



The Future of The Birches Older Persons Home



Central Bedfordshire Council wants the best possible quality of life for all its residents and is committed to developing and improving accommodation with care for older people. The Council owns and operates five care homes which were built several decades ago and which currently no longer meet the expectations of customers and regulators in terms of facilities and accommodation.

So, when better options become available elsewhere, the Council will consult with residents and relatives about the future.

The availability of places at Oak Manor, a new care home in Shefford, due to open September/October 2017, along with other good quality residential care and nursing homes in close proximity to The Birches, mean that the Council can now offer alternative and improved accommodation to the residents of this home.

The Council is therefore consulting on the future of The Birches.

The Council has considered the following options in relation to the future of The Birches including:

1. Doing nothing - continue to run The Birches in its present form.
2. Relocating existing residents to better homes and closing The Birches.
3. Transferring The Birches to another organisation to run as a going concern.
4. Building a new home on The Birches site - moving residents to alternative homes, demolishing the old home and building a new home.
5. Running the home down - stopping new admissions to the home but keeping it open for an agreed period of time or until it had no residents.
6. Refurbishing the home so that it meets modern standards.

Having reviewed a number of options (which are set out in more detail in the document 'Options considered for the future of The Birches') the Council's preferred option is to offer and arrange accommodation for the existing residents in good alternative care homes and then to close The Birches.

We want to know the views of residents, their relatives and other interested parties. The simplest way to let us have your views is by completing the questionnaire below.

Please read this questionnaire alongside the 'Have your say on the future of The Birches Older Persons Home' consultation document and the 'Options considered for the future of The Birches' document.

You can obtain further copies of these documents by contacting:
Rebecca Carr on 0300 300 6609 or email Rebecca.carr@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Please submit your response to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations or return your completed survey to:

FREEPOST RSJS GBBZ SRZT (You do not need a stamp)
The Birches Consultation
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House, Monks Walk
Chicksands, Shefford
SG17 5TQ

The options considered

Q1 What are your views on the Council's preferred option?

Q2 Are there any options that you think we have not correctly evaluated?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If yes, please state which one(s) and why you think should be evaluated differently in the comments box below.

Q3 Are there any options listed that you think the Council should investigate in more detail?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If yes, please state which one(s) and say what further information or investigation is needed.

Q4 Are there any other option(s) that you think the Council should consider that are not in the document?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

If yes, please explain what these option(s) are.

Q5 Do you have any further comments about the future of the home?

Welfare of residents at The Birches

Q6 Throughout the process we will be conducting individual meetings with residents and their relatives, and providing advocates where necessary. What could the Council do to minimise the impact of any changes on the existing residents and their relatives at The Birches?

Other comments

Q7 Do you have any further comments about the provision of accommodation for residents at The Birches?

About you

This section of the survey is about you. The following information will help us when considering your opinions and to make sure that we're getting the views of all members of the community. The answers will not be used to identify any individual.

- Q8** Are you a:
- Resident
 - Relative of a resident
 - Member of the public
 - Member of staff
 - Charity or organisation
 - Other

If other, please specify

Q9 Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

Q10 What is your age?

- Under 16 years
- 16-19 years
- 20-29 years
- 30-44 years
- 45-59 years
- 60-64 years
- 65-74 years
- 75+

Q11 Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Under the Equality Act 2010 a person is considered to have a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a sustained and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

- Yes
- No

Q12 To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

- White British
- Black or Black British
- Asian or Asian British
- Mixed
- Other

If other, please specify

Q13 If you would like to receive any updates on this consultation or alerts for any new consultations, please provide your email address below to be added to the list:

Data Protection Act 1998

Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose of The Birches Older Persons Home consultation.

The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of the Council and its' partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances.

Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.