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The Camphill Village Trust
The Kingfisher Offices,
9 Saville Street,
Malton,
North Yorkshire YO17 7LL

September 29th 2014

For the attention of Huw John and the Trustees

RE: The future of Botton village.

Dear Sir

The Camphill Northern Region Association represents all Camphill places in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia and Latvia. The majority of these places are villages or communities for and with adults with disabilities. Common for them all is that they are inspired by the ground breaking example of Botton Village. We feel it is important that Botton should receive full recognition for its contribution towards the changes in attitudes towards people with disabilities that has evolved since 1956. Today, in many countries, the UN Declaration of Human Rights upholds the status of people with disabilities.

We fully support the idea of an open convention with all interested parties where everybody can contribute in a process to make it possible for Botton to continue its valuable work. For us it is of paramount importance that the innovative ideas of Camphill are upheld and that the people (both residents and co-workers) living in Botton can continue to choose how they will live their daily lives. We recognise that all this must happen within the framework of the rules and regulations that exist in England but maintain that it is fully possible to find alternative ways to meet these requirements than those outlined in the last number of Camphill Correspondence, in the article "Vision of the future within the Camphill Village Trust".

Our association embraces a large variety of Camphill places in vastly different countries with their diverse legislation and demands. Common to all of our places, however, is that the ideals and principles of Camphill are recognised and practiced. We would like to point to Norway where all Camphill places are part of the Norwegian Camphill Village Trust (Camphill Landsbystiftelsen, Norge). In recent years, Camphill in Norway has undergone fundamental

structural changes to satisfy Norwegian legislative requirements, whilst at the same time each community and or village has the possibility to develop individually according to the needs and wishes of all its residents.

We write this letter in the sincere hope that CVT can recognise the uniqueness of the work done in Botton Village and other Camphill places in England and through constructive dialogue find a way whereby Botton can retain its identity as a Camphill village whilst implementing necessary changes.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of the Camphill Northern Region Association

Ludwig Kraus

Chairman of the Northern Region Association