



PRESS RELEASE

Lord Paddy Ashdown travelled to Banbury yesterday (19 October) specifically to meet Keep the Horton members. He assured Chairman Keith Strangwood that the issue of The Sustainability and Transformation Plan will be examined in the House of Lords by a cross party group coordinated by Norman Lamb.

Following Baroness Billingham of Banbury showing her unswerving support of the Horton by accompanying the group when they handed in a 20,000 signature petition at Downing Street on Monday 10 October, Mr Strangwood said 'We now have various contacts within the House of Lords. We are optimistic that they will join together and oppose the draconian measures that Jeremy Hunt is attempting to force upon the NHS'.

As the group continue to fight for full services to be retained at the Horton General Hospital, the Oxford University Hospital Foundation Trust is struggling to manage the impact of its bed removal from HGH.

'Unfortunately our Facebook page is full of patient experiences in A&E. Long waits, nights spent on trolleys, photos of ambulances queuing outside to discharge their occupants. You don't need to be a scholar to predict what will happen if you remove a significant number of beds from wards. There are less available for those requiring admission' an exasperated Chairman observed 'and we are nowhere near the inevitable spike in admissions over the winter months'.

ends

20 October 2016

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www.keepthehortongeneral.org