

ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Angela Green
Practice Manager
Old School Surgery
Sent via email: angela.green@nhs.net

Thursday 6th May 2021

Dear Angela

I am writing to you again as several parishioners continue to ask the Parish Council when the surgery will be reopening, and the Parish Council is keen to provide them with an answer. Additionally, the continued closure of the surgery, save for the collection of prescriptions, is fuelling rumours that there is no intention to reopen. Of course, the Parish Council is keen to dispel these.

Following a conversation that Cllr Jen Watkins had with the pharmacy last week, we have been led to believe that the reason given for not reopening the surgery at present, is that there is one door in and out, and so you are unable to have a separate entrance and exit.

The Parish Council have noted that several doctors' surgeries have only one door in and out and they are managing to reopen by taking measures such as providing hand sanitiser stations, staggered appointments and a door policy of one in, one out. A similar situation exists, for example, at some of the units at Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath. We are also aware of other quasi-health service providers, such as osteopaths, chiropractors and massage therapists, who either have stayed open throughout lockdowns to treat those in need and/or are now open, and have limited facilities. All these establishments have put in place successful measures to reduce risk.

The Council note also that non-essential shops are now open and many do not have separate entrances and exits, and in the village many have less space than the surgery. All seem to be managing to deal successfully with the risk from Covid, which in any event we are being told is reducing daily due to the success of the vaccination roll out.

Please therefore can you provide the Parish Council with your plan to reopen the surgery, with timescales, even if they are pegged provisionally to the government's timeframe for reducing Covid restrictions. If you have no plan in place to reopen then please would you give reasons as to why this is so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VRutt', enclosed within a hand-drawn circular scribble.

Victoria Rutt
Clerk and RFO

Copied to:

shan.palit@nhs.net

oldschool.surgery@nhs.net

chair@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL – MRS VICTORIA RUTT
33 Swaines Way, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 0AN
Telephone 07936 904 743 Email clerk@alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk
www.alfristonparishcouncil.org.uk