

CATREF TREGERDDAN

In response to your consultation in respect of the future of Catref Tregerddan, we, the Community Council for Tir y Mynach consider it our responsibility to convey to you the concerns expressed within our community.

Catref Tregerddan has been an integral part of the Community for over 40 years. The residents are considered as members of that community and transfer to another home does mean they will lose that connection and sense of belonging. The uncertainty they currently face as to the future is giving rise to some anxiety for them. They are worried over where they will be placed and whether alternate facilities will meet their physical, mental, and emotional needs. Although your documents speak of transfer to Hafan y Waun, it is natural that they should have trepidation over transfer to an unknown building and location. Matters such as ease of accessibility for family to visit feature in this anxiety as does the dilution of the close friendship groups they have established at their current location.

Over the years, the local community has embraced the home with the voluntary Friends of Catref Tregerddan at the forefront of that support. Prior to The Covid epidemic, events such as Summer Barbecues, a fete and Christmas Celebrations were regular social opportunities organised by the group in support of the residents. Your IIA suggests that transfer to Hafan Y Waun will enhance opportunities for Volunteer engagement, but the opportunities for such engagement within the Tir Y Mynach area will in fact reduce. Many of the volunteers are advancing in years themselves and volunteering outside their community is unlikely due to the added cost of travel to be considered and the move away from their established social network.

Catref Tregerddan has also, over many years benefitted from the connection with the school, with entertainment offered to the residents at Christmas time by the school and the mutually beneficial experience of demonstrating the school's eisteddfod efforts and successes to the residents.

Although the documents indicate this could all continue at Hafan Y Waun, realistically factors such as transport costs as well as travel time will impact, and the local connection will have been severed.

Catref Tregerddan has over the years offered opportunities to employ staff from the local community, thus enhancing the connection between the Home and the local community. Residents from the Tir Y Mynach locality have found it comforting to have staff from their locality seeing to their needs and it has enhanced their sense of still being part of that community. Your report indicates that staff will be offered opportunities to transfer to Hafan y Waun. However, the connection within the local community will have severed and for some the added complication of public transport costs and convenience may make it unviable to continue as carers.

Members of the local community have also spoken of their concerns that closing a residential facility may be short-sighted given the increasingly aged population demographic within Ceredigion. One would anticipate that given this and that the population is living longer into advanced old age, there will inevitably be a need for an

increase in residential care. We cannot depend on the private sector meeting this need as the closure of private sector establishments within the county has already demonstrated. Ceredigion, it is acknowledged is a relatively low-income area and therefore the incentive for new private residential facilities is not readily available. Closure of a facility is something that might easily be regretted in the future.

Concerns have also been expressed as to the future use of the building and speculation within the area is rife. This is adding to the considerable concern expressed by the local population. If the consultative process does lead to the closure of the premises, then we would urge that consideration and reassurances are offered as soon as possible in respect of future use of the premises.