

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Cost of refurbishment — and where residents would live during it

The costs given are based on 'similar' projects. There has been no condition survey or other professional assessment of what is needed and what it would cost. The same figures are given for the other care home on which they are consulting (Applethwaite Green), which has 27 beds, which seems to make a nonsense of the figures given for Grisedale Croft. Without a full survey and professional consideration of the actual costs, we simply cannot know the reality.

Similarly, unless there is a full survey and expert consideration of what needs to be done, and how, we cannot be clear about whether it is actually essential to move residents out while work is done. It may be possible to do this in stages, with residents able to stay in one part of the home while another part is refurbished.

Rebuilding and replacement costs

Rebuilding is merely said to cost more than refurbishment. As we don't have realistic figures for refurbishment, this is meaningless.

The notion that a four-bed replacement home would be adequate does not match what we know about past occupancy, or the predictions of numbers likely to need such placements in future. We have been told that Westmorland and Furness has two possible places in Alston in mind, but no figure has been given for the cost of this. We cannot make an informed decision without information on size and costs.

Please read the consultation, and reply before it closes on 19 August.



ALSTON MOOR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING GROUP



Grisedale Croft *consultation*

What we found out — to help you answer the questions.

Alston Moor Parish Council set up a working group (of councillors and others with particular experience) to look into the information available about the choices we are being offered for Grisedale Croft. Here is some of what we discovered: the key points overleaf, with more detail following.

HOW TO RESPOND

Copies of the consultation document are at **Alston Library, Garrigill Post Office and Nenthead Village Shop**. Paper responses go to Alston Library or, no stamp needed, to **Grisedale Croft Consultation, Freepost WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL**.

Or respond online at
consult.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/adult-social-care/grisedale-croft

THE KEY POINTS

More detail on each of these is on the following pages.

Health beds

When the hospital beds were closed, two 'health beds' were agreed to be available at Grisedale Croft, with full 'wraparound' care. This was denied initially, but we found the documents. Two beds must therefore continue to be available for the care of those needing such temporary medical care.

Numbers and costs

Grisedale Croft has 13 beds available. Low numbers of occupants are a result of hospitals not discharging to Grisedale and a failure to include respite, emergency and palliative care beds. The costs per resident given are purely because of low occupancy. In fact, **Grisedale Croft has the lowest operating costs of all eight council-run care homes.**

Refurbishment costs

No survey of Grisedale Croft has been done, with costed plans for realistic refurbishment. The costs given are for other projects. It might be possible to do the work in stages, so no-one actually has to move out.

Rebuilding and replacement costs

Rebuilding is said to cost more than refurbishment, but as we don't have a realistic figure for that, it is unknown what rebuilding would cost. No figure has been given for replacement, but certainly the notion of only four beds is entirely inadequate, and we do not know the budget available. It is difficult to opt for something with so little actual information.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

The 'health beds' agreement, when the hospital beds were closed

Many of you will remember that when, in 2017–18, it was decided (against the wishes of Alston Moor residents) to close the beds at Alston Community Hospital, there was an agreement to have two 'health beds' at Grisedale Croft — for people no longer needing to be in hospital but not yet ready to return home. Despite initial denials from Westmorland and Furness and the relevant NHS bodies, we now have the documents.

If Grisedale Croft is closed, this commitment to the two beds with 'wraparound' care (nurses, physiotherapy, etc) will be destroyed. If, as suggested, we end up with a care home with only four beds, only two will be available for permanent residents.

Numbers of residents, and costs

There are 13 beds available, including the two 'health beds'. At 31 March 2024 there were eight permanent residents, which reduced to four by 31 March 2026. Low numbers result from the discharge pathways from hospitals not being properly established, and a failure to provide for respite, emergency and palliative care beds. Hence Alston Moor residents are sent to homes far away. This can, and must, change.

So the cost given in the consultation document of £4,072 per resident per week is purely a result of unnecessarily low occupancy.

Your voice matters

It's essential that Westmorland and Furness Council knows how much Grisedale Croft matters to local people on Alston Moor. The more people respond, the more they will have to consider all the issues properly and consult further with us when making the decision.