

**Statement Against The Old Colliery Site, Stanton Wick being Suitable as a site for Gypsies and Travellers**

Councillor Ball, Fellow Cabinet Members, Mr Trigwell, we were all ( bar Ms Beath) at this meeting two months ago.

At that time, we listened to the emotive words of **two** residents from Oldfield Park who described the huge detrimental change in their area that has occurred during the last 10 years as it has become increasingly populated by students. We also heard a passionate description from Councillor June Player about the destruction of the local community spirit and, I quote from your minutes that she

**‘ was despondent about the lifestyle clashes which made life unhappy for some families.’**

I do empathise, I too would not wish to be totally surrounded by students, but this has happened due to natural market forces. Measures have now become available to you that are designed to curb the density of these HMO properties and it should be noted by all present today , that the Cabinet voted unanimously to implement these measures to protect ‘The City of Bath’ from further studentification. It should also be noted that two of the four wards most affected by studentification are Twerton ( Mr Ball’s ward) and Westmoreland ( any guesses ?I’ll help you -Mrs Ball’s ward !).

I lived in Stanton Wick for nineteen years, it is a tiny hamlet of 26 houses in green belt. If you vote to continue to include this site on your preferred list, for reasons that are increasingly obvious to anyone who hears of the full facts, I feel able to accuse you all of duplicity. This site does not present as suitable on planning policy or history grounds and if you vote to pursue this option you will perhaps unwittingly be conniving with a man whose greed, malevolence and dishonourable behaviour is without doubt.

Do as you have done for the student matter, reduce the density of what is not wanted en masse , spread the gypsy sites out around the Authority in small groups onto areas where their overt ‘**lifestyle clashes**’ can do minimal social harm or cause very limited financial loss to the existing tax paying residents

So as a Banes rate payer, I ask you to save my money that would be spent on legal costs by taking this further. My former neighbours and friends in Stanton Wick, conveniently 12 miles from Bath, do not deserve this treatment but I know for sure that if you choose to fight them, they will fight this every step of the way.

**Is this Democracy or Hypocrisy?**

**Thank you –Jacqui Darbyshire**

