

Notes of informal meeting with representative of Laurel Bank Surgery.

Monday 16th March 2026 via Teams.

PRESENT

Laurel Bank Surgery – Mr Edward Rigby, managing partner Laurel Bank Surgery.
Tattenhall & District Parish Council – Pat Black, Richard Carden, Iain Keeping, Neil Matthews, Lesley Morris, Kirsty Williams, Ann Wright (Clerk).

Purpose of Meeting: To receive update on future of Tattenhall Health Centre.

It was noted that The Village Surgeries Group will merge with Laurel Bank Surgery on the 1st April 2026.

It was confirmed the Surgery has been in discussion with the Bolesworth Estate for a number of months regarding the provision of a new Health Center and it was noted the current planning application (26/00486/OUT) includes a 'potential new medical centre'. It was noted that developers often say they will provide support for doctor's but that doesn't always become a reality. Mr Rigby stated that he believed that Bolesworth Estate does want to make a valuable contribution.

It was confirmed the Tattenhall Surgery building is not in a good state of repair, is too small and is not fit for purpose.

It was estimated to bring the current building up to standard it would cost around £5m and would result in a car park with 18 parking spaces. The renovated building would include 14 consultation rooms. Based on planning policy the car park should have 8 spaces per consultation room. As such the site should have approximately 112 spaces. The lack of parking is likely to result in vehicles parking on the surrounding roads and impact on parking for the Primary School.

Barbour Square

The surgery has had discussions with the Estate about taking over the former RSK building on Barbour Square which it was believed would make an excellent Doctor's Surgery for an expanding population. The building could accommodate 10 consultation rooms and community space.

The ambition is to create a 'Neighbourhood Health Centre' providing GP services, some hospital, local authority and community services. To provide support for all stages of life.

Geographically Tattenhall is placed to act as a hub for other surgeries including Bunbury, Tarporley and Kelsall.

Dr Mr Rigby confirmed the Practice requires 'vocal' public support to attract the necessary funding from the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) to deliver the scheme. He believed the ICB has approximately £10m available, however the rural area is not seen as a priority despite the desperate need for investment.

It was suggested the site of the current surgery will be disposed of in the best way at the time. It may be that site will be sold to invest in the new surgery.

Appointment & Retention of Doctors

It was asked if it was difficult to attract new doctors and encourage them to stay. It was believed the new building will help attract new doctors. It was noted that Laurel Bank works on the basis for patients seeing their preferred doctor and have a buddy system for when doctors are on leave. It was believed this level of continuity is attractive to Doctors and Laurel Bank has not had any issues filling vacancies.

Parking

It was discussed that the Barbour Square car park is often busy. The new health Centre will require approximately 10 spaces for staff, an emergency bay for ambulance access, plus another 20/25 spaces.

It was understood the whole site is around 180 spaces plus the Estate is looking at additional provision.

It was confirmed that cycle stands can be installed with the landowners permission.

Timescale

It was thought there was a very slim chance funding will be made available to build a new surgery, noting a new building would need to meet similar standards as a new hospital and cost in the region of £10m

If funding was approved in the next month for the Barbour Square Health Centre the process and work could be completed by March 2027.

Provision of Services

It was noted that Lauren Bank, which is a training practice, provides the following services which they hope to deliver in Tattenhall was well:

- Minor injury care e.g. minor burns and insect stings (not x-rays).
- Full travel service.
- Minor surgery.
- Expanded ultrasound services.
- Blood testing.

It was noted that while Tattenhall and the rural areas may not have large pockets of economic deprivation, that is a massively aging population with no transport resulting in deprivation of access to vital services.

It was noted the practice is not looking to undertake private consultations but will offer a range of non-NHS services.

It was confirmed that Practice has no intention of providing a private service for Gifford Lea.

It was noted that Laurel Bank is aligned, by the ICB, with Prospect House Care Home in Malpas and Maesglas Care Home in Holt.

It is hoped there will be more interaction with the district nurses who are based at Chowley Oak therefore providing a more integrated service.

End of Life Care

It was confirmed Laurel Bank is used to providing terminal care for patients noting the distance from the nearest hospice.

Out-of-hours Service

It was noted Laurel Bank does not provide an out-of-house service but is looking at extending enhanced access with evening appointments on Wednesdays and is looking to extend these until 8pm and possibly offer early appointments from 7am in the future.

It was noted the new combined practice will care for approximately 16,500 patients.

It was noted not all services will be provided at once and it will take time to deliver the full range of services the practice wants to provide.

It was though it was not likely that Tattenhall based patients would have to travel to Malpas for appointments any more than they do to Farndon now.

Contact

It was suggested the Parish Council writes to the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB, Sir David Henshaw & Dr Liz Bishop, to request for funding for the new health centre. Mr Rigby confirmed he would provide contact details which the public can write to requesting support.

It was agreed that the Council will add an additional item to its agenda to write to the ICB.

All were thanked for attending the meeting.

Ann Wright
Clerk to Tattenhall & District Parish Council
16/03/2026.