

Ms Chadwick-Histed  
Chair  
Camphill Village Trust  
Malton  
North Yorkshire  
YO17 7LL

19th Feb 2015

Dear Ms Chadwick-Histed

**Re Botton Village**

We were dismayed and disgusted to learn that eviction notices have been served by CVT on core long-term members of the Botton Co-Worker community. However your consultants and employees choose to present and enforce this process it is abundantly clear that these people are being evicted because they are not willing to cooperate with the willful destruction of the guiding principles of Camphill under which Botton has operated for sixty years.

News of this coincided with the arrival of the annual request for funding from CVT from us (as past donors, occasional guest volunteers and lifelong supporters of Camphill.) You can guess our reaction to that - echoing that of our lawyers in 2014. Their advice, following due diligence, was **in no circumstances** to leave a legacy to this charity under its present governance. Indeed we would be truly horrified if a single penny of our life capital was being used towards the shameful processes in which you are engaged.

I ask you once more to think again. You are making a terrible mistake.

Please arrange the immediate withdrawal of these eviction notices before the situation in Botton gets worse, at great cost to the villagers, committed workers, their families and children with the inevitable consequences of full legal action against the Trust and its Trustees.

Actions you have endorsed have already entailed the commitment of very large sums of money (raised from the public, the state and bequests in good faith for the sole purpose of **charitable** works) towards unnecessary high-cost over-management and wholly avoidable litigation costs.

CVT has outraged the international Camphill community and its many supporters. Your particular way of proceeding to 'reform' the Camphill way of life has incurred rancor, conflict and strife amongst colleagues within the very communities you are charged with supporting. You have turned CVT into a hated organisation amongst former Co-Workers, volunteers, donors and even the parents of many villagers. You have upset villagers and in some cases possibly caused permanent harm to persons unable to articulate their wishes and concerns.

As far as we can ascertain none of your board and staff have any genuine long term life experience within a Camphill Community - and certainly no understanding or apparent sympathy for the life-sharing, community living and volunteering that are at the heart of the guiding philosophy of Camphill and are legally enshrined within CVT's articles of association.

Is this really the legacy you want to leave behind when you go?

Do you really want to be known as the person that led the destruction of one of the world's most feted *crème de la crème* of caring organisations and brought the internationally lauded Trust you have somehow come to chair into national disrepute?

The 'compliance' objective pursued relentlessly by CVT appears on closer examination to be nothing less than a pretext for imposed cultural change. The zealotry with which you have pushed it forward bears all the appearance of a vendetta against Co-working and possibly even individual Co-workers. If 'reform' and change of the type you are trying to impose were **truly** needed within the communities we are in no doubt that you could have negotiated a position within HMRC consistent with that current elsewhere in non-CVT Camphill that would have been acceptable to all.

But CVT chose not to. CVT chose instead the path of the bully.

The 'New' Botton you are trying to engineer can only be:

- A Botton devoid of the rich cultural life, commitment and enthusiasm that the long term Co-workers embody and have carried forward from the earliest days of Camphill.
- A Botton without the young international guest volunteering that the cultural knowledge, expertise and commitment of long term genuine Camphill Co-Workers attract (The chaos in Delrow is witness to this).
- A Botton shorn of healthy living, working farms and gardens, biodynamics, communal activity, and living and working in life partnership.
- And in time, because all the other core attributes of traditional Camphill Botton will be deemed 'too expensive', or not relevant to whatever new untested 'care' model you aspire to, it will be a Botton that is not Camphill.

**Botton under CVT will no longer be a working community.**

Where once there was a very, very special place there will be a kind of second-class care institution burning resources it does not have, manned by passing flotillas of short-term care workers. And then in time there will be nothing.

You will inevitably say to this: '*not so, it will not be like this. It will be compliant and it will be economically viable*'. We, like so many others, including large numbers of the local and area community, to whom Botton has been a shining light for decades, will just **not** believe you.

It is wholly in your power at the present moment to step away from this willful god-forsaken process of hurt, malice and destruction in which you have engaged. Do so before you bring Camphill Botton to its knees and further deepen the mire of controversy into which the Camphill Village Trust has stepped and may remain for many years to come.

Once again, we ask you to withdraw the eviction process immediately and re-engage with the Co-Workers and their chosen representatives to determine a way forward that is **actually** coherent with what everyone else - except yourselves - recognise as Camphill.

Act now before it is too late.

Yours sincerely

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