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NEWS RELEASE!

'FIGHTING FUND' CREATED TO SAVE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR COMMUNITY



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Anyone who feels strongly that the Melton & District War Memorial Hospital should remain in community hands is invited to contribute to a 'fighting fund' set up by the Melton First Action Group with Melton Mowbray Building Society.

Gordon Wells, MMBS Chief Executive, said, "Our Building Society has been at the heart of Melton's community for almost 130 years. We're part of the town's heritage in just the same way as the War Memorial Hospital, and we're happy to help the Melton First campaign to return that heritage to the people of the community."

To keep the site from housing developers when it is disposed of by the Melton, Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trust in 2005, Melton First Action Group, shortly to become a not for profit charity, has previously drawn on the resources of members.

Action Group founder, Mitch de Faria said, "When you believe passionately in something you want to help. But Melton First's legal costs and the business of putting together a development proposal, a quality plan that the PCT will take seriously, needs equally serious money. We're inviting the community to demonstrate its belief in our ambitions for the site from the very beginning; however large or small the contribution, this is a way to get personally involved."

Every contributor to the 'fighting fund' will become a stakeholder in the WMH development that Melton First believes should belong to everyone, and benefit all sectors of the community.

"The site has already been left to the people once, and we're researching whether the PCT has the right to sell. If it does, and if Melton First's bid is successful, the property and parkland will rightly and justly continue to belong to the community," Mitch de Faria said today.

Donations to Melton First 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.

ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTES:

The Melton First draft site development plan will be released to the community next week, the PCT's original 6-week pre-bid deadline having failed to give the Action Group the time needed to assemble a complete proposal.

The War Memorial Hospital site was bequeathed by Lt Col Dalglish to the people of Melton for the provision of health care and was dedicated as a War Memorial by the local authorities of the day. The Hospital passed into the hands of the newly-formed NHS in 1948.

As well as planning to purchase the site, Melton First continues to investigate the legality of the property's transfers of ownership since its bequest in 1921.

For further MELTON FIRST information contact:

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