

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed merger of Gale Farm Surgery with Haxby Group on 1st April 2015

Gale Farm Surgery is proposing to merge with Haxby Group on 1st April 2015. Both of our surgeries at 109 – 119 Front Street in Acomb and The Old Forge Surgery in Upper Poppleton will remain open.

Why do the surgeries want to merge?

There are four main reasons why we want to merge with Haxby Group.

- ✓ **Patient Care** We believe that our patients will benefit from being able to see a large, high quality and stable team of doctors. This merger would enable us to achieve this ambition for our patients. Not only would this merger bring together 30 experienced GPs with over 290 years of experience between them but it would also ensure that we could continue to attract and retain high calibre GPs in Acomb and Upper Poppleton. We also think it would give us greater scope to take advantage of new opportunities.
- ✓ **Extending Services** By combining the skills of high calibre doctors, nurses and staff and the resources at both practices, we will be able to increase the range and quality of services that we can offer to all our patients. For example, by merging with Haxby Group we could provide access to vasectomy procedures at our site in Acomb - something we are not currently able to do.
- ✓ **Improving Quality** By sharing the skills and knowledge across the two practice teams we believe we will be better placed to continue to improve the quality of services that we can offer to all our patients in the future.
- ✓ **Training Excellence** Gale Farm Surgery and Haxby Group are both centres of excellence for training new doctors. We both provide non-clinical apprenticeship opportunities within our local communities too. Haxby Group is also an Advanced Training Practice for nurses. This means that we can use the training skills of our GPs and nurses to help encourage and develop the next generation of nurses.

When are the practices proposing to merge?

Wednesday 1st April 2015.

Impact on Patients

We are not expecting any major changes and patients would still be able to consult with the GP or nurse that they usually see.

Patient Choice

We are of course ensuring patients have a choice. We have written to all our patients and informed them in detail of the support available if they want to register with another practice if our merger plans are approved. Please see the attached Patient Information Sheet written for Gale Farm Surgery patients that provides more detail about the reasons for this proposal and how our patients can let us know what they think. It also gives details of a Patient Open Morning that we will be having on Saturday 11th October 2014 when Gale Farm Surgery patients will have an opportunity to meet staff and GPs from both practices and ask any questions that they might have. Haxby Group patients are also being given the opportunity to say what they think too.

Consultation

The views of our patients are very important to us and we will not make any final decision until we have heard what they think. As a local stakeholder your views are also important. If you would like to comment on our proposal, please email us at thisismyview@icloud.com by 5pm on Friday 28th November 2014. We genuinely look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Drs Bell-Syer, Anderton, Simpson, French, Kimberling, James, Law and Cawkwell
of Gale Farm Surgery and The Old Forge Surgery