

**Woodstock Town Council
Doctors' Surgery Working Group**

Report of the meeting held on 7th May 2025

Present

Cllr Williams (chair), Cllr Grant (Mayor), Cllr Banbury, Cllr Parnes, Stan Scott, Ian Hudspeth

Also present Cllr Connelly, Cllr Mellis, Cllr Wheatley

Cllr Williams reported back to the group on actions taken and communications received since the previous meeting. These included a response to our Freedom of Information Request to BOB ICB (attached as Appendix A) and the notes of the meeting of the 'Woodstock Doctors' Surgery Steering Group' chaired by Calum Miller MP (attached as Appendix B).

In view of the fact that McCarthy Stone's planning application for old peoples' flats on the former Thames Valley Police Site on Hensington Road has been refused by WODC, it was felt that the Council should be recommended to take the initiative in exploring whether a new primary care facility could not, in fact, be provided on that site, which is central to the town, with all necessary infrastructure already in place.

It is our view that the siting of a primary care facility in the town centre, and which could be designed and built swiftly, is what Woodstock urgently needs and wants, rather than a major medical centre as part of a new development on the edge of the town and several years away.

We would therefore like to submit the following recommendations to Council for their consideration, each to be voted on separately:

1. That Council seek and pay for legal advice as to whether we, as a Council, may explore the provision of a new primary care facility on the former Thames Valley Police site.
2. That, should that legal advice be in the affirmative, that Council should explore with Blenheim Estate and, ideally, with the current GP practice, the appointing of a specialist architectural firm to provide a viability study for the provision of a primary care facility on the former Thames Valley Police site.

Sarah Williams
12th May 2025

Report to Woodstock Town Council

ETC Meeting of 20th May 2025

Cllr Sharone Parnes

Mr Giles Hughes of West Oxfordshire District Council, in a recent response letter to the Town Hall, commented a "report has been submitted which concludes that the police site could not accommodate a GP surgery with room for growth as required by the NHS guidelines," yet to date no such corroboration of this alleged conclusion and the formula or methodology used to reach it has been made known to the town council despite repeated requests by or on behalf of the Town Council.

It is suggested that Mr Hughes be asked to furnish a copy of said "report" which he stated "has been submitted" .

Furthermore, it remains unknown what proportion of the police station site (and/or proposed or existing buildings on it) were considered for suitability for a GP surgery.

It is therefore further suggested that Woodstock Town Council should request and simultaneously file for FOI disclosures in relation to the specific proportion(s) of the site that were made available for consideration.

It is obvious that any new surgery will take time to be made operational, but a satellite facility to augment existing facilities, whether on existing premises or in a temporary building, can be made operational comparatively swiftly.

Finally, therefore, it is suggested that Blenheim be asked to immediately make the site available for use as a satellite surgery location whether to the existing medical team or any additional medical service providers who may wish to make use of it to alleviate backlogs and strain on services locally; this, at least until such time as new surgery plans are finalised and delivered.