

**BRIEFING FOR OFFICIALS ON THE PETITION AGAINST THE INTENDED CLOSURE OF BOOTS AT THE AVENUE PHARMACY on 28 OCTOBER 2023**

**Who?**

- Led by David Reeves as a concerned citizen, part of HWB Forum and former Avenue Surgery Patient Group Chair. He was joint spearhead of a successful campaign to stop this happening just prior to Covid.

**Why?**

- England has an average of 13.3 pharmacies per 100,000 of population; Warminster is just over 25,000 so might expect to have 3.34 pharmacies
- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022-25 signed off by Wiltshire Council less than 18 months ago said provision was adequate at 3 in the Warminster Area.
- Actually, other towns fare far better – lucky Trowbridge has 8 for less than twice our population; Westbury has 3 for 5,000 fewer people; while Melksham has 6 for a population only 5,000 more than us. So, even in steady state we were the “poor relation” .....
- ...but it’s far worse than that! Expansion of 1,400 homes in the area was shockingly not taken into account in the Needs Assessment so, not only are we significantly underprovided now – and much more so after closure – we have a population increase of nearly 3,500
- Still unclear whether Boots will retain the licence for the Avenue thus preventing another company from setting up in town – they tried it four years ago!

**How?**

- Since Boots made announcement, no information provided despite efforts of media and individuals. Avenue Practice has been silenced by the Integrated Care Board and by NHS England
- Told by Healthwatch that Boots claim that pharmacies say they can absorb the additional workload – Well Pharmacy deny this and, Boots – well, they would say this, wouldn’t they. The stats don’t lie!
- Contacted Healthwatch Wiltshire and the Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board. Written to Boots CEO asking for tangible evidence – with numbers – to support their assertion that there will be no degradation of service as a result of this closure

**What?**

- Change.org petition (150 signatures across four days) and access to a written petition form in the Civic Centre from 2 October for those who wish to offer up their views and concerns but do not have digital access;
- Two of our five County Councillors (Parks and Ridout) have openly added their support to this petition
- Please spread the word – we have just one calendar month to try to overturn this decision so every piece of support will be critical.

Happy to brief further as needed.