

My name is Sue Osborne; I am a resident of Stanton Wick and a member of the Group

I want to briefly consider the aspects of social cohesion and matters of heritage

In considering this site as a serious option there is an obligation on BANES to consider the risks and threats to the social cohesion and peaceful and integrated co-existence between the travelling community and the local settled communities. (Policy B 11a refers).

If this site were to proceed, planning permission will not have been applied equally, the travellers benefitting from permissions never available to local landowners for residential development beyond the existing building footprint, or even a few extra coaches for Filers. It would be quite natural for any settled community to feel this is unjust and discriminatory.

The village C road cannot safely sustain any traffic increases. The consequence of burdening the road further will be heightened, when increases in traffic cause additional stress to road users and pedestrians. This will naturally result in angst, frustration and tension as cars, other vehicles and sundry paraphernalia emerge from this segregated development.

Social cohesion cannot be fostered when any new community overwhelms the existing community, imposing an alternate culture and ethos, placing pressure on the amenities of the community; be it driving or walking safely around these tiny villages.

In addition there is concern about the natural consequences to the character and ethos of the small village schools endeavoring to cater for cultural shifts. Stanton Drew is particularly tiny.

These communities identify strongly with their mining heritage and agree with BANES own Pensford Conservation Area Appraisal which acknowledges 'the council has a duty to pay special attention to preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area in exercising planning powers'. The Appraisal recognises the special character of the area in which the local people live.

There was wholehearted support for the restoration of both substantial properties, The Winding House and The Bath House, part of Broadoak Colliery (Old Colliery as you refer to it).

This site is symbolic of our local history and heritage - it played a significant part in the North Somerset Coalfield operations.

How can social cohesion be encouraged and fostered if this site is handed over for the proposed development with complete disregard to BANES own assessment of its historical importance and their acknowledged responsibilities as an Authority.

Your report says 'the site would not directly assist the aim of social integration' We fully agree, and go further, in that we can see a high risk of tension emanating from the areas that I have briefly addressed .

Very special circumstances indeed.

On behalf of the settled communities who have voiced their objection through the petitions, we strongly urge you to remove this site from your short list.

Thank you