

Resident of Radlett Road Estate
User of Centrepont Community Centre
* Delete where not applicable

Dear [REDACTED]

It has come to the attention of some residents that you propose a new development of housing to replace the community centre on Raphael Drive. While we welcome the building of new homes to meet the pressing need for affordable housing and emergency social housing, we are not convinced that the removal of Centrepont Community Centre to build these homes is the right thing to do.

This is a small estate with very few services that larger estates enjoy in abundance. There is one shop which the community heavily relies on and if your proposal to demolish it goes ahead, this will create a substantial loss to the local residents.

Centrepont is the *'Heart of the community'* that provides rooms, a kitchen and a hall where activities of all types are carried out. All of these activities are affordable that utilise Centrepont:

- Children's parties are popular providing time for family and friends to get together
- Main hall used for a variety of events/functions
- Weekly Activity youth club aged 5-12 year olds
- Weekly Coffee Morning's for residents and friends
- Weekly Seated Exercise classes
- Weekly Sahaja Yoga Meditation
- Monthly Bingo and Family Karaoke evening
- Weekly Dance Exercise classes for young people and a separate class for adults
- Weekly denomination service for Watford United Pentecostal Church
- Weekly Vathalayam Spiritual Group
- National Childbirth Trust who run a variety of classes
- Monthly session for Phab social inclusion
- Monthly lunch club
- Unity3 Dance school
- Random café
- Humanist group
- Statutory organisations such as NHS; HCC
- Walsingham-Service users and CPD

These activities help the wider community to combat isolation and loneliness as it gives the opportunity for individuals to socialise. If you remove this key manned community centre, vulnerable adults who have previously been identified as missing through their non-attendance at various activity sessions will be overlooked and segregated from the local community, which the Government has proposed to combat.

Watford Borough Council has put vulnerable adults on the estate and they should not be abandoned, with the second rate provision proposed in its place because of the vital need for social housing. If the houses are built at the expense of Centrepont the estate would simply be a collection of housing with the heart ripped out of it with no community and with an increased demand for parking space, which we have precious little of at present. There are numerous empty office buildings which should be utilised to combat homelessness and would sufficiently meet your target of 50 new builds within the area.

Centrepont is a manned community centre, which allows for supervision and assistance when required; there is always a warm welcome on entering the building.

This new development will adversely affect and disrupt the lives of all residents on the estate, displacing current residents on the site and encroaching on the privacy of residents living in the immediate vicinity of the proposed new development.

We ask you to please reconsider the redevelopment of Centrepont Community Centre and shop.

Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

Date: [REDACTED]