



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Hands off the Horton – AGAIN!**

At yesterday's public meeting of the Community Partnership Network (CPN) held in the Council Chamber at the offices of Cherwell District Council, due to overwhelming numbers of public participants including Horton Midwives and recently delivered mums – with their babies - the Oxford University Hospital Foundation Trust (OUHFT) presented their "emerging options" for the Horton General Hospital. The OUHFT said all options will need to be assessed for activity, workforce, finance and estates and there will be a full consultation in October 2016.

Please follow this link to find out more  
at [http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/n/s/CPN\\_Agenda\\_Meeting\\_doc\\_140616.pdf](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/n/s/CPN_Agenda_Meeting_doc_140616.pdf)

The Midwives were praised from several quarters on the stance they took. It was refreshing to hear from those on the front line and their representations were impassioned, articulate and informed.

Andrew McHugh, former Practice Manager Horsefair Surgery, said that he has contacted many GPs in the north of the county, and their response was 'overwhelmingly against the Midwife Led Unit (MLU) on the grounds of safety'.

Because of the extended session (originally tabled for 50 minutes of debate but ultimately taking well over an hour and a half) Ian Davies, Chairman of CPN, suggested that a special Maternity workshop should take place to explore further the OUHFT's options re a MLU at the Horton.

Keith Strangwood, Chairman of Keep the Horton General and a member of the CPN, praised the Midwives and said 'We suggested at the meeting that the Midwives have at least one representative who attends all meetings that will affect their future and that of the Maternity Dept at the Horton. At last, the informed voice of reason will be heard.'

ends

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For more details contact Chairman:  
Keith Strangwood tel: 077405 99736 email: nkarnia@aol.com

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facebook: Save Our Horton