

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
BELFORD MEDICAL PRACTICE PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP
HELD ON 28/01/2026 at Bellview**

Present:

- M Lester, C Longster, B Stanton, R Wells, T Binder, J Short

Apologies:

- J Mason, R Hutchinson, S Findlay.

2. Previous Minutes:

- These were agreed and signed by C Longster.

3. Matters Arising:

- Update from Brenda S on accessible parking at Belford surgery: This has been put to the parish council and awaiting formal decision/discussion. Rick W showed a drawing of a possible bay in the car park. The Parish Council want to arrange a site meeting and then have a discussion with the County Council. Cllr Renner -Thompson is supportive of the proposal.
- Closed shop practice meeting attendance: CL will liaise with team to arrange a suitable date- this is likely after next meeting of the PPG as the practice has some compulsory training over next few months.
- Reading for Wellbeing: We will request two posters for each site to share this and link in with planned poster wall/information sharing.

4. Patient group comments/initiatives:

Looking at Support for carers including young carers

Dr Longstaff explained that the Practice takes supporting carers as a important matter as carers often have additional health issues that need to be considered. Currently the practice uses a code to register carers and offers an annual review for patients who are carers by a member of the team.

Carers Northumberland are very supportive, and the practice tries to encourage carers to use their services and support. Brenda S spoke about how supportive she had found the practice in her role as a carer.

Carol Gunn the dementia support worker, also offers support to carers

There is a challenge to involve and identify young carers/people-

GP's try giving 1:1 time and opportunity to talk about any problems/difficulties.

Any Other Business (AOB)

- Poster wall for sharing information/support available to patients. It was agreed that L. Fairnington will liaise with M Lester, S Biglands, B Stanton and T Binder & J Short Bellview to look at having a meeting to putting this together, collating information and having similar display at Bellview and Seahouses if successful.

Date of Next Meeting.

- 16th April 2026 Seahouses surgery 1:30pm
- 24th June 2026 Bellview 1:30pm
- 22nd October 2026 Seahouses surgery 1:30pm

CL 25/02/2026