

## Report on my participation in the “Your GP and You” Meeting Glasgow, 5 February 2018

A special meeting of the Carradale Community Council on 1 February 2018 revealed a serious potential threat to our local surgery from the imminent imposition of a new GP contract. Afterwards, I asked to accompany Karen Murphy from the Carradale Surgery Patient’s Group to a meeting in Glasgow that I hoped would clarify exactly what our community is facing. Even as I booked my place on the event website, my long-standing deep cynicism about such events was confirmed by the lack of an agenda and the total absence of any detail as to the parameters of the meeting.

By mid-way through the meeting – just before I stormed out – nothing whatsoever of relevance to our surgery’s circumstances had even been mentioned, let alone discussed. I confess that I wanted to leave the room from the moment our table was given a box of emoticon cards to play with, but what precipitated my storming out was when the government’s mouthpiece (Dr. John Nugent, GP Advisor) declared how well we had all been informed of these changes and how GPs had agreed to them. At which point, I stood up and read from a leaked letter by (the very courageous) Dr. Helene Irvine, *who was a member of the government’s own review board*:

***“In fact, effective representation of rural interests was minimal or absent during the discussion of the SAF Review at these TAGRA meetings [...].”***

I can’t actually recall what I said next but it was something to the effect of not wanting my presence to give them any evidence that we had in any way been consulted. I then packed up my things and left.

Though the meeting was even worse than I expected, it at least clarified that we must stand up and fight now if we are to have any influence over what is about to happen to our surgery. Hopefully, you will share the anger I felt when Dr. Irvine revealed in her letter that “public monies” from an “**accounting raid of rural general practice**” was probably used to bribe other GPs into voting for the package. She repeats this throughout her letter along with highlighting why rural GPs are right to be concerned about lack of representation or consultation, declining funding coupled with added costs, and yes, even declining personal income (whilst because of a lack of transparency the “urban GPs will pocket the extra resource as personal income”). I have rarely read such an incendiary letter and encourage you all to read it for yourselves.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will do my best to find you an answer.

Best Wishes,

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