

Chair: Victor Clements  
Vice Chair: Lorraine Reed

## **Aberfeldy Community Council**

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9<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Perth and Kinross Council  
Development Control  
Pullar House,  
35 Kinnoull Street,  
Perth  
PH1 5GD

Dear Sir/ madam,

### **21/02285/FLL CHANGE OF USE, ALTERATIONS & EXTENSION TO ABERFELDY COTTAGE HOSPITAL**

#### **Aberfeldy Community Council Comments**

Aberfeldy Community Council would like to OBJECT to this application.

Over the past 10-12 years or so, we have generally been very supportive of all development projects within the town and have always been prepared to give the benefit of the doubt when appropriate. We have almost always taken the same view as the council planners. However, in this case, we object to the application, and our objection is UNANIMOUS.

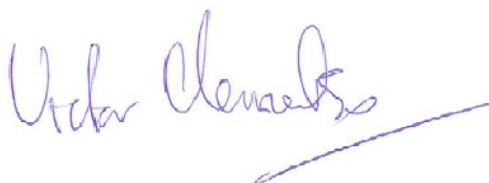
Our reasons for this are as follows:

- 1 The demand within Aberfeldy is for good quality, affordable housing, not for tourist accommodation like this of which we already have an abundance of varying types.
- 2 It is unusual for planning applications within Aberfeldy to attract much in the way of public attention, but this application has attracted a great deal of attention and indeed anger locally, including at our Community Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April. To date, we have not heard ANY supportive views, with all opinion expressed being firmly against. As a community council, we are obliged to reflect the views of our community, and as individuals, we are all against this proposal as well.
- 3 We do not believe that the road infra structure in particular is suitable for having a development such as that proposed in that location. The Old Crieff Road is narrow with cars parked on one side which people have to navigate. While this is workable for people who live up at Moness who are familiar with the road and how to drive safely there, we do not believe that it is suitable for visitors who will be coming and going on a weekly basis and who will not be familiar with the road. We think there will be a significant safety issue from such usage, particularly as quite a number of young children live up in that area.

- 4 We do not believe that the proposal reflects the history of the site and its place in the culture of the town. Many people in Aberfeldy have either been born in the Cottage Hospital or have had relatives die there and would like to see the site developed either as permanent residential housing, or preferably as housing for key workers within the area or some other community use. Lack of local housing is preventing the recruitment to and therefore the operation of several important local services. The use envisaged is viewed as being offensive by many, and would say that the history of the area needs to be better respected.
- 5 We are aware of housing designs drawn up by PKC in the recent past which show that a better configuration of housing within the site is clearly possible, but which still respects the character and history of the area.
- 6 Finally, there is certification within the application which states that the building is owned wholly by the developers. However, our enquiries with NHS Tayside have revealed that they still own the site, and that the property is still under offer. We would therefore suggest that the claim within the application is misleading and inaccurate, and that this is therefore not a competent application and should be refused.

For all these reasons, we would therefore ask that you REJECT this application. We feel confident that this would clearly reflect the views of people within the town, who want to see the site developed, but not in this way.

Yours sincerely,



Victor Clements  
*Chair, Aberfeldy Community Council*