



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Bruce McDonald
Leader
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
High Street
Esher
KT10 9SD

26 January 2024

Dear Cllr McDonald,

I am writing regarding the future of Dementia Services at Thames Ditton Centre for the Community.

I understand that at Elmbridge Borough Council's next cabinet meeting on 7 February 2024, the proposal from 'Vital Village' to take over the management of Thames Ditton Centre for the Community is due to be voted on. As you will be aware, the proposal from 'Vital Village' does not include any mention of Dementia Services which operate out of Thames Ditton Centre for the Community.

Those running Dementia Services and people who attend the centre are concerned that there will not be a seamless transition from the current service to a new model if Elmbridge Borough Council's Cabinet approves the 'Vital Village' proposal without confirmation of a specific, guaranteed, alternative site for Dementia Services. Elmbridge Borough Council's letter to Dementia Services users on 24 January 2024 states that the Council is "currently considering appropriate accommodation for Dementia Services" – this does not confirm continuity of care. It would be irresponsible to sign off on any new proposal until such alternative provision has been secured, in order to prevent any gap in the service used by the most vulnerable in our community.

I am, therefore, calling on you and Elmbridge Borough Council to postpone the vote on 7 February 2024 until you have confirmed the details of an alternative site for Dementia Services, and a clear timeline to prevent a gap in provision. Without such details being confirmed, you risk leaving the most vulnerable people in our communities without a much-valued service which they rely on.

I look forward to hearing from you, as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Raab'.

CC: Cllr Gill Coates, Portfolio Holder for Community Care