

Even the food was good!

It is thanks to the NHS that I am now recovering at home with lots of advice from Harefield, my GP and plenty of literature from the British Heart Foundation. — **Christine Court, Hampermill Lane, Watford**

Care provided was outstanding

GOOD News – Thank you to Watford General Hospital

In this world of depressing news, could you please print this letter as a big thank you to the staff at Watford General Hospital.

Over the past three months, my elderly mum has been admitted twice to WGH. On both occasions she has received outstanding care and kindness. Staff have gone out of their way to be polite and helpful.

I also had to have a hernia operation last November and I only waited four weeks for the operation at St Albans Day Care Ward. Again, the staff and nurses were efficient, kind and most helpful.

It is a shame that we only ever hear of bad news with regard to the National Health Service – so please print this letter to give the staff at Watford General a morale booster and to recognise that our NHS provides great care. — **Julie Forty, Alva Way, Carpenders Park**

Football club

27.2.09

We are no further forward

PLEASE allow me to correct some of the inaccuracies and distortions in Councillor Spencer's letter last week concerning our Club's expansion plans.

Chorleywood Parish Council objected purely on technical grounds in order to ensure that our application would be decided by the development control committee rather than the planning officers. In fact at the council meeting last September there was general support for our having further pitches in the Chorleywood House grounds.

The minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting last October, when our application was refused, state that 64 letters of support had been received, yet according to Councillor Spencer objectors "outnumber supporters by a factor of ten to one".

I challenge the councillor to produce these 640 letters from objectors or to retract his statement. The minutes also record that we presented a petition with 574 signatures in favour of our expansion plans. Your paper's excellent coverage of the meeting referred to 150 club members who turned up in support and your letters page has since published many letters in favour and none against.

Councillor Spencer is incorrect to state that "new possible sites were tabled" at a recent meeting with the Council.

No alternative sites have been advised to the Club despite Ann Shaw's commitment last October to find another suitable location in the District.

Four months on we are no further forward and the mood amongst Club

member is now turning to anger. Yes, Councillor Spencer, you and Councillor Shaw did indeed pledge that you would do your best to seek out further pitches for our young children – what are you doing and where are they, please?

I have invited both Councillors to visit the Club to see for themselves how local children benefit from the excellent sporting facilities and coaching. Our Saturday morning soccer school has attracted over 100 under 6's this season. Neither Councillor has replied to my invitation.

Councillor Spencer makes great play of suitability before planning application, yet has overlooked the blindingly obvious – that the most suitable site is the current one! There are 170 acres in the grounds of Chorleywood House.

he Club has 8 and has applied for 6 more. We have almost 500 members and are only seeking to use less than 10 per cent of the grounds.

The Chorleywood House Estate Community Partnership voted in support of the Club – indeed, their Chairman described the field where we wish to expand as "uninteresting" and playing football there would mean "no loss of biodiversity".

The original deeds by which control of the Estate was ceded to the Council specify that the grounds should "not be used for any purpose other than outdoor games and recreation", yet Councillors Spencer and Shaw voted against our children playing sport in an area hardly used by anyone. Why?

Your readers may not be aware that Ann Shaw is the TRDC Champion of Youth. I challenge her to champion the interests of the young children of Chorleywood by delivering on the commitment she made back in October. — **Clifton Melvin, chairman, Chorleywood Common Youth FC**

Post offices

Labour has lost all direction

MR MARK BRYCE'S letter (February), concerning the closure of local post offices and Peter Mandelson's involvement in such matters, is prescient at a time when depressingly the Labour Government is hell bent on privatising part of this national service.

I, as a Labour Party member along with many of its MPs, am absolutely appalled that in such a period of seriously daunting economic times, brought about by the greed of privately run companies, the post office is set on a path of part privatisation.

The government, certainly under Mandelson's tutelage and admiration for wealth, is bereft of any clear understanding of what might be considered just.

To learn that in order to get the necessary law through Parliament the Labour Government may well have to rely on the Tory vote speaks volumes of just how far the Party has torn itself away from building the good society.

The Party is clearly going to be defeated at the next general election; it has lost all decent and humane direction. — **Councillor Francis Durham, Shepherds Way, Rickmansworth**