

Statement – Cllr David Veale

Gipsies and Travellers Site Allocation Development Plan Document

The Daglands Open Space Camerton

Thank you Chairman for allowing me to make this statement to the Cabinet.

1. This statement is not particularly detailed, but is intended to provide my full support to those submitted by representatives of the Parish.
2. It is understood that BANES has a responsibility to provide these sites as included in the submitted Core Strategy, which is at this time under consideration. I understand the commitment in this document is to allocate 22 pitches.
3. To be realistic wherever the sites are to be located the public reaction/perception will not be good. All the sites will be judged for one reason or another as not being suitable.
4. I understand the documents produced have been done so in good faith. For my part however the reasons for the inclusion of particular sites has not been done so with the same consistency and/or base lines. In addition it would appear as if the sites under consideration at this time have been adopted as a result of individual opinions rather than policies and guide lines. An example being that integration of travellers in the community would be more likely if site A was adopted as opposed to site B.
5. The choice of the Daglands play area is in itself most unfortunate. As it will deprive the local children of this important facility and furthermore the proposed use will attract more youngsters. The removal of this play area will be in contradiction to the policy of Sport England which you will be aware is intending to invest over 1 billion pound to encourage young people to maintain a sporting habit and improve health.
6. The main entrance to the site is not sufficient to allow free passage to the type of vehicles expected. It is understood that alternative more suitable access is not available.
7. The site topography i.e. steep slopes and uneven ground will result in excessive development costs.
8. The highway access within the estate is far from suitable with parked vehicles and the presence of children. In addition the extra traffic at the junction with the main highway would further aggravate an already dangerous route.

In conclusion, the recent meeting convened by the Parish Council, resulted in the School Hall being filled to capacity. I would confirm the debate was sound and constructive expressing the general concerns of the residents. In addition in common with other councillors I have been inundated with emails expressing similar views. Given the above I would request that you consider the submissions from Camerton and urge the Cabinet to delete the site from your proposals when the opportunity arises.

Thank you again for listening to me.