

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*