

Birchlands

Englefield Green



**easy
read**

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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are underlined. These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

About Birchlands



Birchlands was built in the 1970s. It was built to be a care home for older people or people living with **dementia**.



Dementia is an illness that affects your memory. It may make you confused.



Birchlands has room for about 52 people. On 9 September 2021, Birchlands was home to 20 people.



There are 7 living areas. Each bedroom has a wash basin.



Birchlands is in a quiet village and has its own grounds.



Birchlands is close to local services, shops and a lovely village green. It has good links with Royal Holloway University.



In July 2021, The Care Quality Commission checked Birchlands and said it was a 'good' care home.



About 25 years ago the management of Birchlands was transferred to Anchor Trust.



The arrangement with Anchor Trust ended in 2019 and the council started to run the care home instead.

About the service



The staff at Birchlands work hard to provide a caring service for all the people who live in the home.



Over time, fewer people are wanting to go and live in a care home.



The people who do come and live in a care home are likely to need specialist care and support.



But it is difficult to find space for the specialist equipment that people need.



Some people would prefer to be in a more modern place.



People would prefer to have their own bathroom and toilet.



The shared bathrooms make it difficult to look after people when they have illnesses like sickness, flu and **COVID-19**.

COVID-19 is also called Coronavirus. It is an illness that is spreading around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.

About the building



We asked a company of independent experts to look at the building.

They said:

- the building is getting old
- it will cost more and more to repair
- it would cost a lot of money to make the building more modern.



About the costs

We think that the council would have to pay:



- £892 a week for every person living at Birchlands if we carry on as it is now



- £1201 a week for every person if we made parts of the building more modern



- different amounts each time we pay for people to live in a different care home.

3 options

1 2 3

We are looking at 3 options:

1. Carry on as we are now

This would mean:

- no changes to the building or the service
- it would be hard to care for people who need complicated care
- it would be hard to give people the privacy that they want
- people would carry on sharing toilets and bathrooms.



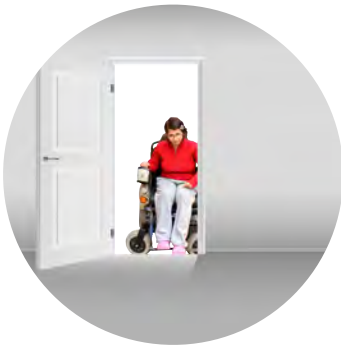
2. Make the buildings more modern



This would mean moving everyone out while we did a lot of improvements to the building.



People would have to move twice if they wanted to move back to Birchlands.



We would change the bedrooms and give each room its own bathroom.



This means fewer people would be able to live at Birchlands.

3. Support people to move out, and close Birchlands



This would mean working with people and their families to find a different care home.



People may be worried during the move.

What do you think?



Before we make any decisions, we want to know what you think.



Please tell us what you think by answering the questions in the Easy Read questionnaire.

You can also tell us what you think by:

- phone: 01372 832257
- text: 07527 182861
- email:
servicedelivery.info@surreycc.gov.uk
- post:
Mr C Hastings
Area Director
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Support to have your say

If you want support to have your say, you can contact Healthwatch Surrey by:



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- text: 07592 787533
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