

STATEMENT TO CABINET 12TH SEPTEMBER 2012

MY NAME IS PHIL TOWNSHEND, A RESIDENT OF STANTON WICK AND A MEMBER OF THE STANTON WICK ACTION GROUP.

MY STATEMENT THIS EVENING IS TO GIVE YOU 3 REASONS AS TO WHY MY PARTNER AND I, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE STANTON WICK ACTION GROUP, FELT COMPELLED TO SIGN THE LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT AS PART OF THE PROCESS WHEN APPLYING FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEEDINGS

REGRETTABLY TIME DOESN'T ALLOW ME TO GIVE MORE REASONS BUT IN A NUTSHELL, WE DON'T TRUST YOU BaNES TO CONCLUDE THIS FLAWED SITE SELECTION PROCESS OBJECTIVELY OR IMPARTIALLY.

- 1) YOUR SCORING MATRIX, THE CORNERSTONE OF THE WHOLE PROCESS, MARKED THE OLD COLLIERY BUILDINGS, STANTON WICK 17th OUT OF 23 SITES, YET WE FIND OURSELVES ON A SHORTLIST OF 6 "PREFERRED" SITES.**

"PREFERRED" THE OXFORD DICTIONARY DEFINES THIS AS "BETTER THAN ANOTHER OR OTHERS", SO BY DEFINITION, YOUR SCORING MATRIX SAYS THAT THERE ARE 16 BETTER OR MORE SUITABLE SITES THAN STANTON WICK.

SO HOW CAN WE BE PREFERRED AND TO WHOM?

TO AN OUTSIDER IT WOULD SEEM TO BE A MANIPULATION OF THE RESULT TO MEET OTHER OBJECTIVES.

- 2) THERE IS AN INCONSISTENCY AS TO THE USE (OR NOT) OF GREENBELT WITHIN BaNES.**

THE EXISTING PLANNING CONSENT FOR THE OLD COLLIERY BUILDINGS, STANTON WICK (THE PROPOSED GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE) ALLOWS FOR ONLY 1 RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, 2 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT OF GREENBELT AND BY DEFINITION, HARMFUL TO THE GREENBELT.

BY PUTTING THIS SITE FORWARD AS A PREFERRED OPTION, BaNES IMPLY THAT A 20 PITCH GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE IS APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT DESPITE RECENTLY ISSUED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES STATING THE EXACT OPPOSITE.

WHEN CHALLENGED ON THIS AT THE PENSFORD CONSULTATION DAY, ONE OF YOUR OFFICERS MERELY SHRUGGED SHOULDERS

WHEN ASKED WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE VERY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN THIS CASE.

SO MUCH FOR OPENESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

- 3) I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION A LETTER WHICH MAKES CLEAR, THAT CONTACT WITH BaNES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS TOOK PLACE WITH REGARD THE STANTON WICK SITE WELL BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF THE PREFERRED OPTIONS. IN ADDITION I HAVE ANOTHER LETTER, WHICH STATES CLEARLY THAT AT LEAST ONE MEETING TOOK PLACE ONSITE BETWEEN BaNES AND GYPSY AND TRAVELLER REPRESENTATIVES, 2-3 MONTHS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF THE LIST.**

WHEN CHALLENGED ON THIS POINT COUNCILLERS BALL AND CROSSLEY DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH MEETINGS TAKING PLACE.

DISINGENUOUS YOU COULD ARGUE, INCOMPETENT YOU COULD ARGUE.

BUT EITHER WAY IT IS CLEAR THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS WERE CONSULTED WELL BEFORE ANY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF STANTON WICK, PENSFORD AND STANTON DREW AND STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE PRESENCE OF STANTON WICK ON THE PREFERRED OPTIONS LIST WAS PREDETERMINED.

REMEMBER, 17th OUT OF 23 AND THEN WITHOUT EXPLANATION OR JUSTIFICATION, 6th.

AT THIS POINT WE REALISED THAT FURTHER ENGAGEMENT WITHOUT LEGAL ADVICE WAS FUTILE.

**BaNES, IN OUR OPINION, YOUR SITE SELECTION PROCESS HAS BEEN
FLAWED AND CHAOTIC FROM START TO FINISH. IT LACKS
INTEGRITY AND HAS BEEN FAR FROM IMPARTIAL.**

**THE OLD COLLIERY BUILDINGS, STANTON WICK, AS A GYPSY AND
TRAVELLER SITE IS UNSUITABLE, UNSUSTAINABLE AND
UNDELIVERABLE AND UNLESS IT'S WITHDRAWN FROM YOUR
PREFERRED OPTIONS WE WILL ALLOW THE LAW TO TAKE ITS
COURSE.**