

Open Letter to:

Board of Trustees, CVT
Chief Executive, CVT
Residents of Botton, the Grange & Delrow
Families of Botton, the Grange & Delrow
Co-workers of Botton, the Grange & Delrow
Employees / Managers of Botton, the Grange & Delrow

CC:

International Regions of the Camphill Movement
Movement Core Group
Association of Camphill Communities
Anthroposophical Society, Great Britain
Camphill Family & Friends

12 October 2014

Dear Stakeholders of Botton, the Grange & Delrow,

Everyone with a love of our three communities, and of Camphill more widely, will have watched with a growing sense of alarm, as events have unfolded over recent months.

We now find ourselves in a very grave situation. Opinion is sharply polarised, positions entrenched, and the debate is increasingly being played out in the media. The imminent dangers for the communities, the charity, and the Camphill Movement as a whole are plain for all to see. We seem to be set on a course that is unlikely to ultimately benefit any of the stakeholders of our three communities, least of all their residents.

We believe that now is a moment for real statesmanship. Consequently, we are calling on everyone involved to take one step back from the brink. To this end we propose calling a Three Communities Convention of all the key stakeholders in the near future.

The purpose of such a convention would be to facilitate a constructive dialogue between our communities and the Camphill Village Trust to explore ways of arriving at a lasting settlement which is in the best interest of the charity and its beneficiaries.

Our Proposal: The Three Communities Convention

Any charity must serve its beneficiaries, and its wider stakeholders. A systematic consultation with these groups must form the starting point if we seek to find an acceptable way forward.

We would wish to ensure, where possible, the widest participation of stakeholders. This process should aim to reflect opinions faithfully and accurately, including those of residents, co-workers, employees, managers and families.

Those findings would then be presented to a Three Communities Convention at a central location (such as London) by representative delegations.

The aim of such an event would be to facilitate an open and honest exchange of views, leading to more detailed discussions on ways of resolving the present crisis and finding a way forward based on a shared vision of a positive future.

The three community delegations will be invited, as will CVT Board members, the senior management team, and representatives of the wider national and international Camphill Movement. The findings of the community consultations will be presented, and constructive ways to turn these ideas into concrete action around which we can all unite will be sought.

The purpose of the community events and the Convention would be:

- To allow the parties to present their own positions in their own words
- To Systematically canvass and record the feelings of the wider stakeholders
- To explore imaginative solutions, without limitation, that take account of the wishes of the residents, families and wider stakeholders, as well as the legal and regulatory imperatives
- To articulate a vision of a modern, compliant, viable and safe Camphill, firmly rooted in the values of Rudolf Steiner and Karl Koenig

We wish such a seminal event to be constructive and forward-looking. Careful thought will need to be given on how best to present the different positions and the opinions of the stakeholders adequately canvassed, in a considered and positive manner. Smaller workshops may provide a less confrontational environment than large open meetings. A co-ordinating group comprising the different sides should be jointly responsible for formatting the convention, and ensuring that the thoughts of all participants can be heard and respected. There will be a need for neutral facilitation and robust independent advocacy for the residents, in a sensitive and appropriate manner.

Those not able to attend should be allowed a chance to be fully informed and register their opinions by post.

We would ask that this proposal be received in the spirit in which it is made-namely a genuine attempt to reach out to all parties. We remain convinced that imaginative solutions to the present impasse are still possible, in which the wishes of the beneficiaries and wider stakeholders can be respected within safe, and appropriate legal forms. This will however require that all sides approach our proposal with an open mind and without preconditions.

Given the urgency of the current situation, the Convention will need to be organised for a date in the very near future.

Stakeholders can register their support for this initiative at the E-mail below:

E-mail: threecommunitiesconvention@gmail.com

We would ask that CVT reply to confirm their participation by 20th October. We will then set about organising a date and venue, which will inform all recipients of this letter of as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

Botton Village

Coworkers:

Fionn Reid	Kathryn von Stein	Donald & Gillian Barron
Jonathan Reid	Claire Griffiths	Kay Wilson
Ruairidh von Stein	Mark Barber	Owen Lewis
Torquil Long	Marcello Giordano	Elizabeth, David, James Tom & George Robertson
Arkadiusz Adamczak	Antonella Borri	Marja , Virginia and Alan Lee
Adilia Adamczak	Klara Brzobahata	
Heike Pfautsch	Lukas Brzobahaty	
Jakob Kielwein	Haruko Walters	Ruth, Paul, Declan, Edward & Kate Foley
Solveig Whittle	Peter Schweitzer	
Ben Walters	Philip Page	William, Anne, Will & Bill Telfer
Lydia Gill-Waring	Elise Bos	
Nicola Elson	Hans Steenbergen	Julia Dent
Aidan Waring	Charles Cross-Gurnell	
Micky Nef	Celine Labesse	Sybil & Bill Telford
Kathe Johnson	Alma Stroud	Brian Knight
Nicholas Poole	Christiane Rosenau	Abby Werth
Paule Poole		Monica & Jurgen Zimmermann
Christine Reid	Family Members:	Bridget Lewis
Soleira Wennekes	George Cautherley	Peter & Pippa Unwin
Itoe Ogihara	Carrie & Fran Francis	Caroline Greenwood
Ernst Nef	Sue McEwen	William Walker
Birgit Lang	Rosie Faulkes	Mark Kamp
Naomi Miura	Susan Hurst	Amina Tutton
Erwin Wennekes	Richard Kent & family	Jackie, Thomas& Bjorn
Ruedi Nef	Max & Christina White	Riis-Johannessen

May & Mrs King-Evans

Mrs & Mrs Collin

Mr & Mrs Thornton-Berry

Jacqui Gough

GRANGE

Co-Workers:

Judy Bailey

Judy Wakeman

Penny Redman

Chris Butcher

Ian Bailey

Action for the Grange:

Mrs P M Fortune

Rob James

Rebekah Hoyland

Nick Assirati

Mark Moodie

Xenia Huntley

Peter Kramer

Trevor Firman

Victoria Renouf
Watkins

Delrow

Family Members:

Julian Haxby

Flora Pedler

Richard Phillips

Elaine Phillips

Val Cole

David Gordon

Victoria & Alain
Catzefflis

Maggie & Nicholas
Brown

This Initiative is endorsed by the following individual Camphill Communities:

Newton Dee Camphill Village, England

The Mount Camphill Community, England

The Lantern Community, England

Camphill School Aberdeen, Scotland

Loch Arthur Camphill Community, Scotland

Camphill Community Duffcarrig, Ireland

Camphill Clanabogan, Ireland

Camphill Community Trust, Botswana

Camphill Village 'Svetlana', Russia

Camphill Special School, USA

The following international Camphill regions and bodies have all recently issued letters expressing concern at the current situation, and calling for immediate, open dialogue of all parties:

- **The Core Group, of the Camphill Movement Group**- representatives of the worldwide Camphill movement
- **The Association of Camphill Communities (AoCC)**- representing most Camphill communities worldwide
- **The Camphill Village Trust of Norway**- representing the 6 communities in Norway
- **The Camphill Association of North America**- representing 11 communities in the US and Canada
- **The Camphill Northern Region Association**- representing all Camphill places in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia and Latvia
- **The Camphill Middle European Region**- representing France, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic and Poland
- **The Camphill Communities of Ireland**- representing 18 communities in Ireland