

**Thornbrook Surgery**  
*Thornbrook Road Chapel-en-le-Frith High Peak Derbyshire SK23 0RH*  
*Tel No: 01298 81 2725 Fax: 01298 816221*

15.10.2018

Planning Dept.  
High Peak Borough Council  
Buxton Town Hall  
Market Place Buxton  
Derbyshire SK17 6E

**RE: Thornbrook Surgery Extension**

Dear Sir, Madam

Following on from our previous correspondence I am replying to your request for further information to help define the 'need' for the extension works.

Thornbrook Surgery is an established surgery that's been supporting the growing populations of Chapel-en-le-Frith for over 20yrs and has noted several issues that highlight the need for extended premises;

1) Population growth

The surgery has experienced an upsurge in patient numbers over the last 3 years from approximately 8700 patients in 2016 to 8,990 in 2018. Prior to 2016 the surgery list size was steady for many yrs at about 8600. The recent increase in patient registrations is a result of the additional residential developments in the area. The surgery must now cope with this extra demand.

2) Frequent attenders with additional needs

The population of Chapel-en-le-Frith as a whole, is older than the national average:

Age	High Peak	Derbyshire	England
Age 65 to 74	9.5%	10.1%	8.6%

We have noted a rise in the frequency of patient visits and a recent report conducted by the surgery in 2018 showed that 332 patients attended the practice a minimum of 20 times in one calendar year. In order to support this need and manage the chronic ailments of the local population, doctors, nurses and the management team at the surgery facilitate many additional services to our patients.

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### 3) Additional Services

- a. We have 2 'in house' physiotherapists – Physio appointment's 4 days of the week and they have a dedicated room.
- b. We have counselling appointments 5 days a week – Two companies utilise the practice weekly to offer a wide range of psychological services which are essential for the local community and backed up by the government drive to expand access to psychological therapies.
- c. We have a visiting psychiatrist from the community mental health team doing elderly assessments on a regular basis.
- d. We have a dedicated midwife doing weekly clinics and needing additional admin space on a regular basis.
- e. We have a External Respiratory Nurse Specialist who runs clinics every 1 to 2 weeks to support patients (many elderly) with Asthma and COPD.
- f. The CAB attend weekly.
- g. Chiropractor does weekly clinics.
- h. We have extensive Secondary Care Services in the community, (as detailed above).

In addition to the above Thornbrook Surgery has worked hard to support the National Directives aiming for 'better care closer to home' – transferring of care from hospital settings into the community. We host a raft of specialist Out Patient Services which have grown dramatically in recent years and are of huge benefit to the local community. We house Consultant clinics in; ENT, Rheumatology and Dermatology. Each of these specialism's are needing clinical space for at least weekly clinics but in Dermatology this can be as often as 5 Specialist clinics each week. The High Peak is a rural area and the benefit of these high quality services to our population cannot be underestimated – particularly for the older population who often struggle with access and travel. We need more clinical rooms to ease the demand on our very limited clinical space but also to grow these services so that more healthcare can be done in the community.

### 4) GP Training

We now have 2 accredited GP Trainers in the Practice and support the government drive to increase the GP workforce. We have just been appointed a second GP Trainee to the Practice and this, along with the regular placement of Medical Students places yet more demand on our clinical space.

At present we have 14 proper consulting rooms (along with 3 other small rooms which aren't terribly fit for purpose) and these have to be shared daily. **Not** including the Specialist Clinicians detailed above, we have a large clinical team comprising of ; 8 doctors, 5 nurses, 3 Healthcare Assistants, 1 (often 2) GP Trainees, 2 Medical students, and the attached physio's and midwives. A huge number of regular staff on a weekly basis. The clinicians are often 'hot desking' and the mapping of room availability for all the staff has become an almost impossible task due to the numbers of staff, lack of rooms and varied work patterns. These 12 rooms cannot cope with the demand and we need to urgently increase our clinical space by a minimum of 9 additional rooms to facilitate the above staff and the additional services.

*For details of all the Doctors and Partners @ Thornbrook Surgery please visit our website:*

*[www.thornbrooksurgery.co.uk](http://www.thornbrooksurgery.co.uk)*

*Branch Surgery: Chinley Surgery, Station Road Chinley High Peak Tel: 01298 812725*

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In summary, the building no longer has sufficient space to support the numbers of patients attending with greater frequency of ailments, nor house the staff and support services we require to provide their care. The predicament is such that NHS England has granted some funding to support a new extension so that we can continue to meet the needs of the local community.

Without an increase in space, there may be a need to curtail some of these services in future. This will increase the pressure on other local health care services and lead to a growth in road usage as patients are required to travel out of the area to receive medical support.

We are grateful for any help and support that you can provide.

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Edwards  
**Partner**



Alistair Rogerson  
**Practice Manager**

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