



COMMENTS FROM DR. R. K. A. FELTHAM CC

SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEME IN GREAT GLEN

I am very supportive of this scheme which will provide suitable accommodation for 20 adults with disabilities. It will provide the opportunity for people with long-term disabilities to have the chance to be supported in their own flats, so improving their wellbeing.

Last evening (5 July), staff from Adults & Communities and Properties put on an information event between 6pm and 7.30pm in the Youth Club in Great Glen. I attended for the first hour and over 60 residents were present including some parish councillors. The display boards and video clips provided by Adults & Communities outlined the proposals and there were around 6 or 7 staff on hand to answer questions.

However, there was very considerable negativity expressed by several of the residents, so much so that it became increasingly difficult for our council staff to provide relevant information about the scheme because of the many concerns being raised. A number of residents had the erroneous idea that the council was going to let the flats to youth offenders and drug addicts and despite reassurances, the concern was palpable. I was very worried by the attitudes being expressed by some of the residents, many of whom were clearly not happy with my support for this scheme, but it has such a potential benefit to help 20 adults that I stand by my support.

I would therefore like to suggest that the Cabinet agrees to more information sharing events are held in the village to keep residents and parish councillors updated as the project progresses over the next 12 months. A request for a formal public meeting was made, together with the need for more information about the process that will be used to select the individuals who will be placed in this supported living scheme, and ideally evidence from similar sized supported living schemes where residents have an enhanced independence in their local communities.

Kevin Feltham

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