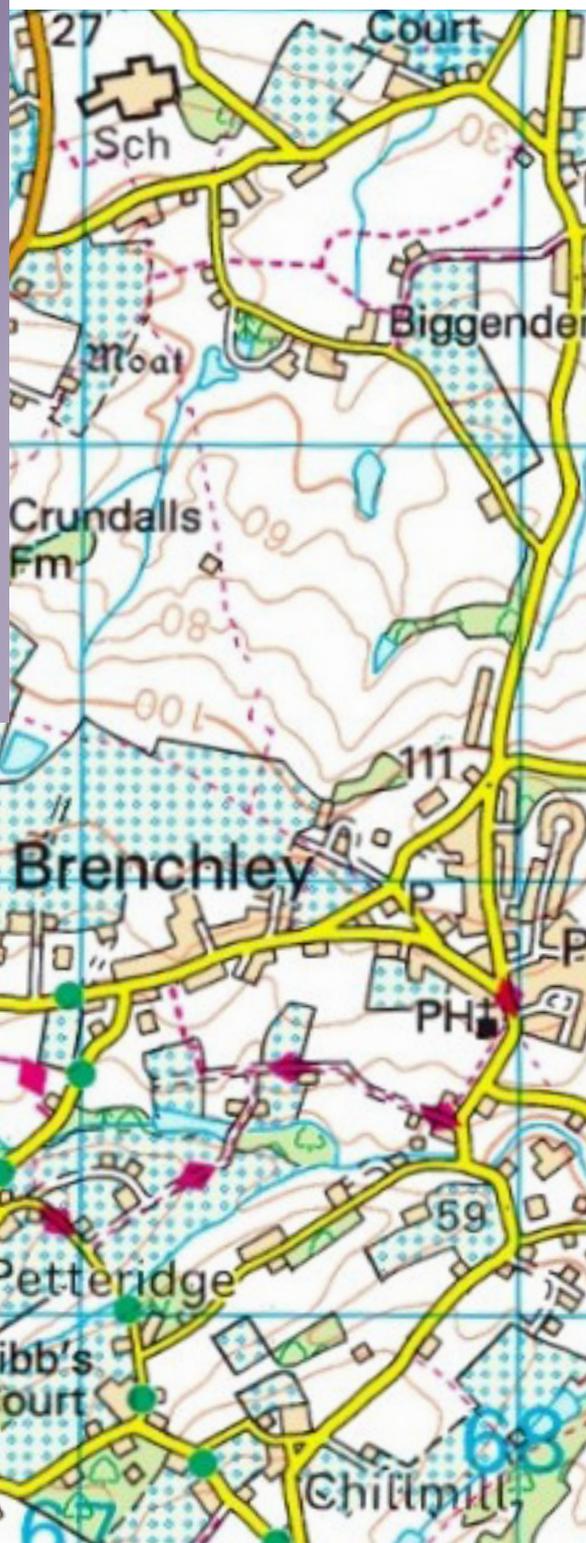


Brenchley & Matfield
Neighbourhood Plan

Position Statement

March 2018

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Brenchley &
Horsmonden
Surgery

BRENCHLEY AND HORSMONDEN SURGERY



Neighbourhood Plan Response: March 2018

Existing practice area

- Brenchley and Horsmonden Practice has approximately 5000 registered patients living in the villages of Matfield, Brenchley, Horsmonden and surrounding areas.
- Current clinical needs are met by 2½ full-time equivalent GPs, 2 part-time practice nurses and a health care assistant and other associated clinical and non-clinical staff.

Increasing the patient list size

- There is little capacity to increase the number of patients registered at the practice, from both a clinical and building accommodation point of view.
- All appointments are fully utilised, and the popular on the day clinics meet the requirements for immediate and emergency access for the existing patient list.
- Recruiting GPs and nurses, particularly for rural practices and in the south east of England, is extremely difficult.

Impact of new housing

- The practice would not be able to accommodate even a relatively modest increase in patient numbers without compromising accessibility to its existing patients, and this is something the practice would not wish to do.
- New housing within the existing practice boundaries would necessitate a reduction in practice area, or potentially closing the list to new patients, to maintain the current list size to ensure patients are seen in a timely way and that existing services are maintained.

Conclusion

- Whilst appreciating the need for housing in the villages, the building of a significant number of new units would necessarily mean that Brenchley and Horsmonden Surgery would have to redraw its boundary to meet the increased number of residents seeking to register at the practice.
- The existing services offered at Brenchley and the branch surgery in Horsmonden may need to change given the problem of finding new GPs and clinical staff. Maintaining a clinically safe and manageable patient list is vital to Brenchley and Horsmonden Surgery – as it is to general practice throughout the country.