



## Cottage Lane Surgery Patient Participation Group

Venue: Cottage Lane Surgery or Virtual Attendance via Teams

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 2pm

### Attendees

Dr A Dow	PM E Thornalley	Deputy PM D Hague	L Horton	Eileen Horton		
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### Apologies

K Fitzgerald	A Hughes	H King	J Wright			
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## Meeting Summary

### Welcome & Introductions

PPG members were all invited via telephone, which is the current standard process for Cottage Lane meetings. While several members accepted the invitation, we received several late apologies. Mr and Mrs Horton were thanked for their attendance today.

Eleanor (Practice Manager) and Debbie (Deputy) introduced themselves. It was explained that, following the departure of the previous Practice Manager, Kathryn Ley, Eleanor and Debbie have taken over the day-to-day management of both Cottage Lane and Lambgates Health Centre. This was the first PPG meeting led by Eleanor and Debbie at Cottage Lane, and both are keen to re-establish regular meetings.

We would like to encourage increased PPG membership as we approach an exciting new phase for Cottage Lane in joining Lambgates. The PPG will play an important role in the merger process, representing the voice of our patients.

Members now have the option to attend meetings virtually, in the hope this will improve accessibility for individuals who may find it difficult to attend in person due to work commitments, childcare, or disabilities. A social media post has been shared and a poster displayed in the waiting room to encourage membership— Existing PPG members are asked to please help spread the word!

Dr Dow recently celebrated the significant milestone of 30 years as a single-handed GP at Cottage Lane. While some interpreted this as a retirement announcement, Dr Dow would like to reassure patients that he has no immediate plans to retire. He remains committed to supporting both staff and patients at Cottage Lane throughout the transition to a merger with Lambgates. He is hopeful that becoming part of a larger, joint clinical team will allow him to gradually reduce his hours and responsibilities. Although he does not plan to retire in October, he is looking forward to the Lambgates partners taking on the day-to-day operational responsibilities at Cottage Lane. From October, he will continue to be present at Cottage Lane in a GP capacity.

The management team explained that the merger process is extensive and involves a significant amount of administrative and regulatory work. Progress is being made by the management group, which includes the three GP partners from Lambgates (Dr Ahmed, Dr Gilliland & Dr Trail), Dr Dow, Eleanor and Debbie. Much of the work completed so far has taken place behind the scenes and has not directly impacted patients. Some smaller changes have begun to be introduced for Cottage Lane staff, particularly in relation to policies and procedures, where opportunities have arisen. However, there is still a considerable amount of work to be completed as we work towards full integration, with a target merger date of 1st October.

Dr Dow, Eleanor and Debbie explained that merger discussions began some time ago, with Dr Dow keen to ensure that the future of Cottage Lane—and his eventual retirement—was carefully planned in the best interests of the practice and the Gamesley community. He would like to reassure patients that Lambgates is a strong fit as a partner organisation and will provide long-term stability for Cottage Lane.

Mr and Mrs Horton shared concerns that Gamesley residents may be expected to travel to Hadfield for GP appointments. They were reassured that this is not the case. There are no plans to close the Gamesley practice site; however, patients may in future have the option to attend either site if they wish. As integration progresses, patients may also benefit from access to a wider range of services—such as sexual health clinics—as clinical teams come together and areas of specialism are shared.

### **Practice Update**

We have recently had a few staff members leave to pursue other opportunities. Dr Reham has expanded his own locum business, and Dr Khan has taken on a leadership role at The Christie. We thank both doctors for their valuable contributions and wish them every success. Dr Reham is keen to maintain links with Cottage Lane and will continue to pick up occasional locum shifts from time to time, which is great news for our patients.

The departure of these GPs has provided an opportunity for increased cross-site working with the Lambgates clinical team. Dr Trail, Dr Ahmed and Dr Olowoyo have covered Dr Reham's sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and Dr Gilliland has also supported with some annual leave cover at Cottage Lane.

This has been a positive development, allowing the Lambgates team to gain a better understanding of the Cottage Lane community, its patients, and practice processes, which will support the ongoing transition as the merger progresses.

	<p>Sadly, Nurse Shab has also made the difficult decision to leave Cottage Lane after many years of service. She previously worked two days with us and two days at another surgery, which has now been able to offer her increased hours within a larger nursing team. She has chosen to take this opportunity for her own professional development and work-life balance.</p> <p>It is widely acknowledged that Shab takes with her a wealth of local knowledge and experience, and she will be greatly missed by both colleagues and patients. There are no immediate plans to replace her at this stage; however, this will be kept under regular review.</p> <p>In terms of our registrars (Junior doctors), Dr Chauhan’s placement ends in August. She will be replaced by Dr Emmanson. Dr Halawi remains with us until September 2026.</p> <p>Cottage Lane is part of Glossop Primary Care Network (PCN). Our PCN provides additional healthcare staff to support practice work. Instead of each Glossop GP practice working on its own, we join up as a PCN to share some staff like pharmacists, paramedics, nurses and social prescribers. The aim is to give patients easier access to a wider range of care, closer to home. Glossop practices can now refer into the PCN’s “Team Up” service, which is a home visiting service mainly focused on patients with acute illnesses. The service helps assess and manage patients in their own homes where appropriate, reducing the need for GP home visits and helping to free up GP time for other clinical work.</p>
<p><b>2. Premises</b></p>	<p>Cottage Lane is now an “agile” practice. This is a flexible way of working where staff use laptops and move between desks rather than being tied to one permanent workstation. It supports flexible and cross-site working and enables staff to do some work from home where appropriate. It encourages collaboration and better use of space which is a positive all round.</p> <p>We are also in the process of a general refresh of the building. Some DIY and remedial works have already begun, and there are plans in place for further decorating.</p>
<p><b>3 Covid Spring booster &amp; Immunisation programme</b></p>	<p>Following the success of the winter immunisation campaign, we are pleased to be able to offer COVID spring booster vaccinations within the practice again, rather than patients needing to travel to Simmondley as in previous campaigns.</p> <p>The current cohort includes patients aged over 75, including housebound patients and care home residents. Our PCN team will support with care home vaccinations.</p> <p>We will also be administering the RSV vaccine at the same time for patients who wish to receive it. The RSV vaccine protects against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common virus that can cause serious respiratory illness, particularly in infants and older adults.</p>
<p><b>4 Breast Screening Unit</b></p>	<p>The mobile Breast Screening Service is currently in Glossop until July, and invitations are now being sent out. We ask PPG members to please encourage attendance among those who are invited.</p>

	Breast screening can detect cancer early, often before any symptoms develop. We are aware that some of our local patients may find it difficult to access the mobile unit, and this feedback has been shared with the organisers. In response, they have listened and arranged a heavily subsidised shuttle transport service in conjunction with The Bureau to help support attendance.
8	<b>AOB</b>
9	<b>Future PPG meetings</b>  As mentioned earlier, we would like to encourage more patients to join the PPG and would welcome any ideas on how to recruit new members. Going forward, we plan to integrate the PPG groups across Lambgates and Cottage Lane, alternating the meeting venue between the two sites. We feel this will be beneficial as we approach the merger and continue to seek greater involvement from our patients.  <b>The next meeting will take place on 19th May at 2pm at Lambgates.</b>