

## Rallying the troops again to safeguard Chase Farm's future

# Gathering forces to curb cuts to hospital services



Nick de Bois: Protest outside first citizens' jury meeting

By Henry Ellis

CAMPAIGNERS are calling on residents to help stage a peaceful protest outside a crucial meeting about the future of health services at Chase Farm.

Conservative parliamentary spokesman for Enfield North Nick de Bois and the Save Chase Farm group plan to stage a show of solidarity on Friday against plans to cut A&E and maternity services at the hospital in The Ridgeway, Enfield.

The protest is being held outside the Novotel hotel, in Euston Road, Euston, at 9am, where a citizens' jury of 100 randomly selected members of the public will have the first chance to mull over the options ahead of a public consultation in January.

Ten scenarios for the hospital were whittled down to four last month. In three of the options, maternity and A&E services would be greatly reduced, with the services moving to North Middlesex and Barnet hospitals.

Mr de Bois told the Advertiser: "I am convinced that the government and health chiefs have made up their minds, but they cannot ignore the massive level of public opposition.

"We must not get complacent or we'll lose our hospital.

"The jury is made up of residents not just from Enfield, but from Barnet, Haringey and Hertfordshire. For them, the impact would be quite favourable because their hospitals will gain from investment."

A spokeswoman for Save Chase Farm added: "The citizens' jury is a complete insult to all the people who have signed petitions and marched in protest against cuts."

More than 1,800 people have signed Mr de Bois' Hands Off Our Hospitals petition.

A spokesman for Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy board was quick to deny claims that the future of Chase Farm is a foregone conclusion.

He added: "It is a shame people are protesting. This is just another opportunity for the public to give us feedback.

"I hope that members of the public are not going to be intimidated."

□ To view the options and have your say, visit [www.behfuture.nhs.uk](http://www.behfuture.nhs.uk).