



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **What a spectacular own goal!**

In the same week that the car parking ticket machines were 'out of order' at the Horton General Hospital (due to the inability of the machines to accept the new £1 coins) parking at the John Radcliffe hospital (JR) in Oxford hit the global airwaves.

The Times and the Daily Telegraph reported on the tale of woe suffered by vascular and transplant consultant, Christopher Darby.

Unable to find a parking space and concerned for the wellbeing of his patients, Mr Darby decided to park in a disabled bay. His intention was purely altruistic. He had no desire to make his patients suffer delays due to the 'dysfunctional JR parking system'.

Perhaps unwisely, the Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHFT) decided to 'see Mr Darby in court' last week when he refused to pay the ensuing fine. Mr Darby was fined £50 for the parking charge plus £6.18 interest and £110 in court fees and fixed costs.

'So rather than hide the fact that parking at the JR is a complete nightmare, and patients are suffering extra stress and anxiety before they have entered the hospital, the OUHFT decided to take the consultant to court. At a time when services are threatened at the Horton with the very real possibility that more patients from the north of the county are to be treated at the JR they have given us a free advert. I applaud Mr Darby for sticking to his principles. Something Keep the Horton General has done religiously over the years' commented its Chairman Keith Strangwood.

ends

21 May 2017

---

For more details contact Chairman:  
Keith Strangwood tel: 077405 99736 email: nkarnia@aol.com  
[www.keepthehortongeneral.org](http://www.keepthehortongeneral.org)