



## **SAVE COBGATES CARE HOME IN FARNHAM**

*SIX Surrey care homes are facing closure. Cobgates in Farnham, Pinehurst in Camberley, Longfield in Cranleigh, Brockhurst in Ottershaw, Park Hall in Reigate and Dormers in Caterham*

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

## **To oppose closure of Cobgates local authority care home in Farnham.**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December - 7.00pm to 9.00pm**

**Venue: Brambleton Hall, Talbot Road, Farnham GU9 8RR**

Residents and families have come together to start a campaign to save Cobgates care home. We are appealing to the people of Farnham to help save a precious community asset – something that any Farnham resident may need in the future for themselves or a family member.

*“When Dad’s dementia condition worsened and we were unable to care for him at home, Cobgates offered him and us as a family reassurance that he was looked after in a warm and safe environment with dignified first class care.” Mark Richards, Son of Resident*

*“My mother has nothing but praise for the staff and the home itself.” Bruce Bennett, Son of Resident*

### **About Cobgates**

Cobgates is a local authority run elderly care home in the heart of Farnham, with a special expertise in caring for people with dementia. It also provides respite care. It is one of six care homes run by Surrey County Council. The Council wants to close the homes and residents will have to find new homes. This proposal is causing huge anxiety amongst residents and families at Cobgates, who don’t want it to close. They describe it as an excellent home where residents feel well cared for by great staff and are treated with kindness and dignity. They question the reasons for closure put forward by the Council and say that it is a safe, comfortable home which just needs some refurbishment.

The home is in the middle of Farnham with good transport links and it is easy for family members – often elderly themselves – to visit loved ones. In addition residents can easily be taken out to visit familiar local shops and facilities.

Indeed Cobgates could serve as a model of the ideal care home, based in and integrated with the local community.

**Help us keep Cobgates open.  
Please support our campaign.**

**Come to the public meeting on Thursday 4th December at 7pm  
Brambleton Hall, Talbot Road, Farnham GU9 8RR**

Save Our Services in Surrey  
[www.sosis.org.uk](http://www.sosis.org.uk)  
[saveourservicesurrey@gmail.com](mailto:saveourservicesurrey@gmail.com)



## **SAVE COBGATES CARE HOME IN FARNHAM**

**If you cannot make the Farnham meeting, you may still take part in the consultation**

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- Sign the petition at <http://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/SaveCareHomes/>
- Contribute to the official consultation [www.surreysays.co.uk/asc-commissioning/future-of-surrey-county-council-in-house-homes](http://www.surreysays.co.uk/asc-commissioning/future-of-surrey-county-council-in-house-homes)
- Write to all your Farnham Surrey County Councillors, your MP and the Leader of Surrey County Council:
  - [pat.frost@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:pat.frost@surreycc.gov.uk)
  - [denise.legal@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:denise.legal@surreycc.gov.uk)
  - [d.munro@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:d.munro@surreycc.gov.uk)
  - [david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
  - [jeremy.hunt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jeremy.hunt.mp@parliament.uk)

Any communication with elected representatives must be in your own words but you may wish to include some of these points:

- The Care Quality Commission's recent inspection report for Cobgates in Farnham in December 2013 gave the home good ratings for all categories
- The current provision for patients with dementia is deemed excellent and cannot be faulted by family/relatives of those residents
- Having en-suite bathrooms is not an important requirement for dementia patients as it may constitute a trip hazard
- Sometimes dementia cannot be managed in the family home due to the special care it requires
- The closure of local dementia care provision is contrary to Jeremy Hunt MP's Dementia Champion designation
- It is wrong to close care homes when the elderly population is projected to increase significantly
- Elderly residents should have a choice of good quality affordable homes run by our local authority
- The council's under-occupancy argument to close the care home is disingenuous since the council itself forced the closure of 10 rooms and has had a non-acceptance policy for new referrals since August 2014
- Small scale remodelling of open stairways could be made at minimal cost to Surrey County Council
- The Surrey closures could lead to 450 job losses

Campaigns are starting up to defend some of the other care homes and you may wish to support them too and visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/806584889380498/>