



PRESS RELEASE

Keep the Horton General has its day in court

Following a decision by Judge Allen in the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division Administrative Court on 24 July when he refused permission for a full hearing, Cherwell District Council (CDC) has requested a reconsideration of this refusal at a pre-hearing. This enables a different judge to decide whether the original legal submissions were arguable and therefore warrant a full hearing.

Representatives of Keep the Horton General (KTHG) will attend the pre-hearing on Tuesday 5 September, at which their barrister will make submissions in support of a full-hearing. KTHG are acting through its chairman, Keith Strangwood, as 'an interested party' in the challenge mounted by CDC/South Northants/Stratford District/Banbury Town Councils.

If permission is granted, a full-hearing will be listed for another date. The High Court will then rule on the legality of the Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) consultation concerning the downgrade of Horton General.

KTHG is represented by law firm Leigh Day, who had a successful result in the Lewisham Hospital v Jeremy Hunt case in October 2013 (at the Court of Appeal.)

Their solicitor, Rowan Smith, of Leigh Day said: "The campaign has been fighting to save the Horton General for nearly 20 years, demonstrating that this is an incredibly important local issue. Our clients believe that there were a number of substantial flaws present in the CCG's consultation process and we hope that the High Court will take these into consideration when hearing this case."

ends

4 September 2017

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The hearing on Tuesday 5 September 2017 will be held in court 1 at the Royal Courts of Justice from 10.30am