

The Ten Questions for Camphill Village Trust

1. Why, when there was a group of co-workers working with you to find ways forward, did you proceed to a final decision about change without informing them of the tax, financial and Charity Commission problems, thereby involving and consulting them rather than leaving them feeling betrayed, misled and used?
2. Why has the very strong expression of the wishes of those you call the "beneficiaries" but we call "villagers" and their families been ignored? The beneficiaries don't want your intended move away from life-sharing and non employed co-workers and if you ignore this you cannot claim to be acting in their best interests.
3. Why was there no consultation with the villagers about the removal of the co-workers they live with prior to the decision being made?
4. Why did you give the impression that you had clear legal advice that Botton co-workers could be judged to be employees when you knew that they were not employees thereby giving the impression that this whole unsubstantiated explanation is but a smokescreen to cover your intention to change Botton to a more standard institutionalised controlled form?
5. What is the business plan for the new Botton without care workers and with shift workers caring for villagers? How do you intend to meet the additional cost of care workers in this remote place. Please supply a costed business plan including the costs of "paying off" co-workers and the cost of legal and tax advice.
6. What is the future of the Waldorf School at Botton when there are no co-workers and hence no families at Botton? Have you consulted with the parents at the school as to how your future Botton will impact on their children?
7. What is CVT's plan for the future of the festivals and other events currently organised by Co-workers as volunteers? These social and religious background to life in the community are not something that can be "brought in" or that you can expect employees, who are to be paid for what they do, to do without further payment nor would they be the same if they were.
8. How do you see the future of the farms and other work-places in the new Botton?
9. How do you intend to manage the change from family homes those who have lived in that way for many years and relate to and depend on co-workers without doing severe harm to those residents? Experience with your previous actions show that sudden removal of co-workers have a devastating impact on those who should be the first consideration.
10. Please explain in what ways your proposal accords with the principles of Dr Rudolf Steiner. It is not sufficient to point to other communities, which have had co-workers removed to answer this. To put it another way, Botton and the other Camphill Communities were set up as an alternative to the commercial/institutionalised system of care. How is it that your intended model of top down control and employees differs from that commercial/institutional model?