

Millbrook Surgery — Statement to the Annual Town Forum, 20 May 2025

On behalf of the Partners: Dr Steven Edgar, Dr Rosie Spencer, and Georgina Ball

Millbrook Surgery currently serves around 7,000 patients across Castle Cary and the surrounding villages. We are proud to be part of this community and tonight we want to share a little about where we are, where we are heading, and why we are genuinely optimistic about the future of general practice in this town.

The practice has grown considerably in recent years. We have invested in our clinical team, expanded the services we offer, and converted additional space within the building to create more consulting capacity. Our purpose-built premises, opened in 2011, were designed with growth in mind, and we are continuing to make the most of them. Alongside our Castle Cary team, we also operate Glastonbury Health Centre, which means we carry the experience of running and developing two practices — and the lessons from one benefit the other.

We are also proud to be a training practice for doctors wishing to become GPs. Over recent years we have expanded our work in this area because we believe it remains one of the most important and sustainable recruitment strategies for the future of the practice. Training and supporting doctors through their GP training gives us the opportunity to grow and retain our own clinicians, helping to secure long-term continuity of care for our patients and community.

We are fortunate that several doctors who trained with us chose to remain at Millbrook Surgery, including Dr Spencer, Dr White, and Dr Cottrell, who all stayed on as salaried GPs. This continuity is incredibly valuable both for the practice and for patient care.

As a training practice, patients may at times be offered appointments with GP registrars and other clinicians in training. These doctors are fully qualified and work under close supervision as part of their development into independent GPs. We are very grateful for the support our patients give to this important work.

Proposed new housing in and around Castle Cary is, on balance, good news for the practice. GP funding is paid per registered patient, so a growing population helps us sustain and expand the team that serves everyone. Growth also allows us to create attractive opportunities for people who come to work with us, helping us continue to recruit, develop, and retain a strong and resilient workforce for the future. We are already in contact with NHS Somerset and our Primary Care Network colleagues to ensure that planning for future capacity keeps pace with residential growth, and we will continue to make that case actively.

We are here for the long term and are committed to continuing to improve the services we provide. We welcome ideas and feedback from the community about things we could

do better, and we would strongly encourage anyone interested in supporting the future direction of the surgery to consider joining our Patient Participation Group (~~Patient PG~~ ^{which} ~~aa~~) plays an important role in helping us understand patient perspectives and strengthen the relationship between the practice and the community we serve.

If anyone this evening has questions, ideas, or simply wants to understand more about how the surgery works and how it is funded, we would welcome that conversation — tonight or at any time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dr Steven Edgar, Dr Jennifer Spencer & Miss Georgina Ball