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Ask for: Peter Sass
Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 12 October 2010

Dear Member

COUNTY COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2010

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Thursday, 14 October 2010 meeting of the County Council, the following report(s) that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item
14	<u>Petition Scheme debates</u> (Pages 1 - 12)
	(a) Proposed Closure of Manorbrooke, Cornfields and Sampson Court care homes for older people
	(b) Request for the re-opening of right-turns off the A256 from Sandwich towards Dover

Yours sincerely



Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services & Local Leadership

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Chairman: BILL HAYTON

12 October 2010

Dear Members

County Council Meeting – Thursday 14 October 2010

Following the County Council's adoption of the Petition Scheme at its last meeting in July, Members will be aware that we have received our first four petitions that contain the appropriate number of signatures to trigger a debate at County Council. Three petitions relate to the proposed closure of older people's homes and one petition relates to right-turns off the A256 from Sandwich to Dover. As all four petitions relate to matters that are the responsibility of the Executive, the role of the County Council is limited to making recommendations to the decision-makers with regard to these issues.

The Petition Scheme provides that, for each petition received that hits the trigger level for a County Council debate, it can be debated for up to 45 minutes. As we have three petitions on the same overarching policy proposal, albeit in relation to different Older Person's establishments, I intend to combine the debate on these petitions, whilst dealing with the A256 petition as a separate debate. The process for dealing with the Petitions will be as follows:

Proposed Closure of Manorbrooke, Cornfields and Sampson Court care homes for older people:

1. The Lead Petitioner for the Manorbrooke Petition (Ms Yvette Knight) will address the meeting and speak for up to five minutes. A written statement from Ms Knight is also appended to this letter.
2. The local Member for the Manorbrooke Petition (Mrs Penny Cole) will be invited to address the meeting for up to five minutes.
3. The Lead Petitioner for the Cornfields Petition (Councillor Wendy Bowman – Whitfield Parish Council) will address the meeting and speak for up to five minutes. A written statement from Councillor Wendy Bowman is also appended to this letter.

4. The local Member for the Cornfields Petition (Mr Bryan Cope) will be invited to address the meeting for up to five minutes.
5. The Lead Petitioners for the Sampson Court Petition (Mr and Mrs Hubble) will address the meeting and speak for up to five minutes. A written statement from Mr and Mrs Hubble is also appended to this letter
6. The local Member for the Sampson Court Petition (Mrs Julie Rook) will be invited to address the meeting for up to five minutes
7. Members will be invited to debate all three petitions. Members are able to speak for up to five minutes each.
8. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services, Mr Graham Gibbens will be invited to respond to the debate for up to five minutes and advise the County Council how he intends to take the petitioners' concerns forward.
9. The County Council may decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member to inform his decision

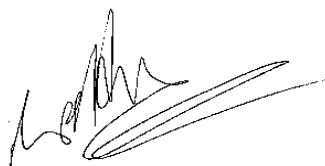
Request for the re-opening of right turns off the A256 from Sandwich to Dover:

1. The Lead Petitioners for the A256 Petition (Councillor M Ovenden – Eythorne Parish Council and Lady Julia Pender – a Tilmanstone parishioner) will address the meeting and speak for up to five minutes. A written statement from the Lead Petitioners is also appended to this letter
2. The local Member for the A256 Petition (Mr Steve Manion) will be invited to address the meeting for up to five minutes
3. Members will be invited to debate the petition. Members are able to speak for up to five minutes each
4. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste, Mr Nick Chard will be invited to respond to the debate for up to five minutes and advise the County Council how he intends to take the petitioners' concerns forward
5. The County Council may decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member to inform his decision.

Finally, as we are expecting a number of members of the public to attend the meeting for these items, I have arranged for a live webcast feed of the meeting to an adjoining room, should it not be possible to accommodate all of the members of the public in the Council Chamber.

If you have any queries about the process, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Sass (01622 694002)

Yours sincerely



Mr Bill Hayton
Chairman of Kent County Council

MANORBROOKE PRESSURE GROUP

Manorbrooke is a residential home in Dartford (the last KCC home in the Dartford borough), that cares for 32 residents. We are campaigning to save Manorbrooke from closure. The petition collected 1,400 signatures from the Manorbrooke residents, family members and residents within the Dartford community who are opposed to the plans in KCCs consultation for the re-provision of Manorbrooke to Extra Care Homes.

The KCC paper cites 4 reasons for the change as “More People living longer”, High Quality Care as a continuing priority, Buildings of high quality and Cost – less money”. Manorbrooke already provides all of those needs.

Manorbrooke provides high quality care for all who use it (verified by the Care Quality Commission who rated the care as excellent), and that the closure will put at risk the quality of life of those who live there and increase the strain on their carers.

