

Support NHS Health Services in Congleton!
2nd Peaceful Protest 10.30am 17th November
Congleton War Memorial Hospital

COPY OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY CLLR PAUL BATES AND RICHARD WALTON

We would like to invite the residents of Congleton to come together and show their support for our cherished War Memorial Hospital and Minor Injuries Unit. We would therefore ask you to join us at the second meeting of Peaceful Protest outside the hospital on Canal Road, Congleton from 10.30 am on Saturday 17th November. This will be to show support for services and staff at the War Memorial.

It will a great opportunity to show the relevant decision makers that the people of Congleton will not accept downgrading of services offered at the War Memorial Hospital, especially the reduction in operating hours of its Minor Injuries Unit, which currently faces a very uncertain future.

Local resident, Richard Walton, made the following statement;

‘Much has been reported about our MIU staff having to cover staff shortages in Macclesfield A&E, leading to closures and a reduction in its hours of operation. If that wasn’t of serious enough concern for residents, it is by no means the only serious challenge our Minor Injuries Unit faces.

As part of a National review of the provision of Emergency medicine, the East Cheshire NHS Trust Clinical Commissioning Group advised that they would be unwilling to spend a reported £4m to bring the MIU up to the new required standard. However, what they have steadfastly refused to comment on, is if this means that all current funding will be withdrawn because of this review.

If that were the case, residents would have to visit local doctors’ surgeries and pharmacists, who would be expected to deliver the services currently offered by the Minor Injuries Unit.

I’d like to share a very recent incident that shows why this proposal is both unacceptable and unworkable for all those who currently use the services of our MIU

A neighbour got stung by an insect walking home to Buglawton on a week day morning, resulting in the bite becoming inflamed. His wife took him to the MIU just before noon- it was closed. She then took him to local pharmacist who said they could not treat him and told him to go to the MIU or to see his doctor. His doctor’s surgery stated that they had no appointments & that he should go to the MIU. When told that the MIU was closed, the surgery finally phoned back just after 7.00pm saying a doctor would see him after considerable pressure being applied on the surgery receptionist by the patient’s wife. The doctor agreed the blisters were bad and prescribed him antibiotics, and stated it

was a shame that he could not have been seen at the MIU. He then had to find an open pharmacist.

Cllr Paul Bates said “ Congleton is a growing service centre we feel any down grading of services through recruitment issues within Macclesfield Hospital or other issues is not what Congleton residents or service centre users will accept. We are a growing town with an older demographic and with a wish for an outcome that people live life better and for longer this does not fit with that wish. We demand local services for a local service centre.

Marketing of the hospital is poor as there are no signs other than the one at the entrance that says we have a Minor Injuries Unit. Redundant buildings on the site need to be brought back into either commercial or medical use to alleviate strains on the budget. I send a clear message to The Board of East Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group, the residents will not accept a death by a thousand cuts to our valuable service at the time when demand will expand with the ambitions and population of the town and we want a statement securing the future of the site to that effect.

Richard and Paul would therefore love all residents to join us on Saturday 17th September at 10.30 to show both local and national decision makers that this is not the level of health care they either want or deserve.