



PRESS RELEASE

Keep the Horton General's Facebook page, 'Save Our Horton', has enjoyed a lively exchange of messages recently. Its subject? The assurance to expectant mothers by Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust (OUHFT) that, in the event of significant snowfall, ambulances will be fitted with snow tyres. Failing that they should position themselves as close to the John Radcliffe as possible.

'Our followers get it – why doesn't the Trust get it?' remarked KTHG's Chairman, Keith Strangwood. 'Posts include what about getting round the jackknifed lorries? Another offered tents and sleeping bags to all expectant mums. One of the posts, from the 'front line' said they had snow socks, not tyres, and wouldn't have time to fit them if they were treating a patient anyway'.

Sadly, in 2017, in the sixth richest nation on the planet, this is what it has come to. The Horton lost its consultant led maternity unit in early October 2016 and, as a result, this is how the many mothers-to-be in Banbury and surrounding villages are being treated. With a shrug of the shoulders and an assurance about snow tyres. 'You may be stuck behind an ambulance with snow chains fitted, that's stuck behind 100s of stranded cars blocking the way, that don't have snow chains' commented Mr Strangwood (who owns a motor servicing/repair business so maybe knows what he's talking about.) 'How much longer are the people of Banburyshire expected to tolerate this level of disdain from those who hold the reins of power, in Oxford?'

Note to editors:

<http://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/health/horton-hospital-consultation-to-start-on-monday-1-7767958>

ends

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