

The future of **Grisedale** **Croft** Care Home

Our care home matters. The council is asking what should happen next – and our answers will decide whether Alston Moor keeps local care, or loses it for good.

Please **DO** submit a response — we need to make our feelings very clear.

HAVE YOUR SAY BY

Wednesday 5 August 2026

The 12-week consultation runs **Thu 14 May → Wed 5 Aug**. This leaflet shows you exactly what to write.



Alston Moor & Health

Prepared by parish councillors and local residents to help our community respond.

alstonmoorhealth.org

WHY THIS CONSULTATION MATTERS

Keeping local care in Alston is essential — for all of us.

Grisedale Croft is the **last remaining piece** of what was promised when our hospital beds were closed in 2017. If it goes — and nothing local replaces it — friends and relatives face long, costly journeys to Penrith, Carlisle or further. For a remote rural community, that isn't care; it's separation.

QUESTION 1 Which option do you prefer?

1 OPTION	Do nothing Leaves residents in a building that doesn't meet standards.	✗ DON'T PICK
2 OPTION	Refurbish Grisedale Croft Possible and ideal — but the council questions the demand & cost.	? CONSIDER
3 OPTION	Demolish & rebuild on the same site Probably unrealistic — and a 13-room home is too big.	✗ UNLIKELY
4 OPTION	Close — with no alternative in Alston The worst outcome for our community. Residents sent away.	✗ REJECT
5 PREFERRED	Alternative accommodation in a suitable local building Best for Alston — provided it stays <i>in Alston itself</i> , not just “the local area”.	✓ BEST BET



If you tick **Option 5**, use the comments box to insist any replacement must be **in Alston itself** — not just somewhere in “the local area”. See overleaf for what to write.

QUESTION 2 – THE COMMENTS BOX

What to write. In your own words.

You can write as little or as much as you want. The points below are starting ideas – **your own experience of friends or relatives at Grisedale Croft, or of having to travel elsewhere, is the most powerful thing you can share.**

HEADLINE **Keep care local**

As a community far from any other provision, keeping our care home is **absolutely essential** for the good of all local people. This is the key thing to make clear in your response.

ON OPTION 2 **Question the “low demand”**

The refurbish option points to low occupancy. **Why?** Local people are being sent to care homes far away – and hospitals (Cumberland Infirmary, Hexham) may simply be unaware Grisedale Croft exists. Low demand isn't proof we don't need it.

ON OPTION 3 **13 rooms is the wrong number**

The rebuild option refers to a 13-room home. **Eight beds would be adequate** – including the two short-term hospital beds we were guaranteed when our hospital beds were removed.

ON OPTION 5 **It must be in Alston**

Option 5 talks about “the local area”. Grisedale Croft is in the **middle of Alston** – accessible for everyone on Alston Moor. Any replacement must be in **Alston itself** so friends and family can actually visit.

MAKE IT PERSONAL **Tell your story**

Do use any personal experience you have – a friend or relation at Grisedale Croft, or someone forced to go elsewhere because there was no room here. **Real stories matter more than statistics.**

WANT TO SAY MORE?

Further points for Question 2 or 3.

What we were promised in 2017 — and what's left

- When the “**Success Regime**” closed our hospital beds in 2017 we were guaranteed **two step-down beds** in Grisedale Croft, with nursing care from our surgery/hospital nurses.
- Much of what was promised has **never been implemented**, or has been allowed to disappear — Covid moved our nurses to Penrith and they haven't returned.
- The promised wrap-around services — physiotherapy, occupational therapy and more — were meant to make sure that, despite distance, residents and the wider community were properly cared for.
- **Grisedale Croft is the last element still remaining.** Rather than closing or downgrading it, the council and NHS should reinstate everything Alston Moor was promised.
- Our community is already poorly served by Westmorland & Furness in many ways. Minimal public transport and long distances make local provision **imperative**.

Drop-in sessions

Speak to council officers in person.

Alston Library **Wed 3 Jun · 11-1**

Alston Library **Mon 5 Jun · 5-7**

The Hive, **Fri 26 Jun · 10.30-12.30**
Nenthead

Garrigill Village **Fri 26 Jun · 2-4**
Hall

Alston Library **Wed 1 Jul · 2-4**

Alston Library **Mon 20 Jul · 11-1**

How to respond

- 1 Pick up the **consultation booklet** from Alston Library, Garrigill Post Office or Nenthead Village Shop.
- 2 Respond **online**, or fill in the booklet form.
- 3 Return it to **Alston Library** or post via the **FREEPOST** address inside.
- 4 Deadline: **5 August 2026**.

More information & help responding · alstonmoorhealth.org · Two campaigns. One community.