

## Pincher Welcomes News from Sir Robert Peel as Trust Delays Changes

Christopher Pincher, Member of Parliament for Tamworth and surrounding villages, has welcomed the announcement from the Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that there will be no change to services at Sir Robert Peel hospital until at least the summer of 2015. Hospital chiefs have put on hold plans to withdraw day case surgery at the Mile Oak facility until they have reviewed the impact of service changes planned at Good Hope and until they have spoken again with local GPs and patients. Their decision follows a review of the consultation feedback on their proposals, the views expressed in local meetings and the campaign fought by many local people, including local MP Christopher Pincher, calling for a rethink.

Mr Pincher has raised concerns about the proposed changes for the last year including holding a special debate on the Sir Robert Peel in the House of Commons together with several letters and meetings with Trust executives. Last month he visited Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt to make him aware of his concerns and called on the managers of Good Hope, the Heart of England Foundation Trust (HEFT) to talk directly with the Burton Trust about the impact of changes.

Following the announcement Mr Pincher said:

"The announcement from Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust about Sir Robert Peel shows good sense. They cannot make changes at Mile Oak whilst it is unclear what service changes might be made at Good Hope. That could lead to a demand for more or new services at the Peel."

"At a meeting with HEFT on 24th October I specifically asked that they talk to the management of the Peel hospital so that both Trusts know what they are doing and both act to ensure local people get a good service. I have also asked HEFT what services they could use at the Peel and if they might even be able to take it over. I think it is important we explore all opportunities to improve services at our local hospital so they are right for the local population."

"I will be meeting with the Chief Executive of the Burton Trust again soon and I will go through all these options with her including day case surgery, elderly care services and GP super surgery options. Meanwhile congratulations to everyone who campaigned for a change of heart – although there is still work to do, all our voices have been heard."

The HEFT public consultation closes on 19th January 2015, for more information on the proposed changes for Good Hope please visit <http://www.heartofengland.nhs.uk/surgery-reconfiguration/>.

There will be no service change at the Sir Robert Peel until at least June 2015. Over the next six months, the Trust will implement a full action plan designed to boost activity at the facility, including marketing services to GP practices and ensuring local patients are being offered the choice of using the Peel for non-complex day case procedures. The Trust will also work closely with the rest of the health community, including the HEFT, to increase activity at the unit.