

Brampton and District 50+ Forum

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2024 in Brampton Community Centre Café. The meeting took place after a lunch of soup, sandwiches and fruit salad in the community café. There were 18 members present.

Ann Oswin welcomed members. The meeting had expected Cllr Lisa Brown to be at the meeting to talk and answer questions about the proposed closure of Moot Lodge care home in Brampton but unfortunately she was unable to attend.

Fortunately, Ann was able to go through the information provided on the Cumberland Council [consultation document](#). This gives the reasons why the council is proposing to close the home - limited and inappropriate facilities, including a lack of outdoor space, and the inability to renovate the home due to its structure and location. Ann pointed out that there is a small outdoor space adjacent to the home, currently unused, and questioned who owned it.

Following the sequence in the consultation document Ann then described the nearest council-run alternatives to Moot Lodge, viz. the recently renovated Eskdale House in Longtown and Burnrigg Court in Carlisle. The main point made in the meeting against them was the lack of direct public transport from Brampton, especially to Longtown, so relatives and friends without a car would have difficulty visiting anyone in these homes.

Other settings in and around the Brampton area mentioned in the document were discussed and the following points and questions emerged:

Brampton Court is for 'independent living' and is not a care home. This point was stressed again in later discussion when Forum members who are residents of Brampton Court were describing their experience of living there. "Marvellous." "Kind, caring." ". a lot going on, you meet people." "They check on you every day but you've got to be able to look after yourself... cook for yourself." "You don't know how long you will be able to stay there if your medical needs increase."

Greenlane House and Howard Court Care Home are privately run; how much financial support is available?

A reason given in the document for closure of Moot Lodge is "growing need for specialist dementia care, including within our care homes" but Moot Lodge does not provide dementia care and neither do local alternatives that are mentioned, so this seems not to be a valid argument. Members noted that there is, even in the wider locality, a very limited provision for dementia patients and old people with more demanding medical needs; the nearest home is some distance from Brampton.

Other points and questions raised in discussion:

- The lack of demographic data. What are future needs? More people moving into Brampton, some older.
- Why can't an impact assessment on current residents be made before a decision to close?
- How many of current staff are local. If part-time, travel becomes an issue.
- Future plans for the building? What will happen to the library? To the dentist?
- Access from the back of the building seems not to have been taken into account.
- Why no plans for a new care home attached to planning requirements for housing developments in Brampton? Local infrastructure always seems to be low priority.

The meeting thanked Ann for organising the lunch and for her work in preparing for the meeting.

The date of the next 50+ Forum meeting, the AGM, is still to be confirmed but will probably be in June 2024.