

**Full Council
11th September 2006**

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman,
Leader of the Conservative Group.**

Defend Our Hospitals

This Council is horrified at the possible plans to downgrade or even to close Northwick Park Hospital as part of a major Governmental review of the NHS. This Council accuses the Government of jeopardising people's lives in Brent in an attempt to balance their books.

This Council resolves to campaign against the plans, recently revealed by the BBC, to downgrade five of London's best known hospitals, Northwick Park Hospital being just one of them. This Council further notes that talks are to take place to discuss the possibility of stripping down emergency services at the Hospital as well as limiting some of the other services provided. The site could then face possible closure or be limited to providing basic care such as non-emergency surgery, diagnostic and physiotherapy. Critical emergency care could be transferred to regional 'super hospitals', without the details being made clear on where such a regional "super hospital" would be sited.

This Council believes that increasing the distance between patients and hospital facilities can only increase travelling times and therefore place lives at greater risk as a result.

This Council also notes that there is a threat to facilities at Central Middlesex Hospital, which is equally unacceptable.

This Council places on record its opposition to continual reorganisations which are nothing more than a clumsy attempt to cover-up the failure to provide an effective service. Those responsible, at the highest levels, need to be aware of the grave repercussions of this proposal and reconsider it immediately.

This Council understands that the residents of Brent are not prepared to accept a substandard third world health service in a first world city.