

View from the House.

Two issues dominate the column this week - one is a local issue and the other national.

Many constituents contacted me about the proposed Approved Premises in Moxley. Having met with the Chief Executive of the Probation Trust I found out more about the proposal. The Probation Trust wants planning permission for a 40 bed Approved Premises which will cost £3 million.

I made it clear to Mr Maiden that Moxley is not a suitable area on which to build when there are already other similar premises in the area. Mr Maiden was not able to provide any detail as to the consultation process. I suggested the Trust hold a series of public meetings so that it can hear the views of people before the application is submitted. In particular the local schools should also be consulted.

I am against the new Approved Premises being built in the area. It is not a good use of public funds when there are 2 others in existence in the area. Moxley deserves what the residents want and that is more housing.

Many of you also wrote asking me to vote for the release of the NHS risk register. MPs need to understand how the Government's plans will affect us all before the Bill is passed. The Information Commissioner said it should be released in the public interest but the Health Secretary chooses to hide it from us.

We need to know the risk that follows from the loss of expertise in the public sector which was used for the common good. The structures we currently have are the Health Secretary, Strategic Health Authorities and PCTs. Under the Bill, we will have the National Commissioning Board, clustered SHAs, commissioning support groups, clinical commissioning groups, clinical senates and HealthWatch. That is more bureaucracy not less.

We lost by 53 votes. We must now wait for the outcome of the tribunal which meets on 5 March 2012. From raising the private patient cap to 49% to management consultant firms coming in to help GPS manage, that is privatising the NHS.

Worryingly, before the debate, Dr Phillip Lee proposed a 10 minute rule bill which would instruct general practices to issue annually to each person eligible for care provided by the NHS, an itemised account of the cost of healthcare in the preceding 12 months. Happily this was defeated by 176 votes to 81 with cross party support.

Valerie Vaz MP
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