



PRESS RELEASE

Last month Keith Strangwood (Chairman of Keep the Horton General) gave an impassioned presentation, regarding the withdrawal 12 months ago of Emergency Abdominal Surgery (EAS) from the Horton, to members of the Health and Overview Scrutiny (HOSC) committee in Oxford.

As a result of this, Stephen Richards, currently Clinical Director of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), made a pledge to HOSC that the OCCG would organise a public meeting in Banbury. The people of Banburyshire were given an assurance by the Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHT), following its removal of EAS without any notice, that the issue would be the subject of a Public Consultation. This failed to materialise.

Therefore the object of the meeting, planned by OCCG in conjunction with OUHT, on February 5th from 18.00-20.15 (venue in Banbury to be decided) is to consult with Horton users, to inform and gauge public reaction to changes at the Horton. The outcome(s) of this joint venture will be reported to HOSC at their meeting on February 27th.

Keith Strangwood observes 'after a year of requesting the consultation, Banburyshire people deserve to have their say. Users of the Horton hospital, must have their voices heard in a public forum. I urge as many people as possible to attend the meeting especially those that have been subjected to hardship due to services being transferred to the John Radcliffe in Oxford. We must leave those, who make the decisions that affect so many local lives, in no doubt how we feel about services being removed from our beloved Horton hospital'.

ends

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