

Abbotskerswell Neighbourhood Plan

Written Evidence Base

HEALTH SERVICES

Primary Care

The residents of Abbotskerswell have access to a number of GP practices and significant numbers go to the Cricketfield, Devon Square and Albany practices in addition to the Kingskerswell/Ipplepen practice.

Although mobility problems will be an issue for some patients, all the surgeries, with the exception of Kingskerswell, can be reached by one bus journey. There is no likelihood of a new practice being set up in Abbotskerswell. It is possible that some sort of branch surgery, perhaps a nursing base, might be set up in the village.

While some sort of premises in the village might help, this would not solve mobility problems. At a recent community meeting in Kingskerswell it was reported that significant numbers of patients had difficulty getting to the surgery, even though it is centrally placed in the village.

General practice is changing rapidly and we are likely to see fewer, larger practices in the future. This will enable a better use of skills and resources and might help to overcome issues about which practice operated in the village.

Secondary Care

Abbotskerswell residents are well placed in being a sizeable community located reasonably close to an acute hospital, albeit one difficult to get to by public transport. The Newton Abbot Community Hospital is a local facility many villages envy. There are likely to be significant changes over the next five years in what is provided where. This should not however be seen solely as services moving from Torbay to Exeter or Plymouth, some services might move to Torbay.

Public Involvement

Abbotskerswell residents should be encouraged to join the Patient Group at their local practice and to consider getting further involved the various patient engagement forums in the Newton Abbot locality and on a wider basis.

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