

**Simpsons Farm  
Pentlow  
Nr Sudbury  
Suffolk  
CO10 7JT**

16<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Chair and Trustees  
Camphill Village Trust  
9 Saville Street  
Malton  
North Yorkshire  
YO17 7LL

Dear Mrs Chadwick–Histed

We are writing to you as a group of people who have relatives at the Grange and who believe that the actions being undertaken by CVT imperil the future well-being of its residents. The very essence of this community revolves around the family atmosphere which is dependent on the co-workers living in the houses with the residents, and in no way can be effectively replaced by a changing force of support workers, no matter how well intentioned. It should be remembered that many of these residents have been in the Grange for a very long time, and the loss of day to day routine and regular contact with their trusted co-workers, who know their needs well, could have – and in some cases already has had - a very traumatic effect on them. We are not questioning the need for people to be employed, only the way in which employment law is being interpreted, in an unnecessarily legalistic way, to the detriment of our relatives.

As regards the safety of the residents, it is difficult to see how a revolving team of support workers could provide greater security for them than the permanent presence of experienced co-workers.

We are well aware that the concerns we are expressing to you today have been conveyed by the relatives of residents in other communities, under the control of CVT. We are cognizant of the advice rendered by Mr Hubert Picarda, one of the most respected charities experts in the land, who has challenged your authority as Trustees to put in jeopardy the life sharing arrangement, by no longer permitting the co-workers to live with the residents. In the light of this opinion we understand that the Charity Commission has been asked by the Delrow group of parents' solicitor to conduct an investigation of the CVT's actions.

However, despite all the genuine concerns that have been brought to your attention, it would appear that CVT is determined to pursue this course come what may, witnessed by the fact that your manager Gemma May will shortly be meeting with the co-workers at the Grange to confirm that they will no longer be able to live in the same houses as the residents. It looks very much as though the experienced co-workers won't be staying on in these circumstances, where meaningful life-sharing with the residents will no longer be possible. Once dismantled, this web of relationships between residents and co-workers would be difficult to reinstate, which of course you understand all too well.

Therefore, even at this late stage, we would urge you to reconsider your course of action or at the very least postpone any decisions until the legal position regarding the charity's objects has been clarified. For our part we wish to make it absolutely clear that we are not prepared to stand by and

watch our relatives' well-being sacrificed to a policy that to us appears unnecessary, illogical and destructive. Camphill communities should be offering a range of support options, and respecting our relatives' choice of how they wish to live.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Harley  
Roger and Barbara Sykes  
Pam Fortune  
Dorothy Noakes  
Sue Marshall  
Jane Osgood  
Anna Stocker  
Kay Severance (Councillor)  
Mike and Kerry Coates (Podiatrist)