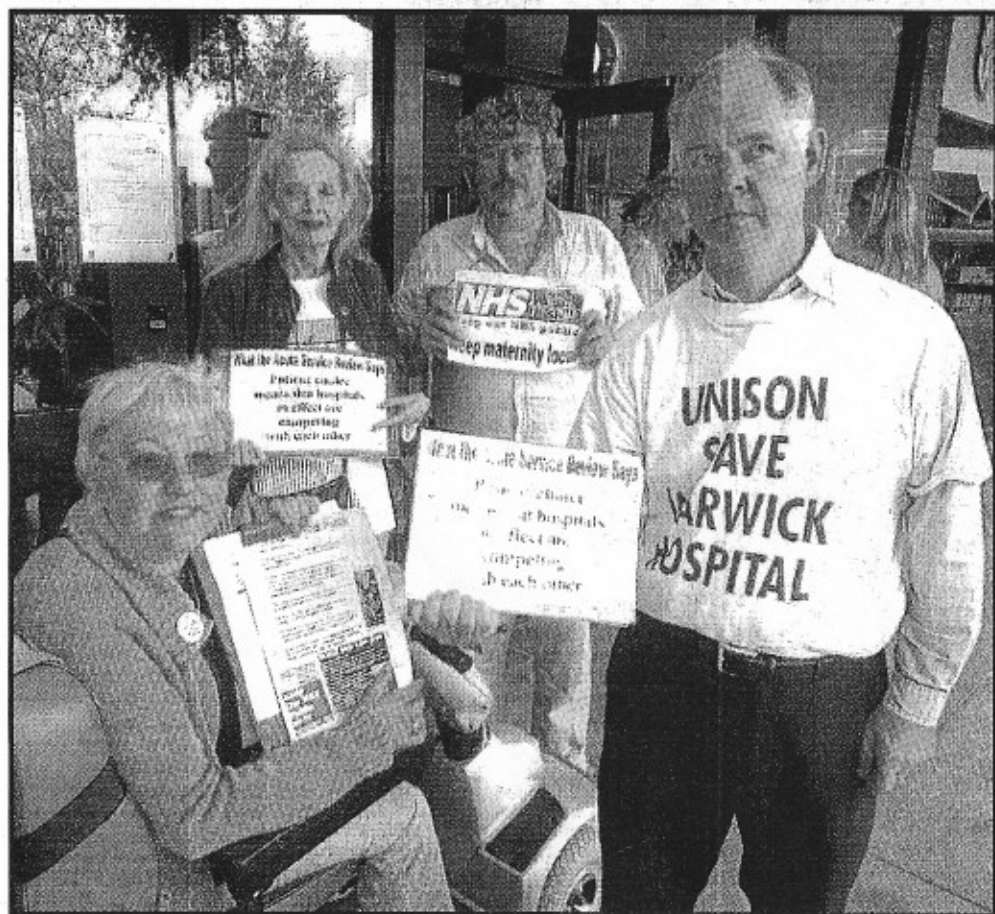


WARWICK HOSPITAL THE FUTURE



Protesters demonstrate outside health meeting

MEMBERS of a new campaign group protested on Wednesday against proposals which could cut services at Warwick Hospital.

Members of Keep Our NHS Public collected signatures

before a South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust meeting, in Warwick, in which health directors discussed the plans.

Campaigner Peter Shiels said: "The support in

Warwick was amazing and we are hoping to have another demonstration next month."

Jayne Canning, Anne Morgan, Chris Edgerton and Peter Shiels. 06SEP187

Director: don't let people suffer because of management mistakes

THE people of south Warwickshire should not suffer because of financial problems at Warwick Hospital, a health director said this week.

South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust non executive director Balraj Dhesi spoke out against some of the proposed changes which could lead to cuts at the Lakin Road site.

He said: "The downgrading of Warwick Hospital to any small degree is not welcome and people feel like that is what is going to happen."

Mr Dhesi talked about the review of hospitals in Coventry and Warwickshire during the last primary care trust meeting on Wednesday before it becomes part of a county wide authority.

He believes the hospital

was in a "sad state of affairs" and that the management has not helped the situation.

He added that during the recent consultation into the future of services, non executive directors had stayed quiet but he now felt it was the right time to put across his feelings about proposed changes which were the result of a year-long review.

He added: "It is fine to have specialities at Walsgrave but any services which we provide at the hospital in Warwick should not be transferred. I personally feel we should strongly urge the review board to take into account these views."

"Any financial problems should not jeopardise the future of Warwick Hospital. The people in south Warwickshire should not suf-

fer." He believes that Warwick Hospital could have a long future in the area.

He said: "If we get the management right at Warwick Hospital I think it will be fine and we can continue the same services that we have always enjoyed."

But chief executive Teresa French said it would be inappropriate for her to comment and added that there were no plans to downgrade Warwick Hospital.

Keep Our NHS Public campaigner Peter Shiels said at the meeting: "Warwick has always been an excellent hospital but it is going downhill rapidly."

He added: "It gives a new meaning to being sent to Coventry and we will not put up with it."

600 people give their views on future

MORE than 600 have people put forward their views about changes to the way hospitals are run in Coventry and Warwickshire.

These, along with a number of petitions with more than 10,000 signatures against proposals to move services away from Warwick Hospital, will now be given to a review board which will make the final decision.

South Warwickshire

Primary Care Trust oversaw the public consultation into the proposals which could lead to cuts in maternity and emergency surgery at the Lakin Road site.

Review board spokesman Sarah Bannister spoke about the results during a South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust meeting on Wednesday.

She said: "That is a fairly big response to a consultation. Every member of the board

will have a copy of everything that has been received. The board members were adamant that they wanted to see everything."

Chief executive Teresa French added she would make sure the main concerns were fed back to the board and has sent a letter highlighting some issues. She said common problems raised were understanding how much the changes would cost and transport.