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**Building work starts on New Surgery in Hartfield, East Sussex**



**Ground breaking ceremony for new GP surgery at Hartfield**

On the site of Old Crown Farm, Hartfield the construction of a long-awaited new GP surgery began and was celebrated with a Turf-cutting ceremony. A special gold plated spade once used by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother was chosen to turn the soil.

Dr. Andrew Wolfle, Senior Partner at Hartfield and Groombridge surgeries, was joined at the ceremony by:

- The Earl and Countess De La Warr, who provided the land and who will own the new surgery.
- Graham Credland, Primary Care Premises Lead for NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
- Marc Kerridge, Development Manager and, Kim Wells, Project Manager for the specialist Primary Care development partner, Ashley House plc
- Hartfield Parish Council – Chairman John Chalke, Vice Chairman Nancy Holmes and former Chairman Kevin Hawes
- Mark Weaver, Complete Land Management Limited
- Paul Coleman, CMS Bath Limited

The new surgery which is located off the High Street in Hartfield, will provide an enhanced level of care for its patients and support the main surgery at Groombridge. Together they will serve a combined total of 4,500 patients.

Senior Partner Dr Andrew Wolfle stated,

*“We are more than delighted that the new surgery is now coming to fruition. It will be well equipped, comfortable, and with even better services for patients to use.”*

The substantially improved facilities will include three consulting rooms, a treatment room, new administration and staff areas, a dispensary and a private interview room. The GPs will be able to carry out minor operations, provide enhanced diabetic clinics and family planning services and also counselling and physiotherapy sessions. Patients will be able to enjoy a large, comfortable waiting area and plenty of parking.

Graham Credland, Primary Care Premises Lead for NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald says,

*“This project has been a challenging one and has involved many partners in getting to this stage. The new surgery will form an essential part in the network of GP facilities serving this rural part of the county”.*

For many years now the GPs at Hartfield have had to work from a temporary surgery building and are particularly looking forward the new premises. They will soon be able to benefit from modern healthcare facilities with a vastly improved environment for patients and enhanced and pleasant working conditions for clinicians and staff.

This is the first phase of further development at Old Crown Farm, which will include affordable housing, a farm shop and offices. Members of Hartfield Parish Council have worked particularly hard to help find the site location and also with organising the public consultations. The new practice is part of a programme of building improved GP facilities in East Sussex.