

NEWS RELEASE!

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MELTON FIRST SAYS: GIVE MELTON'S HERITAGE BUILDINGS & LANDSCAPES YOUR SUPPORT, OR LOSE THEM FOR EVER!



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Saving Melton's heritage buildings and landscapes for the community is proving to be time-consuming. Melton First founder, Mitch de Faria, says thousands of hours work have been invested in saving the War Memorial Hospital, and if the Group's bid isn't successful, then many more sleepless nights are expected.

Last week, the PCT deferred the announcement of a successful bidder for the site until 17 June. "We have to face facts," says Mitch, "Melton First has heard nothing officially from the Melton, Rutland & Harborough Primary Care Trust (PCT) since we presented details of our proposed regional design arts centre, Hill House Project, to the PCT in March. We've always known that the Trust's determination to attract open market value for the site meant that it was likely to be sold for housing – that's what's worth the most money nowadays."

Whatever the PCT's decision, Mitch says Melton First's activities will continue; "The NHS inherited the Hospital without charge, it has allowed it to deteriorate, and now it plans to sell it off to the highest bidder. The War Memorial Hospital was bequeathed to the townspeople of Melton yet the townspeople apparently have no say in what becomes of it. It's a travesty."

Poster campaign relaunches battle to save War Memorial Hospital

To generate a final burst of support activity before the new deadline date, Melton First has relaunched its battle to save the Hospital with a new poster campaign. The poster is currently being distributed to traders for display across the Borough. It is also available to download from the award-nominated Melton First website, www.MeltonFirst.co.uk.

To add further strength to Melton First's bid to keep the Hospital property and grounds in community hands, local businesses are asked to register as Melton First supporters and request copies of the new poster, by phoning Tel 01664 561700 or emailing support@meltonfirst.co.uk

Mitch de Faria says, "Melton First is grateful to everyone who's contributed to the Melton First Fighting Fund, and to almost 500 people who have sent us messages of support, through the post or through our website. But to stand any chance of saving the Hospital we need many more messages and more money; the PCT and the nominated housing developer have to know that the people of Melton are not going to stand by and allow this to happen – we're going to fight!"

ENDS

Editor's Notes: Donations to the Melton First Fighting Fund can be made at any Melton Mowbray Building Society branch, or via the banking transfer system, to Melton Mowbray Building Society, Sort Code 40-32-14; Account Number 10572780, Ref Melton First 3315711.

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