



SAVE BRIDLINGTON HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN ACTION GROUP

Chairman: Mick Pilling
12, New Pasture Close,
Bridlington
East Yorkshire YO16 7NT Tel: 01262 671926
email: mickpilling@btopenworld.com Website: www.savebridlingtonhospital.co.uk
Saturday 9th February 2008

To: The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP (Health Secretary)
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

cc The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP (Prime Minister)
cc The Rt. Hon. Greg Knight MP - cc (Shadow Health Sec) the Rt. Hon. Andrew Lansley MP
cc The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP – cc The Rt. Hon. Menzies Cambell MP
Dear Mr Johnson;

We; The **Save Bridlington Hospital Campaign Action Group** would like to invite you to Bridlington in early March 2008 to accept a Petition on behalf our group with members of the Town Council present; the Petition presented to you Mr Johnson will hopefully be signed by every member of the town and surrounding areas who object to the removal of the Cardiac Monitoring Unit & Acute Medical Services.

We as a town do sincerely hope you will accept this invitation and come to Bridlington; accept the Petition and take a tour around a modern clean hospital which could be built upon and investment made for the future.

Bridlington is a fast growing town and a re-development area to lose any services from our local hospital would make a serious difference to the town and could result in the loss of lives.

Therefore, Mr Johnson please accept our invitation; you sir could help to save many live we firmly believe.

Your truly Mick Pilling (Chairman)

Please Mr. Johnson, read this letter.

The **Save Bridlington Hospital Campaign Action Group est: 2002** is leading the way; it is campaigning for the retention of the Bridlington Hospital's Healthcare Services which are under threat from the Scarborough & North East Yorkshire NHS Healthcare Trust; who runs the Bridlington Hospital; the hospital is taking a battering of down-grading regarding Hospital Healthcare Services; which could lead to the very demise of services as we know them; the Scarborough NHS Trust Board are to remove in the coming months of 2008 the (CMU) Cardiac Monitoring Unit of 6 beds which serves a town of approx 44,000 residents, mainly elderly retired people; the Trust's intentions also are to remove the Acute Medical Services Ward of 30 beds which is also earmarked to be removed to Scarborough; this as indeed angered the Town of Bridlington to the point of 5 GP Surgeries involving over 20+ doctors damning such removal of services; they also

stated Lives Could & would be lost! A March/Protest of 3,000 people who marched on the Bridlington hospital in October 2007; the Campaign Group also presented a Petition of 22,500 signatures to the Scarborough NHS Trust in December 2006; to date the Scarborough NHS Trust have taken no notice of what residents want and have given the town of Bridlington a deaf-ear; in all the consultation held the people stated no the removal of services; the Councillors of Bridlington & Beverley took a vote and gave the Scarborough NHS Trust a Vote of NO Confidence, a vote by no less than 63 Councillors. The North & East Yorkshire Health & Scrutiny Committee have also voted against these service been removed and have launched documentation and sent this to the Health Secretary awaiting his decision?

Over the past 2 years we have seen; firstly the closure over-night of the Minor Injuries Unit 9.00pm till 9.00am next day, now with no over-night cover patients are having to travel between 20/40 miles to nearest A&E hospital based in either Scarborough, York or Hull travelling on bad country rural roads sometimes snow covered or with adverse weather conditions; then we had the closure of the Maternity Unit at Bridlington Hospital patients again having to travel between 20/40 miles to the nearest hospital as above; we have had 4 babies born in the backs of Ambulances and some mothers giving birth in cars a practice which still happens from time to time. We have now lost the Waters Ward which deals with Mental Health patients run by Hull Mental Healthcare, we have only 2 wards of Mental Health the other ward is Buckrose Ward and this is ear-marked for removal by 2010 or before; wards loss of 35 jobs and 24 beds. Primary Healthcare Trusts & Hospital Trusts with massive debts. We can no longer sustain such cuts in this rural areas; **lives could be lost**. We need your support please sign our petition; lets all show solidarity Hospitals **We will be taking our latest petition to the Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown also to the Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson Health Secretary we will ask them to intervene and to re-think the new reforms before lives are lost or put at risk.**

We are informed by the Scarborough & North East Yorkshire NHS Healthcare Trust & Board; who runs the Bridlington Hospital that the (CMU) of 6 beds & Acute Medical Service of 30 beds cannot be sustained and they are to remove such services in the coming months along with Maternity Services, the Trust continue to use the Words; Health & Safety? Surely they must consider health & safety when running wards with staff shortages, the lack of porters and other staff. In order for the above to work it would require 3 Ambulances & approx 37 trained staff (cost £1.5m)

The Bridlington Hospital will be 20 years old this very year, the hospital was built with money raised by the town, the land was donated, 3 hospitals in Bridlington were pulled down to build a state of the art hospital and the people of the town were told it would serve them for years to come. Bridlington is a thriving holiday town fast growing with housing complexes been built at a rapid rate; there are 6 or 7 such buildings taking place now, Hotels, Guest-houses and holiday flats are plenty-full; caravan sites will be opening shortly and as we reach the holiday season our town will have an influx of 100,000 visitors and holiday makers. The new Bridlington Spa will be opening shortly and will have many thousands of visitors for the summer season, many other developments are also in progress. That is way the Bridlington Hospital should be up-graded and not down-graded as the case maybe now.

When the Scarborough & North East Yorkshire NHS Healthcare Trust took over the running of the Bridlington hospital no invest was made? Now the hospital is being run-down with the Trust wanting to remove more services listed above, this as angered the town.

The People of the town of Bridlington & surrounding areas are to form a legal service and advocacy so that if any person dies in transit as a result of the CMU been removed and the patient having to travel between 20 to 40 miles to the nearest hospital; legal action must be taken against the Scarborough NHS Trust. As they will be held responsible!

Yours truly Mick Pilling (Chairman)

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I look forward sincerely to your Reply Sir;