

Tarves Community Council

Community Council Postbox
Tarves Post Office
The Square
Tarves
AB41 7GX
17th September 2009

Sue Hay
Senior Administrator
NHS Grampian
Primary Care Contracts Team
Westholme
Woodend Hospital
Queens Road
Aberdeen.

Dear Madam

Application to Establish a New Pharmacy at 8 Duthie Road, Tarves, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.

Thank you for the notification dated 26th August 2009 in respect of the above application.

The aforementioned proposal has been the subject of discussion by local residents from a fairly wide rural area and not solely within Tarves village.

At our Monthly meeting on 15th September a considerable number of local residents attended. The new Pharmacy Applicant was also present as well as representatives from the local Haddo Medical Group. In the interests of fairness, and to provide attendees with a balanced viewpoint on which to base their opinions, both the applicant and a representative from the medical group (who oppose the application) were given the opportunity to present their cases and answer questions.

The applicant addressed the meeting first and after both parties had presented their views and answered questions from local residents the applicants then left the meeting.

A vote was then held seeking to establish numbers in support of the application, the result of which was no support recorded. A second vote was taken to establish numbers in opposition to the application at which the majority of those present indicated their opposition. We have also received both written and verbal comments, none of which are in support of the application.

We have, as a Community Council, a duty to represent the views of the majority of residents within the Tarves Community Area, which includes the Craigdam and Barthol Chapel areas. Whilst there are merits in the possibility of a vacant shop unit being brought into use, on balance these do not outweigh the concerns expressed to us and the clear message from local residents. After consideration of all the relevant information, the vote results and written representations, members resolved to object to the proposals.

In addition to our objection, the following points of concern should be included for consideration by the Pharmacy Practices Committee.

- It is considered that there is already adequate provision in the area and as such a new Pharmacy is neither necessary nor desirable.
- There is a perception that the local Medical Group could lose its dispensary service, which the resultant loss of revenue could impact on the current services it provides to Tarves, Methlick and Pitmedden.
- Any reduction in the existing services could have a severe impact on the less able and elderly who can currently make one trip to see their Doctor or Nurse and receive any prescription. Whereby if there is not a Doctor or Nurse in Tarves, residents face the dilemma of travel to Methlick or Pitmedden, which with rural public transport provision being minimal is considered unsatisfactory. (There is not even a shelter for bus users waiting to return from Pitmedden).
- We have been made aware of petitions in circulation locally listing over 1400 names in opposition to the perceived potential loss of Medical and dispensing services in the area.

Thank you for the consultation and the opportunity to convey the views of members of the public in our area to those involved in the decision making process.

Yours on behalf of the Community Council

Robert P. Davidson

Chairman.