

SUBMISSION TO CABINET

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013

STANTON DREW PARISH COUNCIL

SPEAKER; JUDITH CHUBB-WHITTLE, CHAIR.

Good evening Cabinet, on behalf of the Stanton Drew Parish Council I address you with the most urgent and concerning issues.

I addressed a Parish public meeting last week and tried to explain to a packed village hall how BaNES could have been so incompetent in the handling of the two major planning applications that have all but traumatised our rural community. It cannot be that you are not aware of the turmoil and indeed of the long list of fundamental errors that have seemingly occurred during this sorry process.

By the Applicant's own submission your blind pursuit of this totally unsuitable and unsustainable site in the face of all logic and planning process and your frantically cobbled together reasons for withdrawal (only when faced with legal action) has encouraged these two unsustainable, shabby and opportunistic planning applications.

Whilst all of the Parish Council and the vast majority of parishioners understand that every citizen has a right to make a planning application, they should expect a fair and reasonable application of the rules and requirements for the registration and conduct of the application, and in this particular case a re-application. Our submission to you is that these applications have not been processed in a fair and reasonable way resulting in unnecessary and excessive costs of time, money and stress.

We have closely followed the progress or lack of it in your DPD over the last 14 months and are dismayed that you seem to have arrived at this report with so little progress. Questions again arise;

- Why if this DPD was so important to you this time last year has so little demonstrable progress been made to provide authorised sites?
- Has inactivity & delay resulted in the loss of Station Road, Newbridge as a potential site?
- Why hasn't Lower Bristol Road been progressed any further than finding consultants?  
You are surrounded by planning professionals, so why is it taking SO long to get a planning application organised?

Whilst the Parish Council appreciates that this DPD project has been tricky to execute, is it fair to hold the sword of Damocles over the heads of so many parishioners across the district, whilst there is another hiccup due to weak planning and management?

The actions of your officers have seemingly encouraged a chain of very unfortunate events which from the very start some 14 months ago have left most of the settled community agog and concerned by the bare faced arrogance and lack of concern for good planning and the integration of travelling and settled communities. Manipulation of scoring matrix, abandonment of good planning principles and lack of attention to proper investigation of site and surroundings gives rise to many questions and leaves the settled communities without confidence in this administration. I urge you to cut through the political rhetoric and get a firm grip on this failing project before it becomes a real embarrassment.

Do you appreciate the immense amount of frustration, anger, stress my community continues to undergo? How many hours free time, work and lost income we have suffered to knock some sense into the process? The Parish Council has always had huge issues with the DPD process and now with the planning process but most importantly the treatment of our people for an indeterminate and ever lengthening period of time. How dare you?

Come on guys, up your game, we've had to. Get this sorted out.