

Statement of Jennie Jones – on behalf of Stanton Wick Action Group

My name is Jennie Jones, I am a resident of Pensford and a member of the Stanton Wick Action Group.

Only two weeks ago Banes published a shortlist of seven proposed gypsy/traveller sites, one of these sites being the Old Colliery, Stanton Wick.

We are very concerned and are seeking legal advice on the issues that no prior consultation on the site finding process has been undertaken and that the publication of the short list was only circulated to Parish Councils 12 working days before this evenings meeting.

Stanton Wick Action Group was quickly formed to ensure that the communities of Stanton Wick, Pensford and Stanton Drew were fully informed, had access to all available information and knew how to make their opinions and concerns known to this meeting.

We wrote to all residents providing background information and set up a website which we have populated with all of the information that we have been able to collect in the time available. We also provided residents with information how they can effectively communicate their opinions.

Two open meetings were called, one in Pensford on 28th April and the other in Stanton Drew on 2nd May. Both village halls were completely full. Over 500 residents attended the two meetings.

Both meetings discussed and debated the information announced by BaNES together with background information on both the consultation process to date and the site selection process and results.

Both meetings were unanimous in the view that the selection of this site is both misguided and is not sustainable – it is simply bad planning and should be withdrawn from the list at this meeting.

Cllr Jeremy Sparks attended and spoke in full support at both meetings.

We have undertaken a house by house personal contact petition collection and on behalf of those signing I present to you this evening, three petitions, which have been taken in the communities of Pensford/Publow, Stanton Wick and Stanton Drew.

All three petitions call on you the Cabinet Committee of BaNES to remove Stanton Wick from the shortlist of 7 proposed sites and avoid further time, expense and delay whilst this

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site, which comprises the largest number of pitches in the proposals, fails on further consultation and planning.

The result of the personal contact and petition which has by necessity been undertaken in less than a week;

In Stanton Wick – 100% of households signed

In Stanton Drew – ~~xx~~% of households visited signed *over 95%*

In Pensford/Publou – well over 90% of households signed

We have come across only two households who are actively in favour of the site.

Each of the signatures to these petitions has been provided with information (not rumour or speculation). These are not signatures which have been coerced or trivialised and I trust this Committee will recognise them as such.

They represent the overwhelming voice and wishes of the residents of these settled communities and we hope and trust that they will be heard and the Committee will act.

You say you listen to the public – we sincerely hope this is the case.

Thank you