

GALE FARM SURGERY
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The Old Forge Surgery
The Green, Upper Poppleton, York YO26 6EQ
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20th August 2014

Dear Household

Proposed merger between Gale Farm Surgery and Haxby Group

Proposal

Gale Farm Surgery is proposing to merge with Haxby Group on 1st April 2015. Both our surgeries will remain open and you will still be able to make an appointment to see your usual GP at either 109 – 119 Front Street in Acomb or The Old Forge Surgery in Upper Poppleton. This letter tells you why we want to do this, how it will affect you and how you can let us know what you think.

Why do the surgeries want to merge? There are four main reasons why the partners at Gale Farm Surgery 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 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.

What does this mean for me and what options will I have? We hope that you will want to stay with us. If you do, then you do not have to do anything because you are already registered with Gale Farm Surgery or The Old Forge Surgery. However, we understand that some patients may decide to move to another practice. If so, simply contact the practice you want to move to and ask them to register you as a patient. They will ask you to fill in a simple form and they will then ask us to send your patient records to them and we will do this promptly.

If you need any help or advice on what to do then please contact the Vale of York Patient Relations Team. You can ring them on 0800 068 8000, email them at VOYCCG.PatientRelations@nhs.net or write to them at Vale of York CCG Patient Relations, Unit 1, Triune Court, Monks Cross North, York, YO31 9GZ.

Need more help deciding what to do? Come along to our Patient Open Morning! On Saturday 11th October 2014 there will be an Open Morning at Gale Farm Surgery in Acomb. This is an opportunity for you to come and find out more, meet staff and GPs from Haxby Group and ask any questions that you might have.

Patient Open Morning

SATURDAY 11th October 2014

9am until 11am

Gale Farm Surgery, 109 – 119 Front Street, Acomb, York, YO24 3BU

You don't need to make an appointment, just simply turn up!

What do you think? The views of our patients are very important to us and we will wait to hear what you think before any final decision is made. Next time you are in the surgery, please use one of the This is My View Forms available in the surgery to let us know what you think. You can also get the form from our website at www.galefarm-oldforgeriesurgery.nhs.uk or you can email us at thisismyview@icloud.com. (Please include your surname and year of birth if you email so we can check that you are one of our patients.) We will also be asking local stakeholders what they think too (like the hospitals, local charities and care homes). **Please let us know what you think by 5pm on Friday 28th November 2014.**

When will a final decision be made? After Friday 28th November 2014 we will know whether there is support for our proposal. We will let you know the outcome of this consultation process via posters in the surgeries and also information on our website and in the local press.

Please take time to tell us what you think. Your views are genuinely important to us.

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