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Dear Mrs V Skinner

Primrose Hill residential care home

I am writing in response to your letter, which was one of those presented to Councillor Adam Ogilvie and me by the Primrose Hill Care Home Campaign Group, as part of the consultation over our proposals to close Primrose Hill. The letters were presented alongside combined petitions of 5,025 signatures and a detailed submission setting out the Campaign's case for keeping the home open. A response to this submission has been sent to the Campaign organisers.

All the materials have been passed to the team that is evaluating the views and information gained from the consultation. Everything we have heard is of great value as, with the consultation now closed, we begin to consider what recommendations we might put to the Council's Executive Board in September.

Your letter was one of many we have had from all sections of the Wetherby / Boston Spa community and beyond. We have heard from relatives and friends of Primrose Hill's residents and former residents, from staff and former staff, clergy, medical practitioners, honorary aldermen, ward and parish councillors, members of Parliament, volunteers, community groups and advocates of older people – and of course from the residents themselves.

I have read every single letter and have been touched by numerous personal anecdotes which people have shared with me. I have noted the many points made about what is feared might happen if the home closes: distress and disruption to the residents; difficulties in finding suitable, available, alternative accommodation; increased travel for visitors; anxieties about the quality of care in the independent sector; loss of a valued asset in the community, among many others.

Our task now is to weigh all the points you and fellow campaigners have made against the many other matters that need to be taken into consideration when drawing up recommendations on the future of the home.

Your individual and collective contributions to the large body of material we will consider is greatly valued and I would like to thank you very much for taking the trouble to participate in the consultation.