

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.