Manorbrooke provides a building that meets the needs of the residents, and the Care Standards Act 2000 and 2008. We believe that the Care Quality Commission who provided guidelines on ensuite facilities did not intend residential care to be closed to the detriment of the older people. Voluntary and private sector homes are providing care without en-suite facilities, so why does Manorbrooke need to be closed?

The residents have found this proposal extremely stressful, many often becoming upset and worried about their future – you are throwing extremely vulnerable people out of their homes, to provide alternative care for the elderly that is not fit for purpose for the majority of the current residents, due to their vulnerability. KCC should have purchased a piece of land to build the planned extra care homes, instead of closing Manorbrooke. If the plans go ahead, 32 residents will have to be re-housed into homes that many of the relatives and residents did not initially choose – there is not a home within a 5 mile radius that will provide the same care as Manorbrooke. Many relatives have phoned other homes in the area and the vacancies are extremely limited and more expensive (some shared rooms) – we are assuming that this will be funded by KCC?

This economic crisis has given KCC an opportunity to close this home purely on cost-savings (although we understand the savings are negligible compared to the massive impact on the residents, staff, and family members). Many alternatives for the current and future residents will mean a less than excellent rated care, a building that does not have an ensuite (although this is one of the reasons for closing Manorbrooke), and a future without a direct council provision of care in the Dartford area that enhances choice and helps set

standards for the elderly care sector as a whole. These proposals will also increase costs to the tax payer to fund the additional top-up of fees.

We are pleading with KCC not to proceed with the closure and to enable the residents (our family) to live out their lives in dignity in the home of their choice.

Yvette Knight
71 James Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 3NE

*Help stop the closure of Manorbrooke
Save our Parents Home from Home*

Appendix 2

Cornfields

The Carers at Cornfields, the residents, families, friends, Whitfield residents and general public submit this letter in support of our petition.

The reasons given for the demolishing and rebuilding of Cornfields is that it is an old building that has out lived its purpose and Kent County Council can no longer guarantee a top quality service to the clients. We strongly disagree with this.

The proposal to replace Cornfields with Extra Care Housing will leave a large gap in the services currently provided. Clients may have a nice new apartment with en-suite facilities, but unfortunately to a majority of the residents and many future clients this will be of no use. They require assistance readily available to enable them to use such facilities. These new establishments will no longer provide this unless residents are willing to pay extra. Residents of Cornfields have this care on hand 24 hours every day. Also these new extra care facilities will not provide **Day Care** a lifeline too many that are housebound, or **Respite Care** a vital service which gives home carers and relatives a much needed break.

Has additional costs to the clients been taken into account? Evidence shows many older persons will not be able to afford to live in these new homes. Nor will they be able to afford private day care or respite care. Care Homes in the area providing the same facilities as Cornfields are very few and have limited spaces available and their costs are much higher. Clients would have to apply for benefits putting a further burden on the taxpayer.

Kent County Council says any additional costs will be met but in the current economic climate this cannot be guaranteed.

We are told funding has been secured for these projects and can-not be used for any other purpose.

The regulations concerning facilities such as en-suite apply to new build only. Why does the funding have to be used for a new build? Why can it not be used to refurbish existing facilities enabling Cornfield to continue to function as it does now providing the excellent care and service that the clients expect and receive?

Has a survey been undertaken on the cost of replacement against refurbishment using the secured funding?

The current situation has already caused much distress.

The needs of the residents must come first.

So why are these needs and views of the residents, carers, families, and public being ignored?

It is stated that these changes have be bought about because older people have spoken of their wishes for the future.

None of those who signed out petitions and letters has been asked questions on the subject of the Future Care of the Older Person.

So how was this information obtained? Was a survey undertaken? If so where are the documented results?

Sadly we have found that older people perceive that these new Extra Care Facilities will only provide them with their greatest fears Isolation and loneliness.

APPENDIX 3

SAMPSON COURT

More live longer and with dementia. Surely it is wrong to close dementia homes whilst building homes for those with less needs.

Sampson Court purpose built, single storey and only 25 years old is not past it's useful life. Why sanction £135,000 for heating works if the building was redundant. If the site use is changed a £90,000 covenant shall have to be repaid.

Sampson Court functions perfectly, en-suites are not necessary, most clients need help with toileting and bathing. Other features, kitchens and internet cafes and gyms, are distractions to bolster the argument. KCC's proposals sound like sheltered housing not vital needs met by Sampson Court. In the prevailing economic climate KCC must concentrate on necessities not niceties.

KCC have not detailed proposals for re-housing clients. Quality Care Commission's web-site reveals most available homes are older, converted, houses on several floors. A minority - less for those with dementia patients - have en-suites, internet, let alone gyms.

An inspection by a dementia specialist found care at Sampson Court exceeded that found in the private sector. Sampson Court welcomes placement students studying dementia. Relatives are concerned about lack of training and qualifications in the private sector. Lower wages mean inferior staff. What are KCC's plans for monitoring those moved from public care?

To allow carers a break Sampson Court gives day-care for twelve people six days a week and longer periods of respite for holidays. Will private homes keep beds empty to let this happen? Without respite more people will be put into homes at greater cost to the community.

Will the private sector cope without what KCC currently provide? A person staying in one of KCC's new residential became ill with an infection, they couldn't cope so she was transferred to Sampson Court, without Sampson Court what would have happened.

KCC also claim that the additional load will be partly borne by volunteers. We receive assistance from Crossroads, and have been advised that this will be jeopardised by cuts in central funding.

The claim that KCC care costs more than it does in the private sector needs examining. Eight KCC staff were present at our initial meeting. If eight people can disappear from their desks at once it suggests lax management that is top heavy and inefficient.

To ensure effectiveness, homes should be able to do their own purchasing, taking advantage of supermarket offers. Maintenance costs could be reduced by using local rather than preferred contractors. It is absurd for a Maidstone firm to travel to

Deal to repair a leaking tap when a local plumber would cost less. Dedicated staff already raise additional funds for Sampson Court through galas and open days. If it meant saving their jobs they would undertake more of these duties.

The phrase “old person’s futures” brings to mind lifeless terms like oil and coffee futures. But the elderly and vulnerable must not be treated like commodities and traded merely to balance the books. More thought must be given to the traumas these closures will create.

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Eythome Parish Council & Tilmanstone Parish Council

A/O

Elvington Community centre

St Johns Road

Elvington

Kent

CT15 4DZ

Case Against:

Closures of Slip Roads Leading to :-

1. Tilmanstone Village
2. Eythome Village

Directly from the A256 dual carriageway

[Otherwise known as the Eastry Bypass]

Submitted by: Ms Patricia Gulliford: Parish Clerk
Dated this 6th day of October, 2010

1 **Overview:**

2 The A256 is a dual carriageway travelling southwards towards Dover and southwesterly toward Sandwich.

3 In 1996 it cost **£25million** to build to reduce the numbers of vehicles travelling through villages such as Eastry & Tilmanstone.

4 It is regularly used as a diversion route from adjoining 60/70mph carriageways to support ongoing street works.

5 It consists of a roundabout either end & a further 2 roundabouts within .There are 4 slip roads leading to Whitfield, Eythorne and Tilmanstone & Eastry.

6 The road is attractive to those travelling at speed. However, there are a number of points on the A256 where visibility is poor.

7 **Statement:**

8 This case refers to the temporary closure of 2 slip roads namely those leading to and impacting upon Tilmanstone and Eythorne Parishes. Temporary closures were put in place in March 2010, following a Coroners report relating to a fatal accident occurring in 2007.

9 There have been 3 fatalities on the A256 since its launch & by driver error.

10 **1. Slip road leading to Tilmanstone: A temporary water filled barrier of around 96 metres is being used to**
11 **delineate the movement of traffic. Signage is available travelling southerly, denoting the change of use**
12 **& has been erected to allow access to buses only. Signage is not in place south-westerly. [107]**

- 13 • This barrier has suffered at least 2 impacts by buses using this slip which has caused the barrier
14 damage and movement. This barrier is not equipped with a crash cushion to protect those still able
15 to use the lane. It is not designed for head on impact and in this case is being used as cones would
16 be. We consider there is an increased risk to other road users should this barrier be impacted at
17 speed.
- 18 • The costs involved in the introduction of this barrier and continual works carried out has amounted
19 to £49,000.00. This is money we feel would be better spent on investigating other options that work
20 with our communities in harmony and not cause us the cost , inconvenience and the suffering we
21 currently endure.

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- The lack of signage south- westerly results in Class 1 & 2 vehicles making U – Turns on this Dual Carriageway –increasing risk to other road users.
- The restriction re/ access to cars and motorcycles & cycles, means residents and visitors have to drive a distance exceeding 500 metres to the Barville Roundabout [a roundabout whose purpose was to be used by a local industrial estate with Class 1& 2 vehicles. The approach to Barville Roundabout [Dover bound] has poor visibility (due to an incline and curve)
- Many of our residents are elderly and as such the impact of this restriction raises a risk of accidents occurring.
- **The Barville Roundabout is a well known blackspot for accidents – furthermore there is a footpath (EE402) and a bridleway in the same area. Slip Road closing access from the A256 to Eythorne. This has been impacted in the last week.**
- This is forcing local traffic to use either the Barville Roundabout [a distance of 2 miles] or the Whitfield slip – which has poor visibility from a southerly direction.
- There is additional motoring expense and inconvenience placed on those wishing to enter the villages [such as other road users including cyclists]
- The original concept for implementing the build of the A256 was to reduce traffic through the villages. However, these closures have resulted in local traffic opting to take the slip leading though Eastry to gain access to those villages affected where in parts roads are single track. This has significantly increased the flow of traffic once again.

This statement is supported by Tilmanstone and Eythorne Parishes.

PGulliford

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