

KEEP THE HORTON GENERAL



Keep the Horton General at the Court of Appeal

Representatives of Keep the Horton General (KTHG) were in Court 71 – the Master of the Rolls’ court – on Thursday 14 March for their Appeal hearing. In front of Sir Terence Etherton (Master of the Rolls), Lord Justice McCombe and Lord Justice Lindblom KTHG’s QC, Samantha Broadfoot spoke for the entire morning session.

In December 2017 Lord Justice Mostyn had found against the local councils and KTHG who had brought the case, despite criticising Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) for the way they had conducted the consultation.

The Appeal’s focus was the dismissal of the unlawfulness claim by KTHG and local councils over the consultation on downgrading services at the Horton General Hospital. KTHG believe the 2017 consultation, conducted by OCCG (before it could finalise its plans to end the Horton’s full maternity service and special care baby unit, close 45 beds and downgrade intensive care) was flawed.

KTHG said OCCG had not given the local people information regarding the disadvantages of the downgrading - which they were obliged to do. Nor had they met NHS ‘bed tests’ introduced that Spring.

Lord Justice Etherton described the advocates’ deliveries as exceptional and said the case is very important to a great many local people.

KTHG’s Legal Lead, Peter McLoughlin said “This shows the importance with which it is being treated. The Master of the Rolls is the second most senior Judge in the land. We have always maintained that the people of Banburyshire should have had a bigger say in health provision planning as is required under existing law.”

ends

16 March 2019

For more details contact our Chairman, Keith Strangwood:

Tel: 07740 599736
www.keepthehortongeneral.org



Email: nkarnia@aol.com
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