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5th August 2016

Dear Mr Jarrett,

**HELP US TO SAVE THE HORTON GENERAL HOSPITAL
FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PARISHIONERS**

We would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of Wardington Parish Council.

As you will be aware, in 2006 the Oxford University Hospitals Trust announced plans to downgrade the children's and maternity services. After a long campaign the matter was referred to the Secretary of State and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in 2008 rejected the plan. A mere eight years later the OUHT has come forward again with the same proposals which would mean day time advice only for children, with any needing to be admitted having to go to Oxford or elsewhere. There would be no Special Care Baby Unit.

On the maternity side it would mean a midwife only unit with at least two thirds of the current patients having to be delivered in Oxford. If this were not bad enough, we now have the threat of an early "temporary" closure of Maternity due to failure to recruit middle grade doctors.

There is already great opposition to these plans in the Banbury area but they also have serious implications for people outside the natural catchment of the Horton. The John Radcliffe hospital is frequently overloaded and has to divert patients to Banbury. If this were no longer available they would have to be sent greater distances..

On the previous occasion we had great support from Parish Councils and therefore very much hope that your Council will share our concerns and consider writing to the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (Mr David Smith, C.E.O., Oxfordshire CCG, Jubilee House, John Smith Drive, Oxfordshire Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2LH). Could you also ask your parishioners to play their part by writing to the OCCG via their own GPs?

They could also help by completing the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K3VFYT2>

With best wishes

Keith Strangwood
Chairman
Keep the Horton General campaign

Peter Fisher FRCP
Former Horton consultant