

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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