

## Notice of Meeting

# Adults and Health Select Committee



**Date & time**  
Thursday, 15 June  
2023 at 10.00 am

**Place**  
Woodhatch Place,  
Cockshott Hill  
Reigate  
Surrey, RH7 6EF

**Contact**  
Omid Nouri, Scrutiny  
Officer  
  
Tel 07977 595 687

**Chief Executive**  
Joanna Killian

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**This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Omid Nouri, Scrutiny Officer on 07977 595 687.**

### **Elected Members**

Helyn Clack, Nick Darby, Robert Evans OBE (Stanwell & Stanwell Moor), Angela Goodwin (Vice-Chairman), David Harmer (Waverley Western Villages), Trefor Hogg (Chairman), Rebecca Jennings-Evans (Lightwater, West End and Bisley), Frank Kelly, Riasat Khan (Vice-Chairman), David Lewis, Ernest Mallett MBE, Michaela Martin and Carla Morson (Ash)

### **Independent Representatives:**

Borough Councillor Neil Houston (Elmbridge Borough Council), Borough Councillor Abby King (Runnymede Borough Council) and District Councillor Charlotte Swann (Tandridge District Council)

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- Statutory health scrutiny
- Adult Social Care (including safeguarding)
- Health integration and devolution
- Review and scrutiny of all health services commissioned or delivered within Surrey
- Public Health
- Review delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Future local delivery model and strategic commissioning

## **AGENDA**

### **4 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

(Pages 3  
- 6)

**Purpose of the item:** To receive any questions or petitions.

**NOTES:**

1. The deadline for Members' questions is 12:00pm four working days before the meeting (*9 June 2023*).
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (*8 June 2023*).
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

**Joanna Killian**  
**Chief Executive**

Published: Thursday, 8 June 2023

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*Thank you for your co-operation*

## Member Questions to the Adult and Health Select Committee – 15 June 2023

### Keith Witham to ask:

Would the Adults and Health Select Committee please consider an investigation into the events and circumstances of "Greenways", Ash Road, Worplesdon to establish why SCC public funds are being used to knowingly enable a provider who is in breach of planning and licencing regulations? Due to the severity of the allegations will the Cabinet Member agree to instruct withdrawal of financing from this facility pending the results of the investigation?

### Context/background to question:

For the Select Committee, Adult Social Care (ASC) is aware that residents of Ash Road are very concerned regarding the use of the premises "Greenways" by Applenet Care and Support to house ex-offenders with mental health needs, financed by Surrey County (SCC) Council Adult Social Care despite the provider NOT having planning consent from the local authority for that use, and NOT being licenced by the local authority as an HMO (House of Multiple Occupation). SCC Adult Social Care are knowingly using public money to enable a provider in breach of planning regulations. This cannot be a sustainable position.

Fox Corner is a small rural residential area, part of the parish of Pirbright, located in between Guildford and Woking. It is an isolated area with little bus service, and miles from community facilities, food shops or any employment opportunities in either Woking or Guildford.

Requests from nearby residents that Adult Social Care Officers also speak directly to local residents to understand the impact the unlicenced use of the property is having on the local community and to cross check / validate what they are told by Applenet have been ignored.

SCC ASC is aware that there is no planning permission in place for:

- The use of Greenways as a residential care facility
- The use of Greenways as an HMO (for which planning is required when occupied by more than 5 people which is currently the case – and is Applenet's plan)
- The use of the garage for residential purposes, for which it has and is being used.

Would the Cabinet Member agree that SCC has a duty to uphold rules and regulations – especially when dealing with matters of public safety, and as such must immediately stop spending taxpayers' money on Greenways until all licencing and planning issues are resolved.

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## Public Question to the Adult and Health Select Committee – 15 June 2023

### Question:

Can SCC remain in compliance with their duty to use public money responsibly and their obligation to safeguard the public if the facility at Greenways is allowed to continue?

### Context to question

Greenways, a residential property in the small village of Fox Corner was rented to a company called Applenet Care and Support Ltd around October 2020. The house is being used as a residential care facility for people with a range of mental health needs, including ex-offenders and those with a history of substance abuse. (Surrey County Council Adult Social Care [SCC ASC] email 24/5/23). SCC ASC is financing the operation.

No consultation has ever been held with residents of Fox Corner by Applenet or SCC ASC. Over the last 2 years, there have been a series of extremely concerning incidents, including violent incidents and anti-social behaviour committed by people housed at Greenways. Applenet's management also have a publicly available history of failure in running facilities of this kind (for example Coghlan Lodges, Berkshire).

Incidents include:

- An individual housed at Greenways (described by Applenet management as a 'Problematic Schizophrenic') used illegal drugs and offered them to passers-by. He frightened local residents with his behaviour and endangered his own life by sitting at the front of the property with his feet in the road. Applenet management were unaware of his behaviour until the very alarmed local residents told them. Applenet then failed to effectively manage the situation, which escalated with the individual standing on the entrances to neighbouring houses to use drugs, having a lot of arguments and shouting at others on the front drive of Greenways and finally an incident in which a visitor to a neighbouring house was assaulted. Shortly after this the man was arrested and "**readmitted** to a secure mental health facility" (SCC ASC email 24/5/23).
- An individual who was a known arsonist but who supposedly had an "appropriate risk assessment" (SCC ASC Briefing 12/12/22) in place was able to enter a property in Fox Corner and set fire to a vehicle, causing thousands of pounds of damage and endangering lives.
- Staff at Greenways have been threatened by residents with a knife (ASC email 24/5/23).
- On multiple occasions several police vehicles have arrived at Greenways in response to serious incidents or to arrest people placed there by SCC ASC.

- Verbal abuse directed at young girls waiting for the bus across the road from Greenways by residents of Greenways

The management of Applenet continually show a disregard for laws, proper processes and are dishonest in their conduct. The following are examples clearly visible to other residents of Fox Corner. We can only assume there are a multitude of failures that we cannot see:

- Applenet have never consulted the Planning Authority about the use of the property. Guildford Borough Council Planning have found that the property is being used for a purpose for which it does not have planning permission. (Class C2 use). SCC ASC response to this was: "Guildford do not seem to be unduly concerned and have asked the owners to submit the required information" (ASC email 24/5/23). This is a very misleading interpretation of the findings of misuse by GBC who have concluded that a full planning application must be made.
- Applenet purchased a large 3 bed roomed mobile home which was delivered to the property in November 2022. There had been no consultation with the planning authorities or with neighbours. Applenet told neighbours that they didn't think anyone would mind. The mobile home was only removed after significant volumes of complaints by local residents.
- Applenet have applied for an HMO licence, only after a complaint was raised to the local council by a Fox Corner resident.
- Applenet do not and have never had an adequate rubbish collection procedure, resulting in a build-up of rubbish on the property and the routine misuse of Surrey's domestic bin collection services.
- Applenet have told SCC ASC a number of lies, which SCC ASC have willingly believed. These include claims of "ongoing liaison with the community" and the existence of "a neighbourhood Whatsapp group". Both of which are simply not true but which SCC ASC seem to have relied on to inform their decision making processes

Based on what we know of Applenet's history of failure and what we can see of Applenet's current failures and lack of honesty and based on the response of SCC ASC, we have no confidence that SCC ASC is adequately scrutinising and monitoring the facility at Greenways. The safety of the public is at risk and SCC is complicit in this. The facility must therefore be immediately closed.