**Fern House Patient Participation Group (PPG) Meeting Newsletter**

**7th November 2018 at 6pm**

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| ***Who was there***  From the practice:  Practice Managers Lorraine and Sarah; Reception Manager Sandie and  Dr C. Wright  PPG Members: Marian (Chair) John, Ruth, Margaret, Donna, Marylyn, Sandra.  *If you want to join this group please speak to a member of reception.*  Look out for the next PPG run coffee morning in April 19 | ***Update from the practice***  Sarah, Lorraine and Sandie (new reception manager) reported on:   * Extended Hours scheme for local practices   Weekdays 6.30pm-8.30pm and weekends 8am – 2pm.  Fern House patients can attend Halstead/ Braintree or Chelmsford centres  Book or cancel appointments as usual.   * Flu clinics for under / over 65s |
| ***Update from the Chair***  Marian reported on:   * NHS 70th Birthday coffee morning held on July 4th. We will do this again in April 2019 * Move towards social prescribing in mid Essex and the ways in which PPG could get involved to support the practice. * Availability of a list of health speakers who would be happy to address groups in Witham   The next meeting will be in May 2019 | ***Issues from the patient attendees***  John reported on:   * Work with practice staff to improve notice boards and communications. The group congratulated John and Spencer (Care Navigator) on improvements. John is also researching electronic noticeboard options * local walking group opportunities for patients to improve physical and mental wellbeing – to be included in social prescribing information   Donna asked for clarification regarding pharmacist role with Mental Health medications.  Ruth asked if the proposed multi GP surgery for Witham was progressing. |