



Open Letter

To:
**Board of Trustees & Chief Executive, Camphill Village Trust
& Action for Botton**

Date: 27 September 2014

Support for Dialogue and Negotiation

To Whom It May Concern:

The Annual General Meeting of the Camphill Communities of Ireland wishes to send a strong message of concern to the Camphill Village Trust (UK), as well as to Action for Botton, about the course of events in its centres in England and most especially in Botton Village.

The qualities of Life Sharing and the many expressions of the ethos of the Camphill Movement have been established in an on-going evolution over more than 70 years. These have brought personal and social benefit to thousands of people, with and without “special needs”. Rapid changes that fundamentally challenge the community and social therapeutic ethos that has been developed in Botton and other Village Communities will do unnecessary damage to social structures and the lives of individuals. The failure to engage in adequate dialogue and a genuine process of negotiation with people committed to evolving the Life Sharing approach will have long term negative consequences for all involved.

Camphill Communities of Ireland sends its support for earnest dialogue and negotiation between all parties, including management, employees, directors, coworkers, residents and families. We exhort you all to engage in genuine and meaningful negotiations with all those who seek to enhance the ethical qualities of Life Sharing as upheld by the Association of Camphill Communities.

Yours sincerely,

Sincerely,

Leo Veling, Chairman
Camphill Communities of Ireland