



John Haste CPFA, CiLCA
Clerk and RFO
Glinton Parish Council
5 St Benedicts Close
Glinton
Peterborough
PE6 7LJ

29th May 2019

Dear John,

I am writing in my capacity as Chief Executive of Kisimul Group, following your recent correspondence with my colleague Yvette Gowler regarding our property on Rectory Lane, Glinton – Taigh Aisling.

I wanted to thank you for getting in touch with Yvette earlier this month to suggest regular meetings with members of the Parish Council to discuss our provision at Taigh Aisling. Apologies for the delay in responding; I wanted to write to you and the Parish Council myself in the first instance to accept your invitation and to offer some background information about Kisimul and Taigh Aisling which I hope will be useful.

Our homes

As you may know, Taigh Aisling is a residential home with space for up to six young adults with learning disabilities and complex needs to live. As well as residential homes and supported living accommodation for young adults, Kisimul also runs a number of residential schools for children with highly complex needs. 90 per cent of our young people have autism, many of them have global developmental delay and associated diagnoses such as epilepsy, and a significant proportion are non-verbal.

Many of the young adults living in our residential homes are former pupils at Kisimul schools. Due to the complexity of their needs, we have developed a number of residences in areas where our pupils are from originally. This means they can return to their home areas when they leave our schools while still having consistency in the care and support they receive. This is designed to be in line with national government and local authority priorities and policies for care for adults with complex needs. All of our adult homes that have been inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are rated Good or Outstanding.

Taigh Aisling

Currently, we have three young people living at Taigh Aisling with a fourth due to join them shortly. Two of these young people were previously pupils at one of our schools and we have been pleased to be able to provide them with a home close to their families in Lincolnshire.

The young people at Taigh Aisling will most likely live the rest of their lives at the house, receiving tailored care and support to help them live as independently as possible. It is very important to us that our young people are able to live as close to their home areas as possible so their families can easily visit them and they feel welcome in their home communities.

A crucial element of Kisimul's provision is helping our young people be part of both their local and wider communities. At all our homes, we undertake lots of activities with the villages and communities they live in, such as attending local leisure centres, annual fairs and supporting local charity events. Many of our residents have made gifts for the local community and also help keep their communities tidy by undertaking litter picking in their neighbourhoods. Once our young people are a bit more settled at Taigh Aisling, we would very much like to do the same in Glinton.



Village engagement

We have very much appreciated the welcome we have received from our neighbours and the wider village community since we purchased Taigh Aisling last May. We chose to develop a home in the village because of its welcoming environment and the benefits it would offer to our young people as a quiet area with opportunities to enjoy the countryside, while also enabling them to be part of a vibrant local community.

We speak to all our neighbours regularly and they have all been very supportive and helpful. I know that there were concerns about our staff parking, but I hope these have been resolved now that we have developed an enclosed gravel car park on site for our staff.

At all of Kisimul's homes, we strive to be constructive neighbours and engaged members of the local community. As such we appreciate the opportunity to open up a regular dialogue with the Parish Council to discuss any issues you have been made aware of and to keep you updated on developments at the house.

Given the vulnerability of our young people, we would appreciate if the proposed meeting could be a private discussion with Parish Council members, at least for the first meeting. I believe this is the Parish Council's intention, but would appreciate if that could be confirmed. While we are already very engaged with our neighbours, we prefer to hold discussions with them individually or in very small groups given the sensitive nature of our work, and would appreciate the opportunity to introduce ourselves and discuss any issues with the Parish Council separately in the first instance.

I hope we can confirm a mutually convenient time for the meeting shortly. In the meantime, should you have any questions or issues you would like to raise with us, please do get in touch with Yvette or my colleague Donna Varley-Turner (Donna.Varley-Turner@kisimul.co.uk), who will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Hill
Chief Executive Officer, Kisimul Group