

**Consultation document on the “Proposal to close Creamery House Residential Home in Kesh, Co Fermanagh”.
Response from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.**

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

Within our Corporate Strategy, Council’s mission or core purpose is stated as “Leading and serving our community, working with others to promote quality of life, quality places and quality services for all”. One way in which we as an organisation can achieve this objective is to represent the best interests of all residents in our community.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council totally oppose the proposed closure of Creamery House Residential Home as Council believe that such action would have a very negative impact on the residents of this facility.

Council is extremely concerned that the closure of Creamery House would have a very detrimental effect on the health and well-being of the current seven residents. Feedback from the residents as evidenced below in the extract from the most recent and unannounced Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) care inspection visit, which took place in November 2014, indicated that residents were content with the care, facilities and services currently provided by the home and felt settled and secure in their surroundings :

“The inspector met with five residents individually and with others in groups. Residents were observed relaxing in the communal lounge area whilst others moved freely around the home. In accordance with their capabilities all residents indicated/expressed that they were happy and content with their life in the home, with the facilities and services provided and their relationship with staff. No concerns were expressed or indicated”.

In relation to the condition of the Creamery House building, the consultation document states that:

“The building is old and will struggle to meet the regulatory estates standards as defined by DHSSPS and inspected by RQIA”.

However, the RQIA report from November 2014, highlighted that only minor repair works would be required to a handful of the rooms in Creamery House, namely the resident’s sitting room, the resident’s designated smoking room and the laundry room. The maintenance works detailed in the report included repainting of walls and ceilings, re- varnishing of doors and window sills and replacement of one floor covering. The report goes on to confirm that following the inspection on 05 November 2014, that work to address these areas commenced the following week.

In relation to other areas of Creamery House, the report noted the following:

“The inspector viewed the home and inspected a number of residents' bedrooms and communal areas. The areas of the environment viewed by the inspector presented as clean, organised, adequately heated and fresh smelling throughout. Residents’ bedrooms were observed to be homely and personalised”.

On the basis of this evidence, Council feel that Creamery House is currently able to meet the regulatory estates standards.

The report also commented positively on the care practices observed at the home:

“The atmosphere in the home was friendly and welcoming. Five residents who had left the home to attend day care returned at 3.30pm. Staff were observed to treat the residents with dignity and respect taking into account their views. Good relationships were evident between residents and staff”.

In addition to the above, according to the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 report, Kesh is located within a ward that is ranked 59 out of 582 in terms of proximity to services, with the most deprived ward ranked as 1 and the least deprived ward ranked as 582. Council feel strongly that the proposed closure of Creamery House would only serve to further exacerbate this situation.

Council is extremely concerned that in a bid to achieve cost savings, this proposal targets one of the most vulnerable groups in our society. Council feel strongly that any attempt to re-home residents in alternative accommodation could have a very negative impact, as it will in effect separate residents from each other as well as from the staff of Creamery House, whom they have built up a close and personal relationship with over many years.

Creamery House has been a home to the residents as well as a place where they can feel safe and secure.

Conclusion

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council totally opposes the proposed closure of Creamery House Residential Home in Kesh due to the detrimental effect that we believe such action would have on the health and well-being of the residents.