

# WOODSTOCK SURGERY

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**To:**

- **West Oxfordshire District Council**
- **Woodstock Town Council**
- **Cherwell District Council**
- **Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & West Berkshire Integrated Care Board**
- **Patients of Woodstock Surgery**

**Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Planned Housing Developments and Impact on Local Healthcare Services**

Dear Council Members, Integrated Care Board Representatives, and Residents,

As General Practitioner partners at Woodstock Surgery, we are writing to you to address an urgent and pressing issue that significantly impacts our community's healthcare services. Our surgery is currently operating at full capacity, with no available space to accommodate additional staff. The existing doctors are already managing patient loads that exceed those of comparable local practices.

It has come to our attention that local housing developers are planning to submit proposals for the construction of between 500 and 1000 new homes in our area. While we understand the need for housing development to accommodate a growing population, this expansion presents a considerable challenge for our healthcare provision capabilities.

## **Current Challenges:**

1. **Space Constraints:** Our surgery has reached its physical capacity. We have tried to raise this a number of times over a number of years. We lack the space to hire additional healthcare staff or utilise the NHS national programme of 'additional roles,' which limits our ability to expand services.
2. **Patient Load:** The current doctors are managing a higher number of patients than is sustainable. This strain impacts the quality of care we can provide, and increases wait times for appointments.

3. **Resource Limitations:** Despite our best efforts, we are stretched thin in terms of medical resources and administrative support, making it increasingly difficult to maintain the high standards of care our patients deserve.

**Projected Impact of Housing Development:**

1. **Increased Patient Numbers:** The influx of residents from 500 to 1000 new homes will likely overwhelm our already burdened practice. We estimate a significant rise in the number of patients seeking our services, which we are not equipped to handle under current conditions.
2. **Potential Closure of Patient List:** To manage the demand and maintain a reasonable quality of care, we may be forced to close our patient list. This would mean we could no longer accept new patients, leaving many residents without access to local healthcare services.
3. **Strain on Existing Healthcare Infrastructure:** Without intervention, the new development will place additional pressure on an already strained healthcare infrastructure, exacerbating issues such as appointment availability, timely medical attention, and overall patient satisfaction.

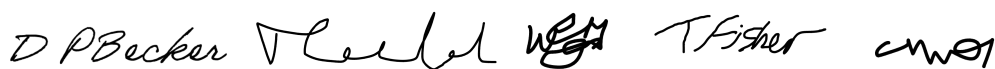
**Call to Action:** We urgently request that the Local Councils and the Integrated Care Board collaborate to address this impending crisis. Specifically, we need:

1. **Funding and Support for New Premises:** Investment in new, larger premises that can accommodate additional staff and resources to ensure we have modern, flexible, and adaptable accommodation for the future.
2. **Strategic Planning:** Proactive planning to ensure that the healthcare needs of an expanded population are met without compromising the quality of care for existing patients.
3. **Community Engagement:** Transparency and engagement with the community regarding plans and measures being taken to support local healthcare services.
4. **Utilization of Section 106 Agreements:** Leveraging Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure contributions from housing developers. These contributions can be directed towards expanding healthcare facilities to meet the increased demand, thereby ensuring that the necessary infrastructure accompanies the housing development.

We believe that with timely and coordinated action, we can mitigate the negative impacts of the housing development and continue to provide high-quality healthcare to all residents of Woodstock and the surrounding area.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your prompt response and collaborative efforts to ensure the wellbeing of our community.

Sincerely,



Drs Duncan Becker, Tanya Frankel, Wing Cheung, Tom Fisher, Maureen Obiakor  
GP Partners  
Woodstock Surgery