

Wednesday, 14 December 2016

Dear Mrs. Wilson.

South Worcestershire CIL.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on two matters. As a representative of Malvern Town Council I do not feel it appropriate for me to engage (even if I wanted to) on Abbey Road, Evesham; so I will not do so.

However, I do have some comments on the two definitions, which are a fertile ground for lawyers and PR people to split hairs endlessly.

Extra Care / Sheltered Housing.

a) I do not think we should use the words "to retirees". This involves intruding into the personal situation of each individual occupant. The definition should describe the facility and not the circumstances of a user of that facility.

To give one or two examples of the sort of queries that occur to me:-

(i) is Jessica Ennis a "retiree"?

(ii) is someone with a mental or physical disability - who has never been able to work, a 'retiree'?

(iii) is the surviving spouse of a marriage in which the only person to have been employed has died, a "retiree"?

(iv) is the person who inherited substantial funds which have been successfully deployed on (say) the stock exchange but who has never worked in the usual sense of the word, a "retiree"?

(v) is a person who has been dismissed, a 'retiree'?

b) As someone who has reached an age where I am on the waiting lists of the providers of these places, a significant feature seems to be not just "on-site care" but on-site facilities like a gym, a café, a hairdresser, a cinema and so on. Could I suggest extra words after on-site care, such as, "or other on-site facilities".

c) if 'self-contained' home means a home analogous to a flat

in the purges world, then I am content. If it is intended to introduce a subtle and (to me) unacceptable distinction between a home with a front door into the open air, and a front door onto a lobby, stair well or corridor then I am not content, particularly because many flats - either purpose built or large house conversions - open onto just such places and no-one (so far as I am aware) says the flats are not self-contained homes. Perhaps a parenthetical addition after the words 'self-contained homes' such as '(lawsoever access is obtained)' should be inserted.

### Supermarkets

I am reminded of an example (the source of which I cannot recall) to the effect that everyone can recognise an elephant when they see one, but have you ever tried to describe one?!

I am also reminded of the cleverness of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, which recognised that technical, social and business matters changed so rapidly that it was obsolescing to attempt to continue to identify problems and regulate them by reference to the description of specific activities or specific risks. So to avoid eternal and unsuccessful catch-up, we look legislation on subjects such as explosives, boiler explosions, anthrax, alkali works, factories, mines and quarries, pipelines.

This definition is of a supermarket as we like to think one is - perhaps as we men absent mindedly push a trolley whilst relying on a list, or the true shopping activity of a partner; but again, they are rapidly changing and evolving. Amazon are introducing a new bricks and mortar concept with no checkouts; how long before Waitrose do the same? Many commentators reckon that the "main weekly shop" is increasingly done on-line, and this development may lead to huge physical and other marketing changes, including franchising. I find it amusing to see the slow drift - nostalgic and utopian - back to a familiar concept of my childhood - the local market hall and market place - where you had lots of different sorts of trade and traders under one roof or in one place. Why should we concentrate on "aisles" - my small local fish and chip shop has an aisle! Even some supermarkets are now called hypermarkets. I am afraid we are back to the drawing board and perhaps need to look into another discipline altogether for a definition e.g. Sunday trading laws.

Yours sincerely,  
Cllr. Roger Yates on behalf of Malvern Town Council