



Council

Extraordinary Meeting

(Girtrell Court)

Town Hall
Wallasey

10 March, 2017

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at **5.00 pm on Monday, 20 March 2017** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects :

Contact Officer: Andrew Mossop
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e-mail: andrewmossop@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest, in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Civic Mayor's announcements and any apologies for absence.

3. GIRTRELL COURT

3a. Requisition Notice (Pages 1 – 2)

3b. Notice of Motion (Page 3)

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Assistant Director: Law and Governance



Wirral Council
Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral CH44 8ED

0151 691 8652

By Email

6th February 2017

Dear Mr Mayor

REQUEST TO REQUISITION AN EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Please find below signatures from 21 Members of the Council requisitioning an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

We note that Council's decision to close Girtrell Court was predicated on choice for users and not a budgetary saving as originally stated.

We further note that Labour Councillors voted to close Girtrell Court based on misleading and incorrect information that stated of the 105 service users, only 55 service users wanted to continue with bed based respite, and the remaining 50 had chosen other options and venues.

However, in recent weeks, it has become clear that 90 service users wish to transfer from Girtrell Court to the alternative provision in Tollemache Road.

We note that Girtrell Court is a 20 bed, single floor, bespoke, respite centre, which provides 13 respite beds, 2 emergency beds and 5 placement breakdown beds. The alternative provision will comprise a 10 bed unit over three floors, providing 9 respite beds with 1 bed being available, part of the year, as an emergency bed, with no provision for placement breakdown.

We further note that service users have been informed that some of the respite is subject to short notice cancellation before, or cancellation during, respite. Therefore we do not believe this alternative is 'equal to or better than' that currently provided at Girtrell Court.

Yours sincerely

Chris Blakeley

Tom Anderson

Bruce Berry

Eddie Boulton

David Burgess-Joyce

Wendy Clements

David Elderton

Gerry Ellis

Jeff Green

John Hale

Paul Hayes

Andrew Hodson

Kathy Hodson

Ian Lewis

Tracey Pilgrim

Cherry Povall

Lesley Rennie

Les Rowlands

Adam Sykes

Geoffrey Watt

Steve Williams

MOTION – GIRTRELL COURT

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council notes that its decision to close Girtrell Court was predicated on choice for service users and not a budgetary saving as originally stated.

Council further notes that Labour Councillors voted to close Girtrell Court based on information provided by DASS that stated, of the 105 service users, only 55 service users wanted to continue with bed based respite, and the remaining 50 had chosen other options and venues.

However, in recent weeks, it has become clear that 82 service users wish to transfer from Girtrell Court to the alternative provision in Tollemache Road, with the potential for a further 11 service users, who have currently declined the service, but who we are told remain eligible to move over to the alternative provision, giving a potential total of 93 service users.

Council notes that Girtrell Court is a 20 bed, single floor, bespoke, respite centre, which provides 13 respite beds, 2 emergency beds and 5 placement breakdown beds. The alternative provision will comprise a 10 bed unit over three floors, providing 9 respite beds with 1 bed being available, part of the year, as an emergency bed, with no provision for placement breakdown.

Council further notes that service users have been informed, in a document provided by Sanctuary Supported Living that some of the respite is subject to short notice cancellation before, or cancellation during, respite. Therefore Council does not believe this alternative is 'equal to or better than' that currently provided at Girtrell Court.

Council now accepts it made the wrong decision, based on incorrect information, when proposing to close Girtrell Court.

Council therefore:

- (a) resolves to apologise to service users for the distress and trauma it has caused them;
- (b) instructs officers to halt the closure programme for Girtrell Court, work with Sanctuary Supported Living to provide and operate a 20 bed facility at Girtrell Court and, invest £1 million capital in the excellent bespoke facility that is Girtrell Court.

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