

**Draft Minutes of No Man's Heath & District
Parish Council Meeting
held at Bickley Coronation Hall**

at 7.00 pm on Thursday 23rd January 2020

PRESENT

Chairman:	Cllr Trevor Parker	
Cllr Jan Birch	Cllr Tony Day	Cllr Carolyn Day
Cllr Keith Done	Cllr Peter Guildford	Cllr Tim Harrop
Cllr Sarah Langton	Cllr David Lithgow Smith	Cllr Paul Roberts
Cllr Michael Voisey		

Clerk - Mrs Ruth Shackleton

Bernie Gibson. CEO Compass
Rebecca Slayford (Executive Head Teacher)

Members of the Public and Parish – approximately 48
The press was present.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

3. PLANNING

Planning application 19/03675/FUL - Change of use from residential (Use Class C3) to residential institutions (Use Class C2) including external alterations at Council Houses Cholmondeley Road Hampton Malpas

Bernie Gibson, CEO of Compass, addressed questions from members of the public relating to planning application 19/03675/FUL.

Only questions submitted prior to the meeting and were previously notified to Compass were considered. They concentrated on the following aspects:-

- (i) The risk to the community from the children placed.
- (ii) Future use of the property if planning is granted.
- (iii) The view that Compass has not been transparent.

3.1 Presentation by Mr David Curry (Headteacher of Bishop Heber High School):-

In the spirit of openness, Mr David Curry invited Bernie Gibson, CEO of Compass, to a meeting with the school. He expressed disappointment of the initial openness and transparency of the process but reported that they had a productive meeting which cleared up a number of unanswered questions and that the proposed residential institution would have a minimal impact on the Bishop Heber High School

3.2 The following questions were put to Bernie Gibson, CEO of Compass:-

1. How have the thoughts and opinions of Compass and the property owner Graphite changed towards the planning application since we last met and what could we expect to see as a result?
Bernie Gibson apologised for the previous management of the process and that upon reflection said Compass would have handled it differently. She expressed that she wished to engage with the local community and suggested meeting with residents in smaller groups to discuss their concerns.
2. Why try and place an institution for complex needs children 19 miles away from the nearest hospital or emergency services including police and with absolutely no amenities or facilities whatsoever?
Bernie Gibson explained to the meeting about the level of care that is provided at Compass homes and how rural locations provide a safe environment for children who have come from troubled backgrounds.
3. We are concerned that the property is poorly located for its intended use in relation to distance from the nearest 24-hour police station and hospital. This creates a risk for both its intended residents and the community surrounding the house. To help us understand these issues, please provide the number of ambulance and police call outs and the number of assaults on staff, in Compass Homes annually? How do they compare to other care homes operators?
The meeting was informed that there is approximately one incident per month when the police are called out with a maximum of 20 per annum.
4. Has Compass undertaken risk assessment in line with 2014 regulation amendments, by an independent party, before submitting an application to the Department of Education? Will you *"collaborate with the police and Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) at all stages of this process, not just putting the safeguards in place but also in trying to identify the risks in the first place."* (Children's homes regulations amendments 2014). Are the assessment findings available to the local community?
The process is that in the event that planning permission is granted then Compass would apply to Ofsted and then the relevant risk assessments would be carried out. Whilst Bernie Gibson felt confident that the location is 95% suitable the majority of the people who attended the meeting did not agree.
5. With which Local Authorities has the company discussed the proposal and what were their views?
Compass work with seven Local Authorities and have a strong relationship with all of them. Both CW&C and CEC are supportive of Compass.
No pre planning application took place with CW&C.
6. At the initial meeting the CEO said that the provision would be for local children and gave some details of the 'demand' for placements for Cheshire children. Will placements be restricted to children from West Cheshire?
Bernie Gibson explained the referral process to the meeting for the six places at the proposed home.

7. What is the profile for the children planned for the home, gender balance, age range, risk level?
The age range is 11 – 16 years of age for children with emotional difficulties.
8. Do the homes have to have a specific designation depending on the children to be housed? What is Compass' process for changing that profile of the children at the home, for example to PSB children? Would our community be made aware if any such changes?
Bernie Gibson explained the designation of the home and advised that there would have to be a statement of purpose to change the designation. A request was made for sight of the Statement of Purpose for the proposed home that is to be sent to Ofsted.
9. What are the security measures planned for the home? Will the children be able to come and go? Will the home be gated?
Bernie Gibson advised that the property will not be secure as it is a children's home. There will be a two to one staffing ratio for each child. Members of the public expressed concerns regarding the close proximity of the property to the A41 and the lack of street lighting and pavements at the location. Electric gates would be installed at the property.
10. What safeguarding measures and counter measures do you have for absconding children?
There will be risk assessments in place to ensure safeguarding.
11. Are Compass Care fully accountable if something goes wrong? If not, who is?
The risk assessment process will detail the accountability should something go wrong.
12. How does Compass propose to safeguard the outside community?
See above.
13. What links would the company anticipate with the surrounding communities of Hampton and Malpas? Have there been any preliminary discussions with local youth organisations / schools etc? If no, when do you expect to do so?
Compass have held a meeting with the Bishop Heber High School and hope to engage in the future with local youth organisations.
14. Given the concerns of neighbours and the wider community how would the company propose to recognise and address these concerns, build bridges and form positive relationships?
Bernie Gibson offered to meet with small groups and neighbours to show how other Compass homes operate in similar environments.
15. How confident is the company in being able to recruit sufficient staff, of sufficient quality, with the required qualifications, in this specific geographical location?
Compass have a low turnover of staff and the proposed staff are prepared to travel to the site.

Signed

Dated

Next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 12th March 2020 at Bishop Heber High School

DATES FOR 2020 MEETINGS

14 th May 2020 -	Bishop Heber High School
21 st May 2020 -	Annual Parish Meeting at Bickley Coronation Hall
9 th July 2020 -	Bickley Coronation Hall
10 th September 2020 -	Bickley Coronation Hall
12 th November 2020 -	Bishop Heber High School