



Independent Health Concern



Media Release - 15th May 2008

Health Concern Candidate Excluded by Tory/Liberal Stitch-up!

An attempt by Health Concern to have **Dr Howard Eeles** appointed as the District Council Representative on the Worcestershire County Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee was defeated at last night's Council AGM by the combined votes of the Tory, Liberal, Liberal Democrat consortium. Instead the Council re-appointed Birmingham school teacher and *Tory chum*, **Fran Oborski**.

In moving the recommendation, Health Concern Leader Howard Martin said Dr Eeles was the only realistic choice and was the most experienced health professional on the Council, best equipped to speak knowledgeably on health matters and effectively represent the best interests of Wyre Forest residents in this important and specialist matter. The rejection was not totally unexpected, with the predictable Tory administration also awarding all three of the influential Scrutiny Chairs to **Liberal** and **Lib Dem** councillors.

Howard Martin said, *"John Champion says he wants to be inclusive to all groups on the Council and do what is best for Wyre Forest. His parties appalling actions last night show he is not a man of his word, has no honour and cannot be trusted. Clearly, to all non-political observers, Dr Eeles scores hands down in every way as the best representative for Wyre Forest on the Health Committee. The election of a generalist in Cllr. Oborski proves the Tories don't care about what is right for Wyre Forest, just in underpinning their political power base by appointing a like minded political 'buddy' completely lacking in any medical knowledge."*

Health Concern Denied a Voice by Tories.

Regarding Council Scrutiny Chairs, where Health Concern was given none, despite being the official opposition, but the Liberals and Lib Dems three, Cllr Martin said *"We were offered a Chair and had accepted that, but we wanted to negotiate our choice or have one of the chairs offered to the Liberals and proposed to move this as an amendment. (Quite a normal and acceptable Council process.) Cllr. Champion told us that if we moved an amendment he would see it as critical of the Tories and we would get nothing. He doesn't want debate or any view but his own to be heard. We saw his attitude as childish and political blackmail to which we would not be party. The 'Leader' promptly threw his rattle out of the pram and withdrew what we had been offered – the Council now has some committee Vice Chairs who have been councillors for two weeks and went to their first meeting last night! I'm afraid the Tories are acting as dictators not democrats and saying 'if we don't get our own way we will make you toe the line anyway'. Dictators are not strong, they are weak and impose their will by force – that sums up this Tory administration – but it is Wyre Forest residents who will be the losers."*

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