



PRESS RELEASE

Eggs? Baskets?

On the day that many Horton supporters travel to Oxford to attend the critical meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny committee, Keep the Horton General Chairman Keith Strangwood remarked on the irony of the timing. Less than a week ago the Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHFT) were outed by a health and safety investigation. The trauma unit at the John Radcliffe hospital, with the loss of 52 beds, has closed due to issues with the cladding of the building.

OUHFT medical director, Tony Berendt, who has been so outspoken why services should be pared back at the Horton, was faced with the task of finding 52 beds elsewhere.

He estimates that the upgrade of the unit will take up to 12 months. So where were those beds found? Ironically three at the Horton General Hospital!

Mr Strangwood, observed 'If you look at the disdain with which the OUHFT has treated the maternity building in Banbury, the lack of any investment in upkeep, the deliberate erosion of maintenance, then you can see their attitude towards their 'estate'. Given the loss of revenue due to the parking ticket machines not being updated in Banbury we can only draw the conclusion that this is a deliberate attempt to 'not resuscitate the patient' in Banbury.'

ends

7 August 2017

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