



# Parliamentary News Mike Gapes

**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

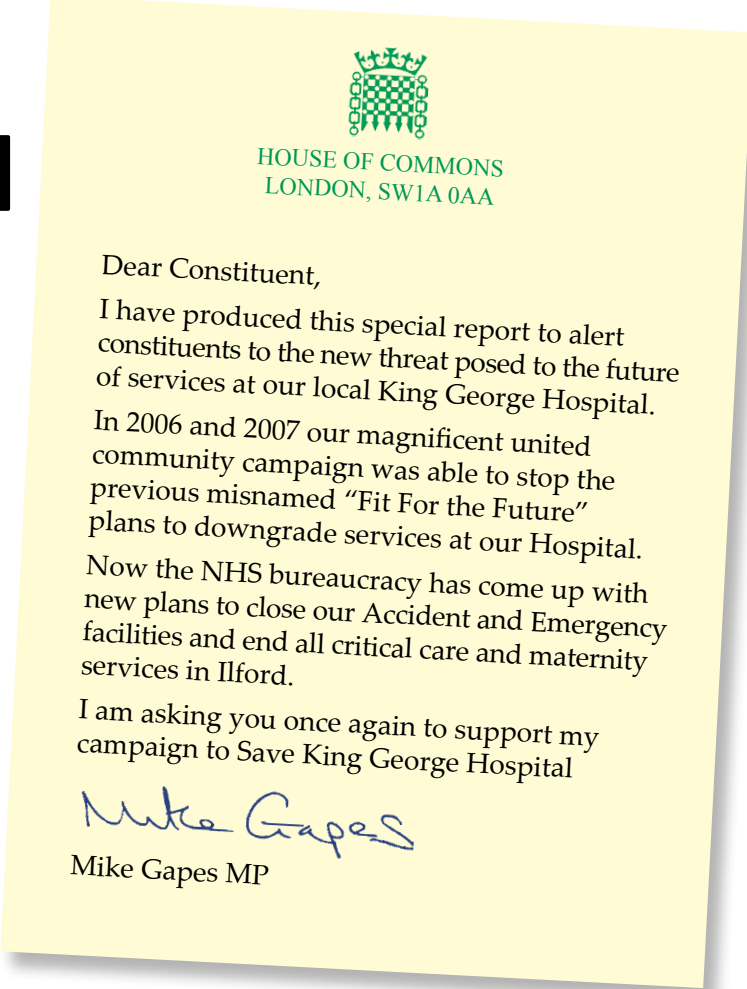
Special Report to Constituents On Local Health Services Winter 2009

## Save King George Hospital

**Three years ago Mike Gapes MP led the successful community campaign to defeat the misnamed "Fit for the Future" proposals to downgrade facilities at our local hospital.**

NHS bureaucrats were furious that we had stopped their "clinically unsound" plans. Now Redbridge NHS Primary Care Trust Chief Executive, Heather O'Meara, and a hand picked group of doctors and consultants have come up with new plans. These plans would downgrade King George Hospital, get rid of our Accident and Emergency Department and close local maternity delivery services. Local residents would have to go all the way to the over-stressed Queens Hospital, Romford for all except planned operations, out-patient appointments and minor injuries.

**Read further details below and inside on how you can help the campaign to defend our local hospital.**



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Dear Constituent,  
I have produced this special report to alert constituents to the new threat posed to the future of services at our local King George Hospital. In 2006 and 2007 our magnificent united community campaign was able to stop the previous misnamed "Fit For the Future" plans to downgrade services at our Hospital. Now the NHS bureaucracy has come up with new plans to close our Accident and Emergency facilities and end all critical care and maternity services in Ilford. I am asking you once again to support my campaign to Save King George Hospital

*Mike Gapes*  
Mike Gapes MP



Mike Gapes MP at the October 2007 demonstration organised by the Ilford Recorder

## STOP THIS SHAM "CONSULTATION" NOW

**A joint meeting of Inner and Outer London NHS Primary Care Trusts** has rubber stamped these plans and decided to organise a 14 week "public consultation" starting on 30 November 2009 and ending on 8 March 2010. In a special Parliamentary debate on 24

November Mike Gapes MP denounced this sham consultation. He called on Redbridge Councillors on the Health Scrutiny Committee to reject the plans and to refer the matter immediately to the Secretary of State for Health asking Ministers to intervene to stop the consultation.

# Our Ilford Hospital: A History

**1926**

Ilford Maternity Home opened on Eastern Avenue.

**1931**

King George V officially opens King George Hospital on Eastern Avenue.

**1993**

New King George Hospital on Barley Lane opened by Mayor Linda Perham.

**October 2006**

"Fit for the Future" plans published including preferred "Option Four" threatening the ending of all elective operations and closing Accident and Emergency at King George Hospital.

**19 December 2006**

Mike Gapes MP uses Christmas adjournment debate in Parliament to denounce these "mad" proposals.

**July 2007**

Mike Gapes helps present Ilford Recorder petition at Downing Street.

**September 2007**

Mike Gapes presents 28,000 signature petition to Ruth Carnall of NHS London region.

**October 2007**

Mike Gapes speaks at Rally outside Ilford Town Hall chaired by Ilford Recorder Editor Chris Carter.

**October 2007**

Review by Professor George Alberti rejects "Fit for the Future" as "clinically unsound" and says KGH "should be developed as a first class local hospital".

**December 2007**

Mike Gapes MP presses Heather O'Meara of Redbridge NHS Primary Care Trust for an assurance that "Fit for the Future" is dead and that "Option Four" would not be reintroduced under another name and is merely told that it was "stood down".

**December 2007**

Mike Gapes warns that we should not trust the NHS bureaucrats and that we needed to remain vigilant.

**February 2009**

NHS London produces document proposing re-organisation of Health care in Outer North East London

**June 2009**

NHS London decides to press ahead with detailed work on reorganisation options despite concerns expressed by London MPs, including Mike Gapes.

**August/September/October 2009**

Without consulting local MPs, a Working Group led by Heather O'Meara develops and decides to go ahead with plans to downgrade King George Hospital.

**October 2009**

Some local councillors are shown these plans.

**Late November 2009**

Local MPs shown these plans for the first time.

**24 November 2009 afternoon**

Joint Meeting of Inner and Outer London NHS Primary Care Trusts agree to organise a 14 week public consultation starting on 30 November 2009 and ending on 8 March 2010 on plans to downgrade KGH, to close A and E, and end maternity delivery services (births) in Ilford.

**24 November 2009 10pm**

Mike Gapes MP calls special Parliamentary debate to oppose these plans and calls on Health Ministers to intervene to stop the consultation.

**30 November 2009**

A 14 week "consultation" starts which is described by Mike Gapes as "as free and fair as a rigged Afghan election".

# Mike Speaks Out

**Mike Gapes MP has raised the case to save King George Hospital in Parliament. Speaking on 24 November 2009 Mike told fellow MPs and Ministers:**

**“Ilford has had a maternity hospital since 1926 and ... a district general hospital since King George V opened it in 1931.**

“I want to place on record my strong support for the record investment in the national health service under this Labour Government and for the modernisation ... carried out, including the new polyclinic in Loxford in my constituency.

“I was pleased to meet the first patient of that polyclinic in June.

I also believe that as technology changes, it is important that we have more community-based facilities and services... We need urgent care centres, state-of-the-art polyclinics and all kinds of other facilities, but we also need people in Ilford to have access to accident and emergency and maternity services in Ilford, rather than their having to go to other parts of north-east London ...

“Three years ago, the NHS bureaucracy came up with the misnamed “Fit for the Future” proposals, which would have led to the closure of the accident and emergency and the elective facilities at King George hospital, Ilford. A vigorous local campaign was mounted. I myself organised a petition and we presented 28,000 signatures... Professor George Alberti... said that the proposals were “clinically unsound” and that those concerned had to go back to the drawing board.”



Mike Gapes campaigning to save King George Hospital

## The Threat to Maternity Services

**Mike Gapes also highlighted the threat to local maternity services in his speech. He told the Commons:**

**“The NHS bureaucracy ... is now again going ahead with proposals that will significantly downgrade services for people living in Ilford, and that will mean that each year several thousand women who are due to give birth will have to go to Romford.**

“Children will not be born in Ilford any longer, unless they are born at home or in the back of taxis or cars driving them to other hospitals; they will be born in Romford and elsewhere in London.

“It is said that this proposal is clinically led, but it is admitted in the small print of the documents that the engagement exercise builds on previous exercises including “Fit for the Future”...which was rejected because it was financially driven and not clinically sound...

“In “*Healthcare for London*”, Professor Lord Ara Darzi ...talked about a local hospital serving a population of between 200,000 and 250,000 people. Under these

proposals, neither Barking and Dagenham, with a population of 182,000, nor Redbridge, with a population of 264,000, will have a local hospital. All other boroughs in east and north-east London have a hospital, but we will no longer have a hospital serving our populations. This is a disgrace.” We could lose up to 488 beds at King George hospital, and the consequences would be very serious in terms of added pressure on other hospitals in the region.



Mike Gapes says, “Defend A&E and Maternity at KGH”

# Better Diabetes Care



Mike Gapes MP at the World Diabetes Day event in Parliament

## Mike Gapes is campaigning for better diabetes facilities in Redbridge and across the UK.

He says, "There are more than 7,000 people with diabetes in Ilford South. It is vital that they are all armed with the knowledge and confidence to manage their diabetes effectively. This will not only ensure that people with diabetes face a healthier future but will also help cut the £1 million an hour that the NHS spends on diabetes complications."

Mike attended the World Diabetes Day event in Parliament in November. He also supported the launch of a report by the charities Diabetes UK and South Asian Health Foundation at the House of Commons in June. The report showed that Type 2 diabetes is up to six times more common in South Asian people in the UK than the general population. They are also three times more likely to develop heart disease and four times more likely to have kidney disease.

Mike says, "South Asian people make up four per cent of the total UK population and an estimated eight per cent of people with diabetes. In England, there are 200,000 South Asian people with diabetes. Researchers and policy makers around the country including NHS Redbridge must act on these guidelines and our local NHS must give more priority to areas with a higher incidence of diabetes, heart and kidney disease."

## Newsflash

### To support Mike's campaign to save King George Hospital

Read his speech in full at [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091124/debtext/91124-0020.htm#0911251000002](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm091124/debtext/91124-0020.htm#0911251000002)

Or watch his speech on BBC Democracy Live at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/house\\_of\\_commons/newsid\\_8370000/8370614.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/house_of_commons/newsid_8370000/8370614.stm)

Contact Mike's office or go to his website to pledge your support to the campaign, get updates on our efforts to save our hospital or get copies of the Save King George Hospital petition so you can ask your friends and neighbours to sign.

### To object to their "consultation" and plans

To object to their plans write to:  
**Freepost RSAE RCET ATJY  
Health for North East London  
Harrow HA1 2QG**  
to give them your opinions or email your objections to these proposals to [healthfornel@ipsos.com](mailto:healthfornel@ipsos.com) or via their website at [www.healthfornel.nhs.uk](http://www.healthfornel.nhs.uk) or telephone them on **0808 238 5416**

### Seasons Greetings

Mike Gapes says, "A Merry Christmas, Eid Mubarak and Happy Chanukah and a peaceful and prosperous New Year to all residents of Ilford South".



## ways to contact Mike Gapes MP

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- 5 WEB** [www.mikegapes.org.uk](http://www.mikegapes.org.uk)
- 6 PHONE** Constituency office  
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