

The way forward

First addressing the issues raised by the residents:-

1) Given as a play area

Response :- The area on which we wish to build is NOT a play area due to it being overgrown with nettles and brambles. (It used to be a play area)

2) Drains , recently plumber called. Existing services

Response :- Localised normal blockage as experienced by any householder. There is not a lasting problem. A one-off callout was witnessed by the residents. The drains issue has to be resolved before building work commences. A condition of the Planning Panel

3) Protection of trees.

Response :- Dealt with at the planning stage. Minimum effect on the woodland.

4) Protection of wild life

Response :- Dealt with at the planning stage. No effect on wild life

5) Trees should be retained

Response :- Very few trees to be felled. Most are extremely young (self seeded) In one small group to be felled the main one is diseased . All dealt with at planning stage. Compensating hedge to be planted, planning requirement.

6) Removal of trees

Response :- See above

7) Local amenity

Response :- No change as a local amenity

8) Destruction of green amenity

Response :- Not an amenity overgrown with brambles and nettles.

9) Transparency before planning

Response :- Planning rules followed to the letter. All information has been in the public domain

10) Wrong place not a Care Home

Response :- Right place in among the community. Local residents may of need of it sometime. Our residents are in need of our voluntary care.

11) Public right of way

Response :- Not affected

12) Council not maintaining this year

Response :- Only time Council carries out any maintenance is when we 'jump up and down' (They want relieved of this responsibility)

13) Disturbance while building

Response :- This is not a great deal different to all the other extensions which have

been built on the estate just a rather larger job.

Summing up :- All the above issues have been dealt with at the Planning stage.
Nothing has changed

THE QUESTION IS :- Have the views of the local residents been taken into consideration and is it right for CBC to allow Abbeyfield to purchase the land to build an extension to accommodate 9 elderly people (With awaiting list of 25) which would result in an investment of over £800,000 into the local economy *OR* should it be retained and be used for any other purpose at CBC expense for the benefit of the community?

Suggestion : CBC sells Abbeyfield the land required for the extension and hand over the woodland to a Trust formed by the residents of Hillcrest. This SHOULD meet all aspirations and would enable CBC to meet its policy of disposing of its parcels of land.

Achieve this by setting up a meeting between say three representatives of the residents with three representatives of Johnson house, our two local Councillors and Chris Lloyd with an independent chairman. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the future of the woodland and for Johnson House representatives to answer any questions relating to the new build.

Abbeyfield Committee