

## Questions and Issues that need to be Raised by Residents

<p><b>Community Information and Opinion</b></p>	<p>A comparison of the proportion of adults in the parish over the age of 41/45 years based on the 2001 and 2011 censuses indicates an increase from 52.2% to 56.7% - compared with 40.2% and 42.6% for the NW region as a whole i.e. substantially in excess of the level in the region in general.</p> <p>Based on the results of local surveys undertaken to support Village and Neighbourhood Plans, this trend continues. These surveys are, by definition, not as rigorous as the census. However when Cheshire West and Chester Council altered the boundary of the area in the 2015 Governance Review they estimated the proportion had increased to 59.2%.</p> <p>Why does the questionnaire sent to residents not ask which surgery people would prefer to attend? The questionnaire appears to be skewed in favour of the answers Danebridge want to receive. Sandiway Surgery has been gradually reducing its opening hours meaning that less residents have been able to use the facility.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility</b></p>	<p>As the population ages, people's mobility is reduced along with their ability to drive and / or use such public transport as there is. Thus those most likely to need medical intervention on a regular basis will be least able to access it.</p> <p>Many patients, especially the elderly, do not use online services and need to hand paperwork over at the local surgery in order to request their regular repeat prescriptions. This would become a significantly more difficult procedure for them should they have to travel to the alternative surgeries.</p> <p>Other patients require repeat prescriptions of "meds monitoring" medicine - here the local pharmacy collects the medicine from the local surgery and this would be impossible after closure.</p>
<p><b>Transport &amp; Parking</b></p>	<p>A significant, and growing, number of local residents do not have access to private transport. Those who depend upon public transport are going to be faced with a long bus ride to Northwich Bus Station on the hourly #82 service, followed by 500 yards walk to the Danebridge surgery. The round trip will take approx 3 hours and require at least 1,000 yards of walking in their unhealthy state.</p> <p>Kingsmead Medical Centre is not located on any direct bus route from Sandiway.</p> <p>For those patients fortunate enough to have a car, parking is a significant problem close to both Danebridge and Kingsmead surgeries. More often than not, the local car park is full and close alternatives are difficult to find. This will be made worse when more patients are forced to commute there.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability of Services</b></p>	<p>Local surgeries require expenditure to maintain safety and cleanliness. Too often this expenditure is regarded as discretionary and closure preferred in order to reduce overheads and bolster staff remuneration. Cuddington and Sandiway is regarded as a "<b>Key Service Centre</b>" in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan and, as such, the provision of the local GP service should not be considered discretionary.</p> <p>The CQC inspection report referred to in the letter sent to all Danebridge Practice patients regarding the proposed closure does not appear to require the 'very large investment' Danebridge claim is needed to keep Sandiway Surgery open</p> <p>Obtaining appointments at Danebridge and Kingsmead will be even worse than now owing to the surgeries having to cope with potentially around 5000 more patients.</p>

	<p>The logical consequence of losing the local surgery will be that additional home visits will be required. Since central GP organisations are suggesting that GPs cannot meet the existing demand for such services, adding to this load appears irrational.</p> <p>This proposal will in no way improve the service to the people of Sandiway, Cuddington and Delamere Park (approximately 20% of the practice patients).</p>
<p><b>Statutory Issues</b></p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) selected Cuddington / Sandiway to be a <b>Key Service Centre</b> when developing the Local Plan because of the facilities that it provides. One of the key issues was the provision of health services - with the GP surgery specifically identified. On the basis that the service would continue, additional houses were permitted and have been built.</p> <p>What criteria are considered, by the relevant authorities, in determining whether or not to accept the request for closure?</p>