

New medical centre will care for 10,000

Surgery opens to patients after lengthy wait



Moving on: the new Grove Medical Centre at Borehamwood Shopping Park has opened its doors to patients

by TOMMY NORTON

A new medical centre with the capacity to serve 10,000 patients opened last week at Borehamwood Shopping Park.

The Grove Medical Centre has opened at the gates of the Shopping Park in Theobald Street and will be the new home of the Grove Road GP's practice which opened in 1952.

It brings to an end an eight-year wait for new premises.

The new team includes five GPs, two nurses and a health care assistant who will share the spacious new premises and will have the capacity to serve up to 10,000 patients in Borehamwood and parts of Shenley.

Senior partner at the surgery Dr Catherine Nicholson said: "We have moved on 50 years in one fell swoop."

"It's wonderful, the floor space alone is many times bigger than our last premises and much more modern.

"[The Grove Road site] was nowhere near adequate," said Dr Nicholson.

The new surgery has a large reception area, seven consulting rooms, two nurses' rooms, a counselling room and a recovery room, as well as plenty of office space.

The Grove Road site, which was a converted council house, will be torn down early next week to make way for four three-bedroom houses.

It only had three consulting rooms



'Inadequate': the former Grove Road site where the practice spent 53 years

and one nurses' room.

Doctors from the dilapidated Grove Road site first applied for new premises back in 1998.

The surgery finally got the go-ahead after several false-starts in 2004. Twice plans for a medical centre at the Shopping Centre, formerly called Boulevard 25, had been approved, in 1999 and 2000, only to be scrapped soon after.

Planners at Hertsmere Borough Council backed the idea of a medical centre once the design had been

changed to be more in keeping with Theobald Street's appearance.

Doctors are hoping that a GP surgery conveniently situated at a shopping centre will attract more patients and emulate the success of similar projects in America.

Dr Jane Rose, who works at the new surgery, said: "It will mean much more comfortable working conditions for patients and staff."