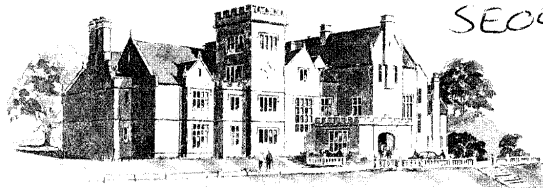


Appendix 2
SE04/3971/F



BROCKHAMPTON COURT

Mr S Holder
Planning Services
Herefordshire Council
Blue School House
Blue School Street
HEREFORD
HR1 2ZB

Excel

13th July, 2005

Dear Mr Holder,

I am responding to your letter of 30th June, 2005 addressed to Trevor Hewett Architects acting on my behalf.

Para 1. refers to criteria and I note that (111) has been met whilst (1), (11) and (1V) seek further clarification. I propose to deal with the 3 points on the order set out in your letter.

(1). Functional Need.

People in Herefordshire are aware that there is an obvious need for Nursing Home beds, an increasing need for an intermediary care / post operative unit within the County, (reducing the load borne by the NHS Acute Hospital) similar to Hillside, the Council / PCT facility and thirdly private beds available in an ageing population.

The following statement is taken from the Summary of the Report on the Inspection of Herefordshire Social Care Services for Older People, March 2004.

“One of the aims is to diminish the need to remain unnecessarily in acute hospital beds.”

(11) These beds need staff.

We have not been able to recruit sufficient carers and qualified nurses from surrounding towns and villages despite offering (a) transport, (b) excellent pay, (c) numerous advertisements in the local press and Job Centres.

It is worthy of note that Weir Care Homes recently tried a free transport system for staff (to and from Hereford) but had to abandon it as it was neither practical nor viable.

The 6 Phillipino nurses employed by Brockhampton at present often walk the dark roads at night to and from their shifts, and this is not acceptable. They occupy a poor cottage – 2 / 3 bedrooms – the only one we can rent locally.



Point of clarification.

The Health Inspection Authorities no longer use resident / staff ratios but judge the number of staff required on the need of care required at any one time. Obviously high dependency patients need more staff.

The additional beds being built must be staffed by people working a maximum of 37.5 hours per week. There must also be extra staff for holiday relief, sickness and emergencies.

We will need 4 extra carers on day shift
4 extra carers on the late shift
2 extra carers on night shift.

This works out at 10 by day and 4 by night to keep minimum levels of staff.
3 domestic staff and 2 kitchen staff in shifts 7 days a week are also needed.

It is unlikely that we will find the extra staff in Herefordshire and so again will be forced to employ people from abroad.

Page 50 paragraphs 9 – 11 of the Inspection Report confirmed that recruitment was a major issue in Herefordshire and gave as an example the fact that the independent sector care homes were looking abroad to recruit staff.

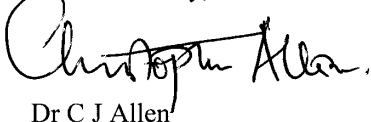
(1V) We have no outbuilding that could be adapted for accommodation.
The roof design and engineering shape allows no standing or moving room in the roof space of the 16 bed extension.

The planned staff accommodation is for 3 adjacent (cottage style) structures each with 5 single rooms and a downstairs sitting room for handicapped staff as required by law. These rooms will be available to nursing and care staff.

We are seeking the ability to have 18 staff on site.

I trust this letter clarifies the points raised and as in (11) meets the requirements of (1), (11), and (1V).

Yours sincerely,



Dr C J Allen

cc Mr Neil Pringle, Chief Executive.