

SAVE BLAKENEY SURGERY - WHY WE DO NOT AGREE WITH HOLT MEDICAL PRACTICE'S REASONS TO CLOSE BLAKENEY SURGERY

Holt Medical Practice says

The practice building was originally built as a bungalow in the 1960s.

We understand

Blakeney surgery was built by Dr Allibone in the early 1970s as a purpose-built surgery.

Holt Medical Practice says

The last face to face appointment was in March 2020, before the pandemic struck. Now the building is used for medication collection and a drop in reception in the mornings only.

We understand

Dispensing was also withdrawn. The change in opening hours (from all day Monday, Tuesday & Friday, half days on Wednesday & Thursday), stopping face to face consultations and the removal of dispensing should have been approved by the Integrated Care Board or its predecessors, which does not seem to have been the case.

Holt Medical Practice says

The building is poorly designed, has unsuitable disabled access, no rest facilities, infection control is inadequate and the building has structural defects.

We understand

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report of August 2018, reviewed in July 2023, states that "The facilities and premises were appropriate for the services delivered". A local architect tells us Blakeney surgery has good disabled access with wide doors and level thresholds. The CQC report does not raise any issues with disabled access. Now that there is no actual dispensary, a partition could be constructed across the reception area to create a rest area.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection found that "There was an effective system to manage infection prevention and control".

Holt Medical Practice says

The surgery needs a lot of expensive work done.

We understand

HMP's own estimate of the work needed to maintain services only amounts to £70,000, less than the annual income the practice gets from just dispensing to patients in and near Blakeney (estimated at £75,000).

Holt Medical Practice says

HMP states that Blakeney Surgery is unsuitable for modern General Practice using multidisciplinary teams.

We understand

Team based working is not needed for non-urgent appointments. As all urgent same-day consultations are held at Holt, all Blakeney consultations are therefore non-urgent. Melton surgery does not run team-based working.

Holt Medical Practice say

They don't have enough money to run three surgeries and their costs are increasing.

We understand

The amount of money paid to the practice last year by the NHS was almost £5.5 million.

Patients in the Blakeney area contribute about £330,000 to the practice's finances. Nationally, payments to GPs increase with costs and they don't have to pay for their 'Alternative Roles' health professionals.

Holt Medical Practice says

Patients in Blakeney, Langham, Cley and surrounding villages constitute 14%, or just over one eighth, of the practice's patient population.

We understand

There are eight full-time-equivalent doctors at the practice. Blakeney and surrounding villages deserve one eighth of the number of GPs ie one based at Blakeney Surgery.

Holt Medical Practice says

They have difficulty recruiting GPs.

We understand

They have just recruited a GP and their number of full-time equivalent GPs – 8 – is more than enough by national standards to look after their 14,250 patients. Plus, they employ 10.5 full time equivalent allied health professionals.

Holt Medical Practice says

It is possible to catch the no 46 bus into Holt and the no 8 bus to the surgery in High Kelling, or Holt Caring can take you to Kelling or Melton.

We understand

The no 8 bus no longer exists.

There are two buses in the morning to Holt Town Centre, where you need to catch the 44 or the no 9 to take you to the North Norfolk Railway bus stop, a quarter mile walk to the surgery. The round trip takes almost 4 hours from Blakeney. There's one bus a day from Blakeney that connects to Melton with a round trip of 5 ½ hrs.

Holt Caring say they are already at capacity and are opposed to the closure.

PREPARED BY THE SAVE BLAKENEY SURGERY CAMPAIGN

Please also sign our petition on change.org – search for Save Blakeney Surgery – fill in the surgery's survey and comment slips, and email nwicb.blakeneypatientengagement@nhs.net.