

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

SAVING SERVICES AT THE HORTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. David Smith,
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group,
Jubilee House,
5510 John Smith Drive,
Oxford Business Park South,
Oxford, OX4 2LH.

5 April 2017

Dear Mr. Smith,

Following a recent meeting with residents, Milcombe Parish Council needs to reiterate its previous comments on the downgrading of services at the Horton General Hospital with regard to public opposition.

Views have been heard and it is felt that you are only giving the public one part of the story by only publishing the first phase making judgement difficult as to what may follow.

Patients from outside the boundaries of Banbury and rural Oxfordshire, such as Warwickshire and S.Northants are affected and Milcombe Parish Council backs Cherwell District Council in its opposition to the proposals as we believe there are flaws in the consultation, especially as so many facts remain unknown.

In particular we feel the need to bring to your attention once again the downgrading of the HGH Maternity Services and the dangers of transporting patients (mothers and babies – born and unborn) on a lengthy, uncomfortable and frightening journey to the JR at Oxford where anything could happen with regard to hold-ups en route.

One of the excuses you put forward is being unable to employ the correctly qualified staff at the Maternity unit. Surely this is because their jobs would be hanging in the balance, not knowing what your next move might be (Phase 2?).

Following on from this, it might be expected that other services would end up being cut and the HGH may be left without any baby/children's care. How much thought has gone into parents having to travel to Oxford, whether or not they have transport and whether they have other children at home? We do not feel that any care is being shown for the personal wellbeing of patients. It seems more like an exercise in costcutting.

Acute services, anaesthetics and A&E are crucial services which need to remain at the HGH, particularly with the ever increasing population around Banbury and the villages. It is common knowledge that the JR cannot cope with the additional influx and therefore the HGH cannot afford to lose any more beds in any of its departments.

ALL SERVICES AT THE HGH ARE VITAL AND URGENTLY NEEDED FOR THE BANBURY AREA WHICH IT SERVES. THE PROPOSALS ARE A THREAT TO LIFE ITSELF.

MILCOMBE PARISH COUNCILLORS AGAIN SAY:

UPGRADE – NOT DOWNGRADE – SERVICES AT THE HORTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

If services are upgraded, there is much more chance of being able to employ the right staff to manage the services required.

Marlene Cowell (Chairman), Mandie McCullough, Peter Booth, David Hughes, Myra Peters
(Milcombe Parish Councillors)

Marlene Cowell (Chairman), Milcombe Parish Council [sender's personal address redacted]
(Clerk to Milcombe Parish Council is Theresa Goss, [sender's personal address redacted])