.

It was agreed that in addition to any individual wishing to respond to the consultation document, the Group would send a joint response. The Chairman made a note of the points raised by the Group and undertook to circulate a draft response for comment before the deadline of 14 May.

In addition to the points raised the Group voted for the four options included in the consultation for the location of a major new health centre. A number of members of the Group expressed concern about the overall health needs of people living in the borough and particularly those with in Battersea and North Wandsworth which included some of the most deprived areas in the Borough. However it was agreed that members could cast their vote for their personal preference reflecting the needs and wishes of the Group which was based far south of the consultation area. The Group noted that if they had had the opportunity to express views on all areas in the Borough at one time, they might have come to different conclusions. The votes cast were 4 in favour of the Grant Road behind Clapham Junction (option C) and 7 in favour of the Bolingbroke site (option D).

**Note of questions, comments and views expressed by the Balham Park Surgery Patients Liaison Group on 9 April 2008 to the WPCT's consultation on Improving Health Services in Battersea and North Wandsworth**

1. The Group thought all the proposed changes would be very expensive whichever combination of changes was decided upon.
2. By looking only at the summary document the Group did not understand what the PCT meant by "value for money", though it is explained in the full document where the options are compared (p 33). The Group felt this would cause a problem if most people saw only the summary because they would be unable to understand the reasoning behind the claim that Grant Road option was the best value for money.
3. The Group questioned the validity and the comprehensive nature of the statistics on which the PCT based the consultation document because some statistics quoted did not match up with Group members' experience. For example they were surprised the Patmore Estate was not included as a deprived area or that sickle cell disorder was not included as a prevalent cause of ill health in that area of Battersea.
4. The Group had to take some time reading back and forth through the document to be sure that the PCT was suggesting that when one major option was adopted other developments could still happen on the other three sites.

For example, the document makes it clear on page 34 there would be other development options, referred to on page 8. The Group would have preferred this to be made clearer in the Summary paper, which, while stating intentions to “explore” possibilities, presents so many “subjects to” that all other options might never come to pass.

5. Some Group members wondered if Battersea Power station development might not have been another viable option, though they did not to wait another 20 years for it!

6. The Group would have liked more detail on the exact location of the proposed Grant Road site as this is a big area and they were not clear what part was owned by the Council and available for a health centre. The safety of the area was also questioned.

7. In discussion it was pointed out that bus facilities might be improved to suit the chosen site, however the G1 bus service, which had been created years ago with local NHS funding to serve all hospitals in the area, was now funded by Transport for London and they would decide the route.

8. The Group was interested to know if a tram service might be extended to affect any of the proposals.

9. Whilst Grant road was said to have the best transport services, the Group were aware there was a lot of congestion in the area and that Clapham Junction was subject to a massive regeneration proposal involving years of construction and disruption.

10. The Group would have liked more information on how long the services moved from Bolingbroke could stay at St. John’s Therapy Centre. The Group felt the document was unclear about the real long term purpose of St. John’s and about which services would remain there.

11. In general discussion about the health needs of the whole population covered by this consultation and specifically those people in Battersea and North Wandsworth, many of the Group thought the Grant road option was the best. However the Group were concerned that they did not know what changes would be proposed for the more southerly part of the Borough (Tooting and Graveney) nearer to Balham Park Surgery and therefore could not comment “in the round”.

12. If the Group was choosing an option which suited them and the patients using the Balham Park Surgery then they would chose the Bolingbroke site (voted 4 for Grant road and 7 for Bolingbroke as site of new health centre).

13. If a site other than the Bolingbroke was chosen, then the Group would like to see a smaller health centre incorporated into the likely residential development on the Bolingbroke site with emphasis on eye and dental services and services particularly important to older patients.

14. If the Bolingbroke is not the chosen option, the Group would like to be consulted again about the detail of a Bolingbroke secondary development.

Andrew Craig  
For BPSPLG