

R.Belfield.
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Dear Mr Belfield,

Following your note of the 7th March I am putting forward my views on the matters raised during the Consultation Meeting held on the 6th March.

The main proposal discussed was the consolidation of day care services for older people on one site, either Newent or Hobkirk House. There were two reasons behind this proposal the first financial, to save money, the second, to begin the process of modernising day services.

My personal preference is for Newent House. It has an attractive garden And a comfortable conservatory. In addition it has several lounges of varying sizes. Moreover, it is approx 5minutes by bus from my home..

I object to Hobkirk because not only is it much further away but the road leading up to it has humps and is in a poor state while parking is difficult. I also agree with JC's comment that the Hobkirk layout was more closed in whereas Newent was roomier and a much nicer building. I am not surprised that RBK has other potential uses for the building. I submit that its existing users are very happy where they are and would be quite vocal in defending their wish to stay there.

I have not yet mentioned the staff. Who are at least as important as the building! I am sure that the existing users would be delighted if the existing staff at Newent could continue and I would hope that they would be happy to do so.

So, all in all, it seems to me that Newent is the better choice at least in the short term. I believe that it has been suggested that the chosen day centre should start off with approx 70 users. If 50 of these are existing Newent users, that will leave only 20 people to be transferred from Hobkirk.

Finally feel that I must support the views held by so many of my fellow users first, that I am astonished that RBK is considering cuts to their day care services for older people - a group which appears to be ever - growing. In addition I agree with those who have criticised some of the recent expenditures of the RBK-notably The £165,000 spent on a Water Feature in the Market Square.

Yours sincerely

JB