

Marlborough area

# FOCUS



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Delivered free by local Liberal Democrats to every household in the Marlborough area

## HEALTH SPECIAL SAVE SAVERNAKE HOSPITAL



Local residents were shocked when they discovered that the Wiltshire PCT is pressing ahead with plans to shut the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Savernake Hospital even before proper alternatives are in place.

The Day Hospital, which assesses and looks after older patients, and the Farmer Unit, a renowned centre for mental health care were already under threat, but the PCT had assured local people that the Minor Injuries Unit could stay.

On hearing the news about the MIU the Marlborough Town Council called a public meeting. The PCT was invited, but could not attend. Subsequently the PCT met the Town Council but insisted that it would only come if the public were excluded. The PCT refused to answer any questions from the public.

Liberal Democrat Town Councillors, LibDem district councillor Peggy Dow, and local campaigners are working closely with CASH (a non-party group set up to save Savernake) and with the Friends of Savernake Hospital to get the PCT to change its mind.

FULL STORY OVERLEAF...SAVE SAVERNAKE HOSPITAL

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## SAVERNAKE HOSPITAL - DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS?

**AT RISK!**

### YOUR LIBERAL DEMOCRAT COUNCILLORS:

#### District Council:

Peggy Dow,  
12 Southview Place, 512074

#### Town Council:

- Peggy Dow (see above)
- Bryan Castle  
22 Town Mill 513955
- Graham Francis  
The Beeches, Mildenhall 519067
- Alexander Kirk-Wilson  
4 Purlyn Acre 513861
- Richard Pitts  
8 Bergamot Close, Manton 516978

Or you can email us at  
[marlborough@devizeslibdems.org.uk](mailto:marlborough@devizeslibdems.org.uk)

When local resident **John Thomson** heard of the PCT's latest attempts to close services at Savernake he wrote to the then Secretary of State for Health, Patricia Hewitt. "I had a reply from some official suggesting that I write instead to Sir Ian Carruthers, the head of NHS South West," said John, "So I wrote to him but instead had a reply from the Chair of Wiltshire PCT. This letter conceded that the closure of the Minor Injuries Unit was not put forward during last year's consultation. It looks as if Savernake is to be subjected to 'salami slicing' or death by a thousand cuts."

The PCT seems determined to:

- Close the MIU even though alternatives are not ready. The PCT suggests GP surgeries or the Clover Unit at Great Western Hospital, but they are only open at certain times. For out-of-hours injuries people will have to travel to Swindon's already hard-pressed A&E unit or further afield.
- Close the Day Hospital before the Neighbourhood Teams to replace it are up and running
- Close the Farmer Unit and rely on beds at Swindon, not Salisbury as originally suggested.

The PCT has not so far reached agreement with its staff about the new structures, and has refused to pilot the new arrangements before rolling them out across the county.

