

November 19th 2008

Building work starts on new GP Surgery in Watford, Hertfordshire



On the Meriden Estate in North Watford the construction of a new GP surgery began and marking the occasion a Turf-cutting ceremony took place at the site of the new building.

The partners and staff of the surgery were joined at the ceremony by:

- Audrey Oaten, local Herts County Councillor and Colin Cooper of Herts CC
- Peter Sweeting and Lindsay South (Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Local Residents' Association)
- Ian Shrimpton and Peter Young from Ashley House plc,
- John Clark, from Aitchison Raffety, the supervising surveyor for the scheme
- Peter Upton from Lloyds TSB, helping to finance the new development
- Naran Kerai, the local pharmacist

The new premises - to be built on the site of the former Meriden Primary School in Harvest Lane, Watford, previously owned by Herts County council - will consist of a part single, part double storey GP surgery with a separate pharmacy and a car parking area. The new building will replace the current inadequate surgery premises at 2 Butterwick.

The development is due to take 46 weeks to complete construction and should be open by end October 2009.

Dr Simon McCann, a fulltime GP partner, lead the ceremony and paid tribute to those who have helped to bring the scheme to fruition.

The Meriden Surgery will be a branch surgery of Park End Surgery (located on the site of a former printers) in Watford. Park End provides health services to a population of 14,500 patients, circa 5,000 of them receiving care from the branch surgery on the Meriden Estate. The 7 GP partners provides patient care in conjunction with 3 salaried GPs and 5 practice nurses and health care assistants, and there are other visiting professionals including midwives, health visitors, district nurses, mental health workers and counsellors.

The new surgery premises, (with an adjacent pharmacy), will provide modern healthcare facilities with a vastly improved environment for patients, and enhanced and pleasant working conditions for clinicians and staff. The GPs are enthusiastic about the quality of the design that Ashley House plc have produced which will increase their ability to offer new services to the wider community.