

## **Asylum “Contingency Hotel”**

Most people will be aware of the use of the Belvoir Hotel as a “contingency hotel” for asylum seekers.

The Parish Council wrote to Rushcliffe Borough Council to express their disappointment that we had not been informed of this and concern for both the safety of residents of the hotel who have been seen wandering along the A52 and lack of recreational facilities for them. Once aware of the situation, many in our community collected books and games and delivered them to the hotel. We were also able to respond to their requests for bibles. Everything was gratefully received.

The following is the response from the Deputy Chief Executive of Rushcliffe.

“Dear Chairman

Further to your letter to the CEX I am writing to provide you with a response. Firstly I am sorry that you feel you were not made aware of the decision by the Home Office and its contractor SERCO to use this facility as a Contingency Hotel. On the same day (13 October) that the Council found out about the location a short update was provided to the relevant local ward members (as the location is on the border between two wards) and the local Parish Chair at Elton given that the Hotel is located in their parish. It was very evident from our conversations that the Home Office and SERCO were not wishing to proactively publicise the location and its use which created a real challenge for RBC on how best to locally brief on such a sensitive topic.

SERCO have confirmed that the initial contract to use the hotel is for 3 months and it is being used to house single males from a variety of countries whilst their claims for asylum are processed. The points you raise such as road safety, transport, on site entertainment/facilities etc. were all raised very forcibly at our first meeting on 13 October however it is clear that the Home Office and SERCO are in desperate need for such accommodation. In the meantime RBC alongside other partners including Police, County, Health etc. continue to raise any concerns and issues with Ged who is our single point of contact at SERCO and who is also available for any local elected members to contact. Finally it is great to hear how the community are reaching out to the service users at the Hotel and I am sure that such acts of kindness will be very well received.

I hope this is helpful and please feel free to get in touch again if you need to.

Yours sincerely

**David Banks**

Director - Neighbourhoods and Deputy Chief Executive  
Rushcliffe Borough Council”

Periodically updates are issued – the following is the latest, dated 7<sup>th</sup> December.

“Dear Cllrs

Further to another multi agency meeting yesterday, I wanted to make you aware of the key points;

1. Road safety remains the biggest concern and SERCO are undertaking further work to assess transport needs and mitigate this risk. They have already laid on a bus service for

users to go to Grantham three times a week and visits to the GP in Bingham are preorganised with transport

2. More indoor entertainment is being organised to help encourage service users to stay within the facility
3. C19 testing is in place for service users and this will be increased in line with govt guidance and arrangement are being made for the Vaccination bus to visit
4. Various offers of support from the community have been warmly received
5. Any enquires or concerns unless it's an emergency should be referred to SERCO via their single point of contact.
6. Looking ahead given the continuing number of channel crossings it seems likely that SERCO will be hoping to extend their contract with the Hotel

As always I hope these short updates are helpful and our next meeting is towards the end of January.

**David Banks**

Director - Neighbourhoods and Deputy Chief Executive  
Rushcliffe Borough Council"