

PUBLOW WITH PENSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**OBJECTION TO PROPOSAL BY BATH AND NORTH EAST
SOMERSET COUNCIL TO DEVELOP SITE AT THE OLD COLLIERY
STANTON WICK**

SUBMISSION TO CABINET MEETING TO BE HELD ON 9 MAY 2012

**SPEAKER: JOHN KELLY, PUBLOW WITH PENSFORD PARISH
COUNCIL**

My name is John Kelly and I am a member of Publow with Pensford Parish Council

The residents of our parish are unanimous against the proposal to include Stanton Wick as a proposed site for Gypsies and Travellers.

We support Stanton Drew Parish Council in this matter. We also support the Stanton Wick Action Group.

We are alarmed, we are horrified and we are angry about what would appear, at the very least, to be non adherence to due process by Bath and North East Somerset Council. The inclusion of Stanton Wick contradicts what BANES have published previously. It is obvious that the Stanton Wick site is totally unsuitable yet somehow has been selected or more accurately preselected by BANES. The evidence confirms this.

In the Council's own document, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), the scoring mechanism is quoted as '..... a sequential approach to indicate the most suitable and sustainable sites. High scoring sites will be put forward as preferred options for allocation in the next consultation document' Stanton Wick is not a high scoring site –it scored low – it scored only a hopeful 10. The highest score was 45 and the average score 20. It came 17th out of 23. Why is it even being considered?

In the same document, the Council said and I quote 'Gypsy and Traveller sites are normally considered inappropriate development of Green Belt land'. Stanton Wick is on the Green Belt. So why is it even being considered?

In the same document, the Council said and I quote 'Developments should respect the scale of the environment and not dominate the nearest settled community.....' The nearest settled community would be dwarfed and dominated many times if the proposal goes ahead. Why is it even being considered then?

There is another example of Stanton Wick being targeted by BANES. A planning application by neighbouring Filers Coaches was rejected as 'inappropriate' in the Green Belt yet this application involved fewer vehicles, fewer vehicle movements and much fewer people. The local road system is again I quote BANES 'unsuitable to accept additional traffic'. Why is this site even being considered?

The inevitable conclusion therefore is that BANES have preselected the Stanton Wick site. Why? I do accept that BANES did not proactively seek out suitable – to all parties – land. They merely waited for sites to come to them. But in no way should Stanton Wick be the scapegoat for BANES' lack of professionalism.

I therefore urge the Cabinet to reject this deeply flawed and it has to be said profoundly biased proposal.