



**PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP**



# **KETTERING AT WESTMINSTER**



**MAKING SURE THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF LOCAL PEOPLE ARE HEARD AT THE HEART OF THE GOVERNMENT**

## **Weekley Hall Woods**



After a planning inquiry held in Thrapston the Planning Inspectorate has refused planning permission for giant warehouses on the Weekley Hall Woods site to the north of Kettering.

The decision vindicates the stance taken by both North Northamptonshire Council and Philip Hollobone MP that the planning application was contrary to Policy 36 of NNC's Joint Core Planning Strategy.

Philip Hollobone MP told a planning inspector that the proposed warehouses were 'out of scale and inappropriate' for the site, that the units proposed were too large and that the scale was 'inconsistent' with what was meant to be a parkland landscaped setting for high quality jobs.

# **KGH REDEVELOPMENT ACCELERATED**

Plans to rebuild Kettering General Hospital are on track and progressing faster than many similar schemes across the country. Health officials intend to completely rebuild KGH, moving services into two new six-storey buildings located on the same site. The government has allocated £500m to fund the hospital works, including up to £50m for a new A&E department. This is the biggest ever capital investment in KGH's 127-year history.



*What the redeveloped KGH could look like (Image: KGH)*

because they've been stuck in public consultation for quite some time."

"Our local MPs are very supportive, as are NHS England. It's a scheme that's fairly simple, won't get stuck in the mire and can progress well. KGH has moved to be near the front of other hospital builds in the running."

The first step in the redevelopment will see a new energy centre being built for the hospital, replacing the current 50-year-old steam system which regularly breaks down. Work will begin on replacing the energy centre in a few weeks' time at the end of February, drawing from an individual pot of £49m. The electrical infrastructure will contribute to net-zero carbon goals and must be completed before any other expansion work can be started.

The first six-storey hospital building will be built in car park A in the centre of the site, with some staff parking being lost during this time and nearby NHS office space being demolished. Once building one is operational the second phase can begin which will include the new main entrance facing Rothwell Road.

Polly Grimmett said that, at this point, work is predicted to start in around 2026. She highlighted the key principle of keeping the hospital running during construction and said that there are longer-term plans to demolish the rest of the old buildings once services have been transferred over.

KGH's Director of Strategy, Polly Grimmett, told North Northamptonshire Council's Health and Scrutiny Committee on 9 January that the proposals for the new hospital to remain on the existing site made progress "a lot simpler and a lot easier". She added: "When you look at some of the other 40 schemes across the UK that were actually ahead of us initially, they've slowed right down and we've sped up

# IN THE HOUSE *Standing Up and Speaking Out for Kettering*

## **16 January Energy Questions**

**Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** Kettering is one of the greenest constituencies in the country, because the wind turbines and solar panels in the constituency generate enough electricity to power all 45,000 homes. For the country as a whole, what percentage of our electricity was generated from renewables when the Conservatives came to power in 2010, and what is the percentage now?

**Andrew Bowie MP, Energy Minister:** I thank my hon. Friend for that question. He will be delighted to learn that renewable generation has increased fivefold from 2010 to 2022. It has gone from a risible 26 TWh to 135 TWh. Some 40 GW of renewable energy has connected to Great Britain's electricity networks since 2010. Since 2010, the UK has seen a more than 500% increase in the amount of renewable electricity capacity in the grid thanks to this Conservative Government.

## **9 January Justice Questions**

**Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** It was revealed yesterday that, despite the best efforts of the Home Office, an Albanian-speaking migrant who has spent half his life in Serbia, and who has been jailed in this country for 18 months for cannabis farming after having entered the UK illegally, has been allowed to remain in Britain after he successfully claimed that he cannot be deported to Serbia because he no longer speaks Serbo-Croat. This is despite Albanian being a recognised minority language in Serbia, and despite him living in this country with his Serbian brother. Does this not demonstrate why we need urgent reform of the asylum system and human rights laws to allow the rapid and effective deportation of such dangerous criminals?

**Rt. Hon. Alex Chalk KC MP, Lord Chancellor:** My hon. Friend is absolutely right that those who come to our country and betray this nation's trust by acting illegally should not expect a warm welcome. That is why one of the things I am most proud of is signing a further prisoner transfer agreement with the Albanians to ensure that the British people, having suffered the initial crime, do not suffer the double punishment of having to pay £49,000 a year to house them in bed and breakfast accommodation in the United Kingdom. We will send them back, and that is exactly what we are doing.

## **8 January Post Office Horizon Scandal**

**Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** This is the worst scandal in the history of the Post Office since it was first established in 1660. 1660 was the year of the Restoration after the English civil war period. In that same year, Parliament passed an Act of Oblivion, which exonerated all those who had previously opposed the Crown and which facilitated, through Parliament, a blanket Royal Pardon. Might not that sort of mechanism, together with swift compensation, be the most appropriate way to bring justice to all the affected sub-postmasters?

**Kevin Hollinrake MP, Post Office Minister:** My hon. Friend's knowledge of history is greater than mine, but the essence of what he says is something we concur with. Whether by means of the route he mentions or other routes, we are keen to ensure that we make it easier to overturn convictions, ideally without the postmaster having to do anything. That is something we are looking at now but, again, we need to have conversations with the judiciary and other elements of the system to make sure that there are no unintended consequences from what we are doing—in terms of precedents, for example. However, our ambitions are exactly the same as my hon. Friend's.

## **8 January Doctors' Strikes**

**Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be as concerned as my constituents in Kettering that, for every three days of junior doctor strikes, the cost to Kettering General Hospital is a £250,000, with hundreds of operations cancelled or delayed for patients in pain. In confirming that the 35% pay demand is both unrealistic and unaffordable, will she call for junior doctors to return to their posts so that that money can be better spent on reducing waiting lists and improving patient outcomes?

**Rt. Hon. Victoria Atkins MP, Secretary of State for Health:** My hon. Friend puts it eloquently; there is a real human cost to these strike actions. It is why I did everything I could when we were in negotiations to try to find fair and reasonable settlements for junior doctors. I was very disappointed when they walked out, but we have to find solutions for the sake of our patients and of all 1.3 million people working in our NHS across England. There have been some brilliant examples of local trusts, local clinicians and other members of staff working really hard and pulling together to cover these damaging strikes, but all we ask of junior doctors is to come back to work, do their jobs and look after our patients.

## **Visits to the Houses of Parliament**

Anyone can keep a track of what Philip is trying to do at Westminster on behalf of local residents via the independent website [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com). As always, if any member feels that Philip may be able to help with a particular issue, please do let Philip know via 01536 414715 or 020 7219 8373 or [philip.hollobone.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:philip.hollobone.mp@parliament.uk) or at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Philip is also very happy to arrange visits to Westminster for a tour and/or to watch Prime Minister's Questions.