

6 March 2007

To whom it may concern

My wife is severely disabled, in a wheelchair, registered blind and only able to use her left hand. For some years now, she has been attending a day centre, which has been a great boon for both of us. First it was the Crescent Resource Centre, until two years ago, when she reached her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and was told she had to leave because of her age, leave all her many friends behind and go to Newent House, where she had to start to get to know people all over again. Now she has been told that Newent House may be closed down, but not to worry, as she may be able to go to Hobkirk, and start all over again.

It must be just as worrying and unsettling for the people at Hobkirk to think that they may all have to face this upheaval. Surely in a borough the size of Kingston, with an increasingly ageing population, it is a very short sighted policy to even think of closing down one of these centres, if not for the people who are now using the centres, what of future old and disabled residents of the borough.

I urge you to think again about this decision, before you do away with one of these valuable resources.

Yours sincerely

W C