



Independent Health Concern



The Editor
Kidderminster Shuttle
Blackwell Street
Kidderminster

30 October 2006

Dear Sir

In response to Phil Green's letter, I am happy to tell him what our policy is on the return of services to Kidderminster Hospital, although he would already know that if he reads Richard Taylor's regular column in this newspaper.

Since the withdrawal of services locally and the closure of A&E, Richard Taylor has never promised an early return of full blue light services to Kidderminster. Indeed local doctors and nurses cannot now support it!

What we have advocated is some amalgamation of the Primary Care Centre and Minor Injuries Unit to create an Urgent Care Centre. This would have a Doctor in charge and would allow for a wider spectrum of injuries and straight forward illnesses to be dealt with locally, taking the pressure off Worcester A&E. This has the full support of John Rostill, the Acute Trust Chief Executive, with whom Richard has been in close contact on this matter.

We have also worked for, and achieved, the return of some elective surgery to Kidderminster and continue to actively promote the return of other services locally. Without full hospital services on site, the return of a full blue light A&E is neither possible nor sustainable.

With his expertise and knowledge, Richard is in a better position than traditional politicians to influence the Government in power, whosoever they may be. I suggest Mr Green reads Hansard's recent report on a health debate to understand how influential Richard really is in 'high-up' Government circles and that they (continue to) listen to him regarding Hospital configurations.

Whilst we still have a long way to go, and Independent Health Concern will stand at local and national elections for many more years to promote that aim, it is worth noting that no other hospital in the UK has been as viciously ravaged as Kidderminster General. The fact that the Government have not treated any other hospital in such a severe way is down to the wonderful campaign initially fought by the people of Wyre Forest and now carried on by Richard Taylor and Health Concern.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Howard Martin
Leader
Independent Health Concern