

A Special Meeting of the Town Council was held with Dr. Liam Taylor, Deputy Divisional Director, ABUHB, Ms. Vicky Taylor, Head of Primary Care, ABUHB and Ms. Rachel Prangley, Senior Manager, PCOST Team on Tuesday, 06 February 2018 in the Council Chamber, Orchard Street, Brynmawr at 5.30pm.

Present:- Councillors M. I. Morgan (Chair).  
Mrs. O.M. Swales  
H.J. Swales  
D. Lyn Elias  
W.K. Hodgins  
Mr. J. M. Gardner  
T.S. Hughes  
Mrs. J. Boyd  
N. Boyd.

In Attendance:- A.C. Davies (Town Clerk/RFO).  
N.J. Williams (Asst. Town Clerk).

Apologies:- B. M. Sutton, J. Sutton, Mrs. D. Brown,  
R.J. Hill, D.P. Foote, Miss S.M. Morgan,  
G.D Jones.

The Chair welcomed Dr. Liam Taylor, Ms. Victoria Taylor, ABUHB and Ms. Rachel Prangley to the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves to the guests. Dr. Liam Taylor started by informing members that the New Medical Centre has been delayed but is possibly due to open in April 2018. Hopefully when the new Health Centre opens with all services under one roof a lot of the issues that patients are experiencing will be resolved. Dr. Rani has been appointed the Lead GP, there will be more clinical leadership and eventually the GP's will manage themselves. Ms. Vicky Taylor added that the new Medical Centre will have a Clinical Pharmacist, a Physio Therapist and a full time Practice Base Pharmacist. Dr. Liam Taylor said he would preferably like a more responsive appointment system where patients can walk in to the Health Centre and wait to be seen by a GP. This system works in Newport Health Clinic.

It is common for receptionists to request the reason for an appointment so they can direct patients to the correct GP, Nurse etc.

A member asked will there be a shortage of GP's at the new Health Centre. Dr. Liam Taylor informed the meeting the Health Board has advertised the positions and is hoping the new Health Centre will attract more GP's to this area. At least six permanent GP's will be needed for the Health Centre to accommodate the 10,300 patients.

A member said people are finding it off putting with the unfamiliarity of the short term GP's.

Dr. Liam Taylor said there are four permanent GP's working between the three surgery's at the moment, Dr. Rani, Dr. Ismaili, Dr. Stewart and Dr. Majumdar and continuity is something they are working on for the near future. He added a personal touch is vital where GP's build relationships with patients.

A member said he was concerned with issues that have been brought up in previous meetings that still needs to be addressed. The appointment system is unsatisfactory and people are queuing outside the surgeries at 7.30am to get an appointment. The member stated that he had to wait 12 days to see a GP.

Dr. Taylor said there were not enough students in Wales wanting to be GP's and is funding sixth form students to go to Cardiff to train as GP's and hopefully they will come and work locally.

A member asked is there spare capacity in local GP surgeries where patients can be sent if all the appointments are taken up in the Brynmawr/Nantyglo Surgeries. Ms. Taylor said yes it is something they have been doing recently.

Another issue was raised concerning patients going to collect prescriptions from the Chemists to find they have not been forwarded from their surgery. The patients are then having to go to the surgery again to request their medication. Dr. Liam Taylor said he would ask the Surgery Manager and Dispensing Pharmacist to record all prescriptions that have not been forwarded from constituent Surgeries. This should not be happening.

A member asked what impact will the closure of Nantyglo Surgery have on the Aparajita and Blaen-y-Cwm surgeries. Dr. Liam Taylor said if Nantyglo Surgery was to close it will not happen until the new Health Centre opens.

A member asked what would the new Health Centre be called. Dr. Liam Taylor said that the new Medical Centre will be named "The Brynmawr Well-Being Centre" and members will be invited to visit the new Medical Centre.

It was agreed to another meeting possibly June/July 2018 for an update on the new Medical Centre (evaluation period).

The Chair thanked the guests for meeting members of The Town Council to discuss their issues within Blaen-y-Cwm surgery.

Meeting closed at 18.25 hours.