

Axe for hospital block

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THE permanent closure and demolition of a ward block at Standish Hospital is to be approved by Gloucester Health Authority tomorrow.

The "temporary" closure of the two orthopaedic wards in the wooden B block was ordered in July last year because of "urgent financial necessity." But no-one at the hospital expected it to re-open after 30 patients were moved out.

The authority will be asked tomorrow to approve demolition of the block.

There were no objections during consultation, although the Community Health Council hoped there

by Ron Gardiner

would be minimum disruption to patients during demolition.

While the block is being knocked down builders will carry on putting up a new ward to give much better accommodation for rheumatology and orthopaedic patients at a cost of some £700,000.

The new ward is already up to roof level and is due to be finished next April.

It will include physiotherapy and occupational therapy facilities and an assessment flat to aid the rehabilitation of patients before they return home.
