

## Local Matters (18<sup>th</sup> April 2014)

Daily Mail - 17 April:

Care homes under pressure as costs rise, government support drops and land prices rise.

Private Eye issue 1362:

Add in how our very local MP (Mike Penning - moving up the government ladder by behaving himself) has shut the Disability Living Fund, some £320,000,000, even though the courts decided the government had not considered their duties under the Equality Act. The fund is to be devolved to local authorities - who can do what they will with said fund.

Note that residential care is funded locally, so care in community is only partly locally funded with national government picking up the bill for the housing part.

Meanwhile in Private Eye 1363, it seems the new CE of the Watford health trust is correct when she recently said that Watford Hospital will be expanded at the 'cost' of Hemel. Many of us ol' campaigners wondered where the additional land next to Watford Hospital was going to come from? It seems the allotment land next door is where funding might come from.

Talk about being devious. Rumour has it that Watford FC need additional car parking, but allotment land has to used allotments or worthy local causes and what better than a larger hospital?

UKIP as been approached by the 'far right' group in the EU to join forces to stem the excesses of the USE in time for the May 22nd elections. Apparently UKIP leaders have dismissed this approach - see, they are not all nutters and fruitcakes as suggested by many opponents (present company excepted, of course!)