

P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre - Correspondence from the petitioner to the Chair

Dear Sian,

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR. WILLIAM POWELL:

It is very disappointing that Mrs. Sue Darnbrook does not wish to share Sheila Wentworth's Independent Report on the Day Centre with Mr. William Powell and Committee.

The SPADC Committee would like to point out that once again Ceredigion County Council are not engaging with the public either, and are failing to practise transparency.

It was interesting to note that Sheila Wentworth states in her note to a member of SPADC. on 4/3/13 (SMW Management Limited)

"I have been fully briefed as to the concerns of the Action Group and will ensure that the issues are addressed in my report. During my visit to Aberystwyth, I have had the opportunity to visit Park Avenue so am aware of the previous facility."

Mr William Powell and group were refused access to the Park Avenue Day Centre the day they came to Aberystwyth to meet with Ceredigion County Council officials and visit the Basement Day Centre old Town Hall (now Town Library).

The SPADC wish to state that the ramp, to date, remains uncovered. There is no improvement to "perceived lack of space" - low ceilings, access to garden, 1 disabled toilet no air conditioning etc.

Quoting Mrs. Darnbrook ""I have previously addressed these in correspondence with yourself".

Ceredigion County Council involved their Architect to draw up plans for a cover to the ramp, implying there is need for a cover, as the elderly remain subjected to the elements to and from the Day Centre.

4 more easy chair have appeared in the Basement, which now means there are 12 easy chairs between 32 people - "perceived lack of space" would be the reason that the "substantial" and "critical" clients do not have an easy chair each.

The 'barring' of visitors has taken place since the opening of the Basement Day Centre, and this is common knowledge in Aberystwyth. A member of SPADC received a letter from a resident of Aberystwyth, who was barred along with her friend, from entering the Basement Day Centre. A Cabinet Member is aware, as she has been forwarded this letter. Other incidents are too numerous to mention.

Quoting Mrs. Darnbrook ... "regarding the challenge made to the independence of Sheila Wentworth" - SPADC was assured that this would be an Independent Review.

Mrs. Darnbrook "Day Centres are not regulated services". We question how long it would take for these elderly infirm disabled clients to escape from the Basement should there be a fire. At the back of the building (from the Day

Centre) there are many steep steps to reach a level of safety, - there is a 4" step at the side of the building.

Unlike the rest of the people occupying the Library, the Day Centre clients cannot use the adequate outside fire escape, as they are below ground.

Yours sincerely,

M. w. Shewring  
(Chairman SPADC